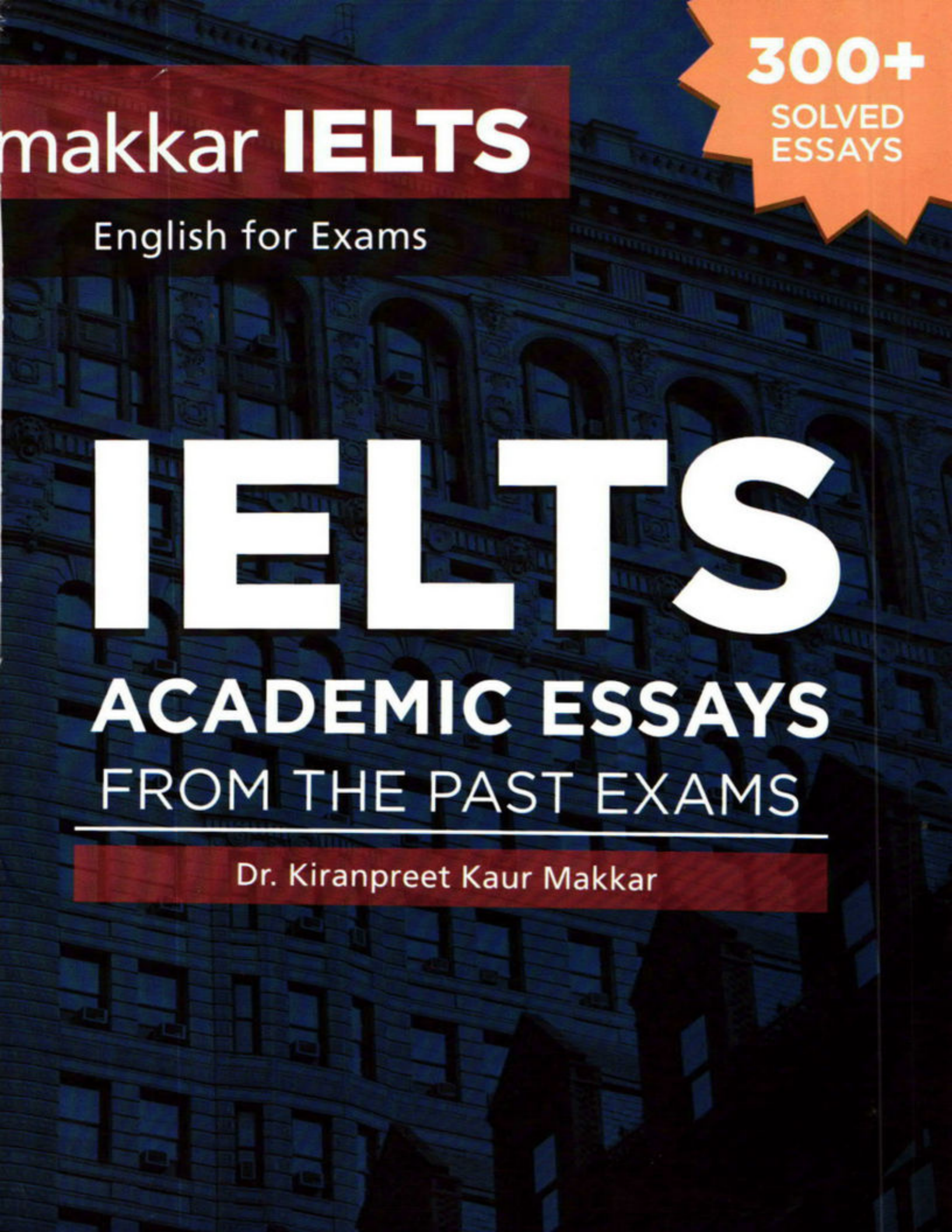

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English for Exams
300+
SOLVED
ESSAYS
IELTS
ACADEMIC ESSAYS
FROM THE PAST EXAMS
Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

Some of the recent essays that have come from this book

In many countries, good schools and medical facilities are available only in cities. Some people think new teachers and doctors should work in rural areas for a few years, but others think everyone should be free to choose where they work. Discuss and give your own opinion.

Essay number 306 in the book **7th Jan 2017 ,India**

222. Some people think that the government should make laws regarding nutrition and healthy lifestyle, while others think that it is a matter of personal choice and personal responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Essay number 222 in the book **12th Jan 2017 ,India**

A 100 years ago people think that human race steadily making progress in all areas of life, nowadays there is less certainty that is so. In what areas do you think the most important progress has been made so far? In what areas more things need to be done?

Essay number 331 in the book **14th Jan 2017 ,Brazil**

In schools and universities, girls tend to choose arts subjects, while boys choose science subjects. What is the reason? Should the trend be changed?

Essay number 244 in the book **14th Jan 2017 ,Australia**

IELTS
ACADEMIC ESSAYS
FROM THE PAST EXAMS

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PREFACE

This book is meant to help the average student crack the IELTS essay. Over 10 years of my IELTS coaching experience has taught me a lot about what all would help the students do better in the writing module of the IELTS. Over the years, I have seen fairly good students getting 7+ in the other modules of the IELTS, fall to less than 6 bands in the writing module, but I have also seen those with less than 6 in the other modules, get a 6 in writing. Over the years, I have coached thousands of students, checked their writings almost every day, and so I somehow know what precisely they have written in their exam. From their writing band scores, I have made important deductions as to what works, and what does not work in an IELTS essay.

The IELTS essay has to have a plan. Time spent on the plan, is time well invested. A plan is surely going to produce an essay, which works. A crisp, but brief and to-the-point introduction and conclusion, and two to three well planned paragraphs with relevant topic sentences, is all that is needed for the IELTS essay.

This book has over 330 essays seen in the actual IELTS exams, most of which have been repeated many times. Valuable contributions have been made to the book by Sumeet Kaur (CELTA certified, and my top faculty), Ravpreet Singh (head of Mohali Centre), Mrs Anupam Kaur (looking after the online students), and Indroop Singh (faculty and student counselor, Phagwara Centre). This book would not have been possible without their efforts.

Hope you enjoy going through the essays in the book.

Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

General Introduction

The IELTS essay is the second part of the writing section of the IELTS test. It requires you to write an academic essay with the minimum word count of 250, within a period of 40 minutes. There is no limit to the maximum word count. This part takes up 2/3rd of the overall score of the writing section.

Each essay is marked with 4 different criteria, which share equal proportion of the overall band score.

1. **Task Response (TR)**

   Answer the question given with relevant ideas and examples. Do not digress. For example, if your essay asks you to write the problems faced by cities because of rapid urbanization, and you write the causes of urbanization, you will be off track and lose out on task response.

2. **Cohesion and Coherence (CC)**

   Coherence means that your essay is easy to read and understand which goes with handwriting and language used in the essay.

   Cohesion means your essay stays on-topic and does not provide any irrelevant and redundant details.

   Cohesive devices or transition signals like 'however', 'despite this' and 'In conclusion' should be used more in academic writing. However, this does not mean that you should try to insert as many of these words in to your writing as possible. This is a common mistake in IELTS writing. Using too many of them, or using them inappropriately, can be detrimental. They are important, but must only be used at the appropriate time.

3. **Lexical Resource (LR)**

   This criterion assesses how effectively and accurately you can use your vocabulary to develop your ideas. Big words and phrases might lead to your essay becoming forced and unnatural.

4. **Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA)**

   This means, you can use simple, complex and compound sentences, along with proper punctuation correctly

	Task Response	Cohesion and Coherence	LR – Lexical Resource	GRA– Grammatical Range and Accuracy
Band 6	- Address all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others - Present a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive - Present relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear	- Arrange information and ideas coherently and have is a clear overall progression - Use cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical - Use referencing clearly or appropriately, although at some places there may be flaws - Use paragraphing, but not always logically	- Use an adequate range of vocabulary for the task - Attempt to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy - Be able to communicate, although you may have some errors in spelling and/or word formation (but they should not impede communication)	- Use a mix of simple and complex sentence forms - Be able to communicate, although you may make some errors in grammar and punctuation (but they rarely reduce communication)
Band 7	- Address all parts of the task - Present, extend and support main ideas, but there may be a tendency to over generalize and/or supporting ideas may lack focus	- Logically organize information and ideas; and have a clear progression throughout - Use a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use or over-use - Present a clear central topic within each paragraph	- Use a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision - Use less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation, although you may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation	- Use a variety of complex structures - Produce frequent error-free sentences - Have good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
Band 8	- Sufficiently address all parts of the task - Present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.	- Sequence information and ideas logically - Manage all aspects of cohesion well - Use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately	- Use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings - Skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation, and you have only rare errors in spelling and/or word formation	- Use a wide range of structures - Write a majority of error-free sentences - Make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
Band 9	- Fully address all parts of the task - Present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.	- Use cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention - Skilfully manage paragraphing	- Use a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'	- Use a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy, with rare minor errors occurring only as 'slips'

Common Essay Questions

1. Opinion essays
    - Opinion 1 – Agree/Disagree.
    - Opinion 2 – Is this a positive or negative development.
    - Opinion 3 – Are the advantages more than the disadvantages.
2. Discuss essays
3. Advantage and disadvantage essays
4. Problem and solution essays
5. Direct question essays (some might be two part questions)

Some important things to note

1. Contractions are not allowed (he's, she's, can't, won't).
2. Don't use informal language. However, you are writing for an educated non-specialist audience. Therefore, your language does not need to be as formal as that of university essays.
3. Always paraphrase or use synonyms when possible. Never copy the topic while writing the introduction.
4. Avoid using templates or memorized items for intro. Such templates can take a person from 4 to 5 or 5.5, but if your aim is 6 or above, these templates cannot help you. A simple but original introduction befitting the question asked will be better.
5. No clichés. For example, instead of writing 'every coin has two sides', it is better to write 'every argument has two sides'.
6. It is good to write complex sentences, but if the examiner has to read your sentence again to see what you mean, then it goes against you. So, write complex but clearly understood sentences. Avoid too long sentences.
7. In most cases you are expected to give your opinion. You may also have to include your life experience and relevant examples to support your opinion.
8. The topics of the IELTS writing questions are supposed to be of general interest, and they claim that no specialist knowledge is required. But it would be worthwhile to go through points of topics like telecommuting, gap year, genetically modified foods, globalization, rote learning, and many more. I believe that if you don't have ideas, even the best of language skills will not help you achieve your desired score. Ideas for some 100 such topics have been included in the speaking book, which is recommended along with this book for IELTS preparation.
9. Do not copy whole sentences or long phrases from the question. The examiner will recognize them, and they will not count towards your minimum number of words you must write.
10. The introduction should be approximately 35-50 words long. It is unnecessary for you to write a long introduction because it is the body that you need to focus on.

Opinion essay

General information

- An opinion essay is a formal academic essay, which requires you to state your opinion (usually "agree or disagree") on a given topic.
- You need to provide reasons and supporting details to convince the examiner of your answer.
- There are 2 common approaches to write an opinion essay: 1 sided and balanced.

One-sided approach

- A one-sided essay is an essay where your opinion is completely inclined to only one side of the argument, which means you either completely agree or completely disagree with the issue given in the topic.
- Always give 2 to 3 reasons to support your opinion, each of which must be analyzed and supported by specific details in each of the two or three paragraphs in the body.
- You can also give two reasons to support your opinion, and the third paragraph can contain the opponents' opinion with your refutation. In either case it will be a totally agree or disagree essay.

Let's see the complete structure of a one-sided opinion essay:

Introduction:

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: State whether you completely agree or completely disagree with the issue.

Body:

First body paragraph:

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence (your 1st idea)
- Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples or explanations to support the idea

Second body paragraph:

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence (your 2nd idea)
- Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples or explanations to support the idea

Third body paragraph: (optional)

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence (your 3rd idea) OR The opponents view
- Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples or explanations to support the idea OR Give arguments of opposite view and then refute with your view

Conclusion:

Restate your opinion that you completely agree or completely disagree with the issue given in the question

Balanced Opinion Essay

General information

- A balanced essay is an essay where you are inclined to one side of the argument but you do not deny the other side, which means you partly agree or partly disagree with the issue given in the topic.
- **BUT** - Never sit on the fence,
- Even if you accept that there are 2 sides of the argument, you still need to choose which one you would agree more.
- You need to analyze both sides of the issue and state which side you are in favor of at the same time.
- There are 2 places where you need to give you opinion: the intro, and the conclusion.

Let's see the complete structure of a balanced opinion essay:

Introduction:

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: State that you partially agree or disagree with the issue. You can also say that you are more inclined on one side.

Body:

First body paragraph:

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence (your 1st idea)
- Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples or explanations to support the idea

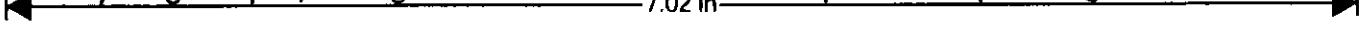
Second body paragraph:

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence (your 2nd idea)
- Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples or explanations to support the idea

Third body paragraph: (Optional)

- Sentence 1: Your idea of the other view. But you can again say that you are more in favour of the first view even if this point also holds some water.

Conclusion: Restate your opinion that although both sides of the issue have solid arguments, which you agree upon, the arguments of one side are definitely more overpowering than the other.



Discussion essay

General information

- Discussion essay is a formal academic essay where you are asked to discuss **2 sides of a given** argument. The task may or may not ask for your opinion on the issue, **only give your opinion if** the task requires so. Try to find 2 ideas for each side of the argument.

Let's see the complete structure of a discussion essay:

Introduction

- **Sentence 1:** Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- **Sentence 2:** Write a thesis statement saying that you will discuss both sides **of the argument**

Body

First paragraph: the first side of the argument

- Sentence 1: the topic sentence
- Sentence 2-5/6: Give 2 reasons and use SPECIFIC examples and **explanations to support** those reasons

Second paragraph: The second side of the argument

- Sentence 1: the topic sentence
- Sentence 2-5/6: give 2 reasons and use SPECIFIC examples and **explanations to support** those reasons

Conclusion: The restatement: restate your opinion

IMPORTANT: *A discussion essay versus a balanced opinion essay*

A lot of people have a difficult time differentiating between these 2 particular **types of essay since both** of them require students to present 2 sides of the given argument with the **same way of writing.** However, the difference is that in a balanced opinion essay, you have to **write about WHAT YOU** THINK, whereas, in a discussion essay you have to write about WHAT OTHER **PEOPLE THINK. This** means there is a difference in the proper language you can use in each type.

In a balanced opinion essay

- You can use phrases to express your own opinion like "I think", **"I believe", "I agree"** ... wherever you want.
- You can give examples of your own knowledge or experiences such **as your family, your** friends or a particular event you participated in to support your ideas

In a discussion essay

- You can use the typical language for a discussion to express other **people's opinion such** as "people think", "people believe", "it is believed/considered"...
- You can NOT give examples of your own knowledge or experiences.

Advantage & Disadvantage Essays

General information

Basically, an advantage/disadvantage essay is a discussion essay that asks you to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a given issue, for example the advantages and disadvantages of using public transport. DO NOT give any opinions if you are not asked to. Divide your body into 2 separate paragraphs, each of which develops either the advantages or disadvantages of the given issue.

Let's see the complete structure of advantages & disadvantages essay:

Introduction

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: Answer the question

Body

First paragraph:

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence (advantages or disadvantages)
- Sentence 2-5/6: 2 advantages or disadvantages

Second paragraph:

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence (advantages or disadvantages)
- Sentence 2-5/6: 2 advantages or disadvantages

Third paragraph: optional (but on the same lines)

Conclusion: The restatement: Restate your answer

Note: If the task asks for your opinion or your favorable side then state your opinion

Problem/Solution or Cause Effect Essays

General information

Such essays ask you to discuss the causes and solutions/effects of a given issue, for example the causes and solutions/effects of overpopulation. DO NOT give any opinions if you are not asked to.

Your cause & effect/solution essays would be structured as follows:

Introduction

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: Answer the question

Body

First paragraph:

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence (the causes of the given issue)
- Sentence 2-5/6: Explain in detail 2 causes

Second paragraph:

- Sentence 1: The topic sentence (the effects or solutions of the given issue)
- Sentence 2-5/6: Explain in detail 2 effects/solutions

Third paragraph: (Optional)

- You can add a third paragraph at the appropriate place. If the causes are more then you need to add it as paragraph number 2, and the solutions or effects will be at number 3. If the effects or solutions are more, you can add it at number 3.

Conclusion: The restatement: Restate your answer

Another way to handle a problem/solution essay:

- Make each body paragraph with a problem and its solution.

INDEX

Essay Types:

1. **Problem solution**
2. **Discuss**
3. **Opinion**
   - **Opinion** 1: Agree/disagree
   - **Opinion** 2: Is this a positive or negative development
   - **Opinion** 3: Are the advantages more than the disadvantages
4. **Direct question** essay

Page	Essay Topics (condensed for the index)	Category	Essay Type
1.	**Children facing** academic, social and commercial **pressures.** Causes and solutions.	Family and children	Problem solution
2.	**People should** keep all the money they earn and should **not pay tax** to the state. Agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous - People and taxes	Opinion 1
3.	**Cultural traditions** destroyed when aimed at tourists. OR **It is the only** way to save traditions. Discuss & opine	Tourism and culture	Discuss
4.	**Reading** stories from a book Vs watching TV or playing **computer** games for children. Agree or disagree?	Children – Reading vs TV and video games	Opinion 1
5.	**Children have** more freedom than in the past. Is this a **positive or** a negative development?	Children and freedom	Opinion 2
6.	**Many goods** transported for a long distance. Do the **advantages** outweigh the disadvantages?	Globalisation	Opinion 3
7.	**The only way** to protect the environment is at an **international** level. Agree or disagree?	Environment	Opinion 1
8.	**Advertising** has an increasing effect on our lives. Do the **positive** effects of this outweigh the negative effects?	Advertisements	Opinion 3
9.	**Today there** is increase in anti-social behaviour and lack **of respect** for others. Causes and solutions.	Miscellaneous –anti-social behaviour	Problem solution
10.	**Interview** is not a reliable method of recruitment. To **what extent** do you agree or disagree?	Job	Opinion 1
11.	**Fast food** restaurants and supermarkets fund schools to **promote their** products. Is it positive or negative?	Education: funding by fast food outlets	Opinion 2
12.	**Young people** know about international pop and movie **stars but** know less about famous historical people. **Reasons and** solutions.	Young people	Problem solution
13	**Environmental** problems increasing. Governments' steps **at a global** level got few solutions. Reasons and solutions	Environment	Problem solution
14	**A lot of people** in college are doing academic study. We **should encourage** them to do vocational skill (like **plumbers** and electricians). Do you agree or disagree?	Education – Academics vs vocational	Opinion 1
15.	**In most societies**, the role of mother and father differs. **Causes? What** will be the parental roles in future?	Family – gender roles	Direct question
16.	**If children** behave badly should their parents take **responsibility** and also be punished? State your opinion.	Children and crime –	Direct question

17.	Industrial growth is necessary to solve poverty. Or is it causing environmental problems. Discuss	Environment	Discuss
18	Distance-learning programs cannot bring the benefit as attending college or university. Agree or disagree?	Education – Distance learning	Opinion 1
19.	Government should fund sport and art for school students, rather than professional sports, arts events. Agree or disagree?	Sport – funding professional sports or school children	Opinion 1
20.	Now the machine is very complex, a lot of work is automated. Machine automation pros and cons?	Technology - Automation	Opinion 3
21.	Newspapers have influenced people's ideas and opinions. Reasons? Is this positive or negative situation?	Media – newspapers	Causes and Opinion 2
22.	As economy develops, people in developing countries feel happier while people in developed countries feel less happy. Reasons? What lessons can we learn from it?	Government - Rich Poor essay	Direct Question
23	Get rid of old things to get the newest fashion and the latest technology. Do the disadvantages of a throwaway society outweigh advantages?	Environment Consumerism	Opinion 3
24	Once children start school, teachers have more influence than parents on their development. Agree or disagree?	Education-Children's development	Opinion 1
25	News media nowadays have influenced people's lives in negative ways. Agree or disagree?	Media	Opinion 1
26	Differences are barely evident these days. Everyone is wearing the same and watching the same. Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?	Globalisation – Countries looking similar	Opinion 2
27	Air travel should be restricted because of pollution and uses up the world's fuel. Agree or disagree?	Tourism - Air travel	Opinion 1
28	Some students take one year off between school and university. Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?	Education - Gap Year	Opinion 3
29	Every human being can create art (e.g. painting), or only people born with the ability can create art. Discuss both.	Nature vs Nurture	Discuss
30	Is economic development necessary to reduce poverty OR should economic growth be stopped as it is damaging the environment. Discuss both sides.	Environment and Progress	Discuss
31	Good relationships between different countries are becoming more important to solve global problems. Do you agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous - good relations among nations	Opinion 1
32	Playing computer games is bad for children, whereas others say that it has positive effects. Discuss both sides.	Children – Computer games	Discuss
33	Fewer people today write by hand. What are the reasons? Is this a positive or negative development?	Miscellaneous Handwriting	Opinion 2
34	Students today get information online, so libraries are not necessary. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Education - Libraries	Opinion 1
35	Teachers should teach students to judge right and wrong OR should they only teach academics. Discuss	Education – Role of teachers.	Discuss
36	Celebrities should accept media publicizing their private lives as part of their fame. Do you agree or disagree?	Media – Celebs & paparazzi	Opinion 1
37	Governments should reduce environmental pollution and housing problems to prevent illness and disease. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous – Govt role in environment and housing	Opinion 1
38	Social skills are important in addition to good	Job – social skills vs	Opinion 1

	qualifications for job success. Agree or disagree?	qualifications	
39	Advancements in technology have made the TV screen so live that people don't need to go for any live performance. Do you agree or disagree?	Media – Technology Live shows vs TV	Opinion 1
40	Some children find mathematics and philosophy too difficult to learn, so those subjects should be optional rather than compulsory. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – Subjects	Opinion 1
41	Teenagers should study all school subjects. OR should focus on the subject they are good at or like. Discuss.	Education – All subjects vs few	Discuss
42	In some cultures the old age is more valued, while in some cultures the youth is more valued. Discuss both.	Miscellaneous - Old vs young	Discuss
43	The best way to reduce crime is educate people in prison so they get a job when they leave. Agree/disagree?	Crime – Prison	Opinion 1
44	Similar shops and products. Some consider it positive, whereas others negative. Discuss both and opine.	Globalisation – similarities	Discuss
45	It is becoming increasingly popular to find out about family history. Reasons. Is this a negative or positive?	Miscellaneous - Family history	Opinion 2
46	Everyone should become vegetarian because they do not need to eat meat for healthy diet. Agree or disagree?	Food – vegetarianism	Opinion 1
47	Success in life depends on hard work and determination, OR on other factors like money and personal appearance. Discuss both views and give your opinion.	Miscellaneous Factors for success	Discuss
48	International student exchange would benefit all school students. Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?	Education - International student exchange	Opinion 3
49	Students at schools and universities learn more from teachers than other sources. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – Teachers vs technology	Opinion 1
50	We should protect only those animals from extinction, which are useful to humans. Do you agree or disagree?	Animals - Extinction	Opinion 1
51	People are afraid to leave their home because of crime. More action should be taken OR little can be done. Discuss and Opine.	Crime – people afraid to leave home – can anything be done	Discuss
52	The best way to solve the world's environmental problem is to increase the price of fuel. Agree/disagree.	Environment – increasing fuel price	Opinion 1
53	Universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace OR provide access to knowledge for its own sake. What do you think are the main functions of a university?	Education – Main role of universities	Direct question
54	Government should provide assistance to all kinds of artists OR is it a waste of money. Discuss and opine.	Art - should government fund art	Discuss
55	Government should not give international aid since they have disadvantaged people like unemployed and homeless in their own country. Agree or disagree?	Government - Rich poor - international aid	Opinion 1
56	International travel makes people prejudiced rather than broad-minded. Causes and solutions.	Tourism International tourism	Problem solution
57	Rich countries should not give financial aid but give other types of help to the poor. Agree or disagree?	Government - Rich poor	Opinion 1
58	Some people who have been in prison are the best to talk to school students about the danger of committing a crime. Do you agree or disagree?	Crime – ex-prisoners are the best to guide school children.	Opinion 1

59	It would be better if people only ate local food. Do the advantages outweigh disadvantages?	Globalisation – Imported food	Opinion 3
60	The natural resources such as oil, forests and fresh water are consumed at an alarming rate. Problems and solutions.	Environment – Natural resources – Problem solution	Problem solution
61	The most important decision that young people have to follow is what career to choose. Agree or disagree?	Young people – Career choice	Opinion 1
62	Some people say that a large part of the information we get is incorrect. Do you agree or disagree?	Media – Internet – Most info is wrong -	Opinion 1
63	As well as making money, businesses should also have social responsibilities. Do you agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous – Businesses duty	Opinion 1
64	People have to spend more and more time to travel from their homes for jobs and study. Reasons/solutions.	Miscellaneous – Commuting time	Problem solution
65	The purpose of public libraries is to provide books and they shouldn't provide hi-tech media. Agree/disagree.	Education - Libraries	Opinion 1
66	Should young people follow traditions, OR be free to be individuals. Discuss both views.	Young people and traditions	Discuss
67	The government should give priority to health care OR other important priorities. Discuss both views and opine.	Government – health vs other issues	Discuss
68	Government should not spend much money for education but on free-time activities. Agree or disagree?	Government – Education	Opinion 1
69	It is unnecessary to teach children about the skills of handwriting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Education – Handwriting skills	Opinion 1
70	Countries should invite foreign companies OR should invest in their own companies. Discuss both and opine.	Globalisation – MNCs	Discuss
71	Advertising discourages people from being different individuals by making us all similar. Agree or disagree?	Advertisements and similarities	Opinion 1
72	All young adults should do a period of unpaid work in the community. Has it more benefits or drawbacks?	Young people – unpaid work	Opinion 3
73	There are social, medical and technical problems associated with the use of mobile phones. What forms do they take? Do the problems outweigh the benefits?	Mobile phones – Advantages or disadvantages	Direct question and opinion 3
74	Old generations often hold some traditional ideas. However, it is not helpful for the young generations. Agree/disagree	Family - Generation gap	Opinion 1
75	Should government subsidize food and vegetables OR should tax be set on unhealthy food. Discuss and opine.	Government – fat tax	Discuss
76	People nowadays do not feel safe at home or out. What are the reasons and solutions	Crime – safe in home and out of home	Problem solution
77	It is more important to plant trees in towns and cities than to build more houses. Do you agree or disagree?	Government - plant trees or build houses	Opinion 1
78	Traditional foods being replaced by international fast foods having a negative effect. Agree or disagree?	Food – Traditional vs international food	Opinion 1
79	Crimes committed by teenagers are increasing. Discuss this issue. Give reasons and suggest some solutions.	Crime – Juvenile delinquency	Problem solution
80	We must return to the older and more traditional values to create a better world to live in. Agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous – Traditional values	Opinion 1
81	University students should learn a range of other subjects and not just one subject. Agree or disagree?	Education – Subjects	Opinion 1
82	Governments are encouraging businesses to move to	Government – Rural	Opinion 3

	rural areas. Do the advantages outweigh disadvantages?	urban issues	
83	Students should pay their full university fees themselves. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – University fees	Opinion 1
84	Some students take a year off either to work or travel. What is better – travelling or working? Discuss	Education – Gap year	Discuss
85	Should charity organizations help people of their country OR give aid to people wherever they live. Discuss.	Government - Rich poor essay	Discuss
86	Companies and individuals, and not governments should pay the bill of pollution. Agree or disagree?	Environment – pay for pollution	Opinion 1
87	Now, many people think there is no justification for attending lectures. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – need of attending lectures	Opinion 1
88	Most countries believe that international tourism has harmful effects. Reasons and solutions	Tourism – harmful – problem solution	Problem solution
89	Some people think computer and Internet are important in children's study, but others think schools and teachers are important. Discuss both sides.	Education – Computers and internet vs schools	Discuss
90	When a human astronaut first arrived on the moon it was a big step for mankind. But some people think it makes little difference to our daily life. Agree/disagree?	Miscellaneous Space research	Opinion 1
91	Men and women are having children late in life. What are the reasons and the effects on society and family?	Family – People having children late	Cause effect essay
92	The number of people using bikes as main transport mode is decreasing. Why this is so? Solutions	Health – Bicycles	Problem solution
93	Is the radio the best way to get news, OR is TV better for this purpose. Discuss both views and give your opinion.	Media – Radio vs TV	Discuss
94	People watch foreign films much more than locally produced films. Why? Should government fund local film industries?	Miscellaneous – Foreign more popular - solutions	Direct question
95	Some people think students should evaluate and criticize teachers. Others believe it will result in a loss of respect and discipline in the classroom. Discuss on both sides.	Education – Students evaluating teachers - discuss	Discuss
96	Development in technology causes environmental problems. Some people believe the solution is tat everyone accepts a simpler way of life, while others say that technology can solve these problems. Discuss both.	Environment – Technology	Discuss
97	Governments should focus their spending on public services rather than on arts such as Music and Painting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Arts – Government – should government spend on it - opinion	Opinion 1
98	The number of TV programs is growing. Some people say that it is good while others say it affects the quality of TV programs. Discuss both and give your opinion.	Media – TV – programs increasing – good or bad	Discuss
99	Figures show that some countries have an ever-increasing proportion of the population who are aged 15 or younger. What do you think are the current and future effects of this trend for those countries?	Miscellaneous – Population of those below 15 increasing	Direct question
100	In some countries, adults are living with their parents after graduating or even after finding a job. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?	Family – adult living with parents – good or bad	Opinion 3
101	How important is it for individuals and countries to think about the future, rather than to focus on the present?	Miscellaneous – Present or future	Direct question

102	Young people who commit serious crimes should be punished in the same way as adults. Agree or disagree?	Crime – juvenile delinquents	Opinion 1
103	News media is important in our society. Why is it so important? Is its influence positive or negative?	Media – positive or negative influence	Opinion 2
104	Some people say that we should protect animals from dying out, while others say we should concentrate more on problems of human beings. Discuss both	Animals – Should we save them or focus on human problems	Discuss
105	Some people say that schools should reward students who show the best academic results, while others believe it is more important to reward students who show improvements. Discuss both	Education –reward meritorious students or who show improvement	Discuss
106	Some people believe that studying literature is important for individual character building while others think it is a waste of time. Discuss both	Education – Importance of the study of literature	Discuss
107	Some people think that children should obey rules or do what their parents and teachers want them to do, but others think that children controlled too much cannot deal with problems well by themselves. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.	Children – should they obey rules or do what they want to do	Discuss
108	Nowadays, older people who need employment have to compete with younger people. What problem does this cause and what are the solutions.	Job essay – old people compete with young	Problem solution
109	Some people say the most important thing about being rich is that it gives you the opportunity to give back or help the poor. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Rich poor – the best thing about being rich	Opinion 1
110	Some people think that increasing communication usage of computers and mobile phones has negative effect on their reading and writing skills. Agree or disagree?	Education – Technology effect on reading and writing	Opinion 1
111	Some people think history has nothing or little to tell us, but others think that studying the past history can help us better understand the present. Discuss the two views.	Education – Importance of history	Discuss
112	Some people think sports and games are important for society, while others believe they should be taken as leisure activities. Discuss both views	Sports – Important or just leisure activities	Discuss
113	Some people believe famous people's support towards International aid organizations draws the attentions to problems, whereas others think celebrities make the problems less important. Discuss both sides	Rich poor and effect of Famous people	Discuss
114	Some people think that the government should establish free libraries in each town. Others believe that it is a waste of money as people can access the Internet at home. Discuss both sides and opine.	Education – Libraries – should there be free libraries or is it waste of money	Discuss
115	Many families have both parents working. Some working parents believe grandparents can take care of their children, while others think childcare centers are better. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.	Family - Children – grandparents or childcare centres	Discuss
116	As housing is a basic need for people, governments should provide free housing for everyone who can't afford it. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Government – Should there be free housing for the poor	Opinion 1
117	Today, the life expectancy of people is much higher than	Old people –Old	Opinion 1

	before. Older people should continue to be involved in the workforce. Agree or disagree? (Agree)	people should be allowed to work	
118	Today, the life expectancy of people is much higher than before. Older people should continue to be involved in the workforce. Agree or disagree? (Disagree)	Old people – Old people should be allowed to work	Opinion 1
119	Some countries pay extremely high salaries for people. Some people believe that the country must not do that and makes a limit for the salaries. Agree or disagree?	Job essay – Should there be a limit on salaries	Opinion 1
120	Advertisements nowadays are targeted at children. Many people say this is negative and should be banned. Do you agree or disagree?	Advertisement – targeting children should be banned	Opinion 1
121	The use of mobile phone is as antisocial as smoking. Smoking is banned in certain places and so mobile phones should also be banned. Agree or disagree?	Technology - Mobile phones	Opinion 1
122	Lifestyles of people across the world are becoming more and more similar. Is this positive or negative?	Globalisation – Lifestyles similar	Opinion 2
123	Some people think we need to give aid to all poor countries. Others say that we should not give aids to countries with corruption. Discuss both and opine.	Rich poor – Aid should not be given to corrupt countries	Discuss
124	Some people say that the best way to improve road safety is to increase the minimum legal age for driving cars or riding motorbikes. Do you agree or disagree?	Government – road safety & minimum age of driving	Opinion 1
125	Most countries do not recycle their waste like paper, glass, and aluminum cans. Causes and solutions.	Environment – Recycling waste	Reasons & solutions
126	Mainly tourists, but not local people visit museums and historical sites. Reasons and solutions.	Tourism - Museums	Reasons & solutions
127	It is important for children to take lessons outside classroom, by visiting places such as local companies or public buildings. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – Lessons outside classrooms	Opinion 1
128	Some people believe that teaching children at home is best for a child's development while others think that it is important for children to go to school. Discuss	Education - Homeschooling	Discuss
129	Too much attention and resources are given to protect wild animals and birds. Agree or disagree?	Animals – Too much attention is given	Opinion 1
130	Mobile phones should be banned in public spaces such as library, transportations, and shops. Agree or disagree?	Technology - Mobile phones banning	Opinion 1
131	It is now possible for scientists and tourists to travel to remote natural environments such as the South Pole. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?	Tourism – Remote tourism	Opinion 3
132	Some people believe that courses of performing arts, (eg. dance, music, drama etc.) should be funded by government. OR through other ways (e.g. businesses or student's family). Discuss both view and opine.	Arts/Education – Who should fund Performing arts	Discuss
133	Nowadays, people get information through news but are uncertain about the truth of these news. Should we believe the journalists? What qualities should a good journalist or correspondent have?	Media – Should we believe it and the qualities of a journalist	Direct question
134	Should the amount of noise people make be controlled strictly OR should people be free to make as much noise as they wish. Discuss both views and opine.	Environment - Noise pollution	Discuss

135	Health experts believe that walking is a good exercise for health. However, people are walking less nowadays. Why is this happening? Solutions.	Health – Why people are walking less - Solutions	Problem solution
136	The leaders or directors of organizations are often older people. But some people say that young people can also be a leader. Do you agree or disagree?	Job - Leaders or directors – Young vs old	Opinion 1
137	More and more people are competing for a place to study in universities. Reasons? Do you think this is a positive or negative development?	Education – Entrance competition for universities	Opinion 2 and Reasons
138	It is more important for school children to learn local history than world history. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – Local history vs world history	Opinion 1
139	Holding International games such as the Olympic Games is an exciting event. Some people think it is positive while others argue it is waste of money. Discuss both.	Sports – Hosting International games	Discuss
140	Some people think that the government should invest more money in teaching science than other subjects to make progress. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – science vs other subjects	Opinion 1
141	Some people think music plays an important role in society. Others think it is it is simply a form of entertainment. Discuss both sides and opine.	Music – Role	Discuss
142	Leisure is a growing industry, but people no longer entertain themselves as much as they used to because the use of modern technology has made them less creative. Do you agree or disagree?	Technology - Leisure and technology	Opinion 1
143	A recent newspaper article reported that a 14 year-old boy who seriously destroyed his school got the punishment to clean the streets, instead of being sent to prison. Do you think this is right, or do you think that such criminals should be sent to prison?	Crime – Juvenile criminals – community work or prison	Discuss
144	Although people are reading news through internet, newspapers still remain of value. Agree/disagree.	Media – newspapers vs internet	Opinion 1
145	Healthy eating and the importance of healthy food should be taught in schools OR parents should teach their kids. Discuss both views & opine.	Education – Health Who should teach about healthy eating	Discuss
146	More and more people are using the Internet to do their tasks rather than doing in person. Does the advantage of this trend outweigh the disadvantage?	Media – Internet – for doing tasks online and not in person	Opinion 3
147	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.	Crime – prison vs education	Opinion 1
148	In some cities, the government has tried to reduce traffic by a congestion tax during rush hours. Is this positive or negative?	Government – Environment Congestion tax	Opinion 2
149	In some cities, there are few controls on the design, construction of homes, office buildings, and the owners can decide on the styles of their houses. Do the advantages on this outweigh its drawbacks?	Government – Architecture should be with government or people	Opinion 3
150	Some people think that schools should segregate pupils according to their academic abilities, while others believe	Education – Selecting students according to	Discuss

	that pupils with different abilities should study together. Discuss both views and opine.	ability or teaching them together	
151	Human activities have negative effects on plant and animal species. Some people think it is too late to do anything about this problem. Others believe that effective measures can be taken to improve this situation. Discuss both views and give our opinion.	Animals – whether it is too late to save animals or still there is time	Discuss
152	More and more people are using computers and other electronic devices to access information. So, printing of books, magazines and newspapers should not be done. Do you agree or disagree with this?	Technology – e-materials vs printed materials	Opinion 1
153	Governments should spend money on building train and subway lines to reduce traffic congestion. OR on building more and wider roads to reduce traffic congestion Discuss both views and give your opinion.	Government – Should spend on trains and subways or on widening roads	Discuss
154	In many countries, women are allowed to take maternity leave during the first month after the birth of the new born. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?	Family – Maternity leave	Opinion 3
155	More and more children from wealthy countries are doing unpaid work in poor countries, such as teaching, building houses etcetera. Why are they doing this? Who gets more benefit, the community or the young people?	Rich poor – Volunteer tourism – cause/effect	Reasons and direct question
156	Some suggest the government should spend money putting in more works of art like paintings and statues to make them better to live in. Agree or disagree?	Art – government spend on paintings and statues	Opinion 1
157	The main purpose of schools is to turn the children into good citizens and workers, rather than to benefit them as individuals. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – Main purpose of schools	Opinion 1
158	In recent years the family has changed as well as family roles. Reasons and is this situation positive or negative?	Family – family roles changing	Reasons and opinion 2
159	In modern world, it is no longer necessary to use animals for food or use animal products, for instance, clothing and medicines. Agree/Disagree	Animals – not needed to be exploited	Opinion 1
160	Health care should be free OR people should pay for their medical costs themselves. Discuss both & opine.	Government – healthcare free	Discuss
161	Nowadays, in the society consumer goods are cheaper to buy. Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?	Consumerism – Advantageous or not	Opinion 3
162	Many countries construct modern buildings to give good view of towns and cities. Some people say that countries make new buildings with traditional style to preserve their culture as part of their identity. Agree or disagree.	Architecture – Should new buildings be built in traditional styles	Opinion 1
163	Today, many children spend a lot of time playing computer games and less time on sports. Why? Is it a positive or a negative development?	Children – computer games vs outdoor sports	Reasons and Opinion 3
164	Experts say if the old people spend time and get along with others and exercise every day will be healthier and happier. However, many elderly are suffering from loneliness and lack of fitness. Discuss the causes and solutions?	Old people – problem solution	Problem solution
165	Individuals and countries cannot help everyone who	Rich poor –help only	Opinion 1

	needs help in the world, so they should only be concerned about their own communities and countries. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	their own country people or everyone.	
166	Nowadays the football supporters behave violently. What is the cause? How can we solve it?	Sports – Football hooliganism	Problem solution
167	Some people think that to be successful, you need to get in a university education, whereas others say it is not true. Discuss both ideas and give your own opinion.	Education – success and university education	Discuss
168	Multicultural societies, where people of different ethnic groups live together can bring more benefits than drawbacks to a society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Globalisation – Multicultural societies good or bad	Opinion 1
169	In the future, it seems it would be more difficult to live on Earth. Some people think more money should be spent researching on other planet to live such as Mars. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Space research – for living in future should be done or not	Opinion 1
170	There are more new towns nowadays. It is more important to include public parks and sports facilities than shopping centres for individuals to spend their free time. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Government – should make public parks and sports facilities vs shopping centres	Opinion 1
171	Some people say that no one should do the same job forever, while others believe that doing the same job is beneficial for the individual, company and society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.	Job – Job hopping or sticking to one job	Discuss
172	Some businesses find that their new employees lack in basic interpersonal skills such as lack of ability to work with colleagues as a team. What are the causes and suggest possible solutions.	Job essay – New employees lack interpersonal skills	Problem solution
173	It is more important for a building to serve a purpose than to look beautiful. Architects shouldn't worry about producing building as a work of art. Agree or disagree?	Buildings – Should be utilitarian or beautiful	Opinion 1
174	Certain people believe that only way to reduce crime is sentencing criminals for longer time periods while others believe alternative methods should be used to lower crimes. Discuss both views and your opinion.	Crime – Longer term in prison is the only way to reduce crime	Discuss
175	In some countries, university students live away from home and in another city while studying. Do you think the disadvantages outweigh the advantages of living in another city?	Education – Should university students live near parents or away	Opinion 3
176	People's shopping habits depend more on the age group they belong to than other factors. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous Shopping habits depend more on age	Opinion 1
177	Money offered for postgraduate research is limited; as a consequence, some people argue that financial support from the government should only be provided for scientific research rather than research for less useful subjects. Do you agree or disagree?	Education- postgrad research should be on research of science subjects only	Opinion 1
178	In many countries women are able to join the armed forces just as men. Some people say that only men should be members of the army, navy or air force. Do you agree	Men/Women essay – Should only men join the army, navy or air	Opinion 1

	or disagree?	force?	
179	It has been observed that in many countries not enough students are choosing to study science subjects at university. What do you think are the causes of the problem? What are the effects on society?	Education – Not enough students studying science – Cause effect essay	Cause effect essay
180	In developing countries, rural children have less access to education. Some people say that the problem can be solved by providing schools and teachers. Others say that computers and internet should be provided. Discuss both sides and give your opinion	Education – Schools and teachers vs computers and internet provided to the poor	Discuss
181	Caring for children is an important thing of the society. It is suggested that all mothers and fathers should be required to take childcare training courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Family – New mothers and fathers should take childcare courses	Opinion 1
182	Media and newspaper show vulgar crimes on news, which cause fear and provoke culprits. Some people think that crime news on TV should not be broadcasted. To what extent do you agree or disagree.	Media – Should not show crime news	Opinion 1
183	Nowadays young people are admiring media and sports stars, even though they do not set a good example. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?	Miscellaneous - Young people admire celebs even if bad	Opinion 3
184	There are an increasing number of people who do not know their neighbours. What causes this situation? How to solve it?	Miscellaneous – People don't know neighbours	Problem solution
185	It has been suggested that everyone in the world want to own a car, a TV and a fridge. Do you think disadvantage of such a development outweigh advantages?	Miscellaneous – Consumerism – Everyone wants everything	Opinion 3
186	Children are taught to push themselves to try and be better than their classmates, rather than work together for everyone's profit. Do you think the advantages outweigh its disadvantages?	Children – competition vs cooperation	Opinion 3
187	In some countries, schools arrange work for students without any payment, so that students get experience. To what extent is it beneficial for the student as well as the company or institution?	Education – Unpaid internships as part of school – advantages/ disadvantages	Direct question
188	The days the number of companies operating at multinational level has increased. To what extent are they responsible for the local communities in which they are located?	Globalisation – MNCs and their local responsibilities	Direct question
189	Some people think the government should pay for health care and education, but other people claim that it is the individual's responsibility. Do you agree or disagree?	Government – should healthcare and education be free for all	Opinion 1
190	The best way to remove poverty in developing countries is to provide 6 years of free education to all children so that they can read, write and use numbers. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – 6 years free education to all children.	Opinion 1
191	There are some motives for people to work. Some people think money is the most important. Do you agree or	Job – motives to work	Opinion 1

	disagree?		
192	Some people say that the public funds should be spent on promoting healthy living than on the treatment of people who are ill. Do you agree or disagree?	Government –spend on prevention than treatment	Opinion 1
193	It is known to all that the technological and scientific advances have made great changes to the range and quality of our food. Some people regard it as an improvement while others believe that the change is harmful. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.	GM foods – good or bad	Discuss
194	There is an increasing amount of advertising directed at children, which encourages them to buy goods such as toys and snacks. Many parents are worried, while some advertisers claim that they provide useful information to children. Discuss both and opine.	Advertisements – effect on children	Discuss
195	Studies suggest that children spend more time watching TV than they did in the past and spend less on doing active or creative things. Why do you think it is the case? What measures and methods can be used to tackle it?	Children and Television	Problem solution
196	Many people regard films as less important form of art than literature and painting. Do you agree or disagree?	Art – Films vs literature and art	Opinion 1
197	The responsibility to prevent global environmental damage is on politicians rather than individuals. Do you agree or disagree?	Environment – politicians vs individuals	Opinion 1
198	Some people say that parents should organise free time activities for their children. Others say children should be free to choose what they do in their free time. Discuss both sides and opine.	Children and planning their leisure	Discuss
199	Some people say that instead of preventing climate change we should find a way to live with it. Do you agree or disagree?	Environment – prevent it or find a way to live with it.	Opinion 1
200	In many countries, government spent 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?	Technology – Media - Internet	Reasons and direct question
201	Some people believe that women should play an equal role as men in a country's police force or military force, such as the army, while others think women are not suitable for these kinds of jobs. Discuss both and opine.	Job – Gender issues	Discuss
202	The gap between the rich and the poor is becoming wider, the rich richer, the poor even more poorer. What problems can the situation cause and give the solutions?	Rich –Poor essay	Problem solution
203	Some people think that the government should decide which subjects students should study at the university, while others think that students should be allowed to apply for the subject they prefer. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.	Education – Should government decide the subjects	Discuss
204	Nowadays in many countries household waste e.g. food packaging is increasing day by day. What are the causes for that? How can this problem be solved?	Environment – Household waste	Problem solution
205	New research has shown that overeating has become a	Health - Overeating	Problem solution

	bigger problem in the world than hunger. What are the reasons of this problem? How can you solve it?	vs hunger – Problem solution	
206	People can eat a wide variety of food of other regions. As a result they are eating a lot of foreign food instead of locally produced food. Do you think the advantages of eating foreign food are more than its harms?	Globalisation – Advantages and disadvantages of imported food	Opinion 3
207	In some cities people are choosing cars instead of bicycles, while in other cities riding bikes are replacing cars. Why is this the case? Which development do you think is better?	Environment – cars vs bicycle	Reasons and opinion
208	Nowadays, people are consuming more and more sugar-based drinks. Why do they do so? Suggest measures to solve the problem.	Health – eating habits	Problem solution
209	Some people think that nowadays children have too much freedom. Do you agree or disagree?	Children – Freedom	Opinion 1
210	Consumers are faced with increasing numbers of advertisements from competing companies. To what extent do you think are consumers influenced by advertisements? What measures can be taken to protect them?	Ads and consumerism	Problem solution
211	Intelligence is the most important quality for a leader. Do you agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous – Qualities of a leader	Opinion 1
212	Many employees may work at home with the modern technology. Some people claim that it can benefit only the workers, not the employers. Do you agree or disagree?	Job – telecommuting benefits employees	Opinion 1
213	Students in school should learn academic subjects and pass exams, other skills such as cookery, dressmaking and woodwork can be learnt well from family and friends. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – academic subjects only or also extra things	Opinion 1
214	Some people say that its better to teach language students in small classes, others think the number of people does not matter.	Language – the size of the language classroom	Discuss
215	Some people say that vertical city is best where people live and work in tall buildings. Others say that horizontal city is better where there are few tall buildings.	Miscellaneous - Vertical city vs horizontal city	Discuss
216	Team activities can teach more skills for life than those activities, which are played alone. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Sports - Team activities vs solo activities	Opinion 1
217	Unemployment is getting increasingly serious in many countries. Some people think students only need to get primary education, while others think secondary education is necessary. What's your opinion?	Education – Only primary education to combat unemployment	Opinion 1
218	Fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) are the main sources in many countries, but in some countries the use of alternative sources of energy (wind energy and solar energy) are encouraged.	Environment – Alternative sources of energy	Opinion 3
219	Research shows that overeating is as harmful to people's health as smoking. Therefore, the advertisements of certain food products should be banned as the ads of	Advertisement – ads of smoking vs of fast food	Opinion 1

	cigarettes are banned. Agree/Disagree		
220	The rapid development of communication technology, such as smart phones, tablets and other mobile devices, has more disadvantages than advantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Technology – Communication technology	Opinion 1
221	Some people believe that government should spend on new public buildings, such as libraries and museums, rather than renovating old buildings. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Buildings – old vs new	Opinion 1
222	Some people think that the government should make laws regarding nutrition and healthy lifestyle, while others think that it is a matter of personal choice and personal responsibility. Discuss both views and opine.	Healthy lifestyle – on individuals or government	Discuss
223	Some people believe that sport competitions are a source of emotional stress for young people. Therefore, youth should be banned from participating in sport competitions. Do you agree or disagree?	Sports – stress in sports – should youth be banned from competing in sports	Opinion 1
224	Some people think government should ban dangerous sports, such as skydiving and rock climbing. Do you agree or disagree?	Sports – Should dangerous sports be banned	Opinion 1
225	The advantages brought by the spread of English as a "global language" will outweigh the disadvantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?	Language essay – English as a global language	Opinion 1
226	In some countries, some of the criminal cases in the law courts are shown on the television, so that the general public can watch them. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?	Miscellaneous – Criminal trials should be telecast or not	Opinion 3
227	Some people believe that everyone has right to university education. Therefore, government should make university education free for everyone, no matter what their financial background. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Education – should university education be free for all.	Opinion 1
228	In many countries, people buy imported food rather than food produced locally. Why do people do that? How can people be encouraged to eat locally produced food?	Food – Globalization Local vs imported food	Reasons and solutions
229	The best way to learn other cultures is to work in multinational organisations. Do you agree or disagree?	Globalisation – MNCs and learning culture	Opinion 1
230	People believe that not all school children have the natural ability to learn a new language. This means it is not right to force all school children to study a foreign language. Do you agree or disagree?	Education – Language – Should a foreign language be compulsory.	Opinion 1
231	Some people believe that living in big cities is becoming more difficult. Others believe that it is getting easier. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.	Miscellaneous – Big cities vs small cities	Discuss
232	Parents should encourage their children to spend less time studying and more time doing sports/physical activities. Do you agree or disagree?	Children - Academic education vs sports	Opinion 1
233	Nowadays, some countries are spending a lot of money to make it easier to use bicycle. Why is this so. Is it the best solution to transport problem?	Environment – bicycle use being promoted	Reasons and direct question

234	More and more people do online shopping. Why is this the situation? What is the effect of online shopping on shops and communities?	Miscellaneous – Technology - Online shopping	Reasons and effects
235	Some people think that in the modern society individuals are becoming more dependent on each other while others say that individuals are becoming more independent of each other. Discuss and opine.	Miscellaneous – Individuals are dependent or independent	Discuss
236	It is a good thing if senior management workers in a company get a much higher salary than other workers in the same company. Do you agree or disagree?	Job – Discrepancy in pay of top positions and ordinary workers	Opinion 1
237	It has become easier and more affordable for people to travel to other countries. Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?	Tourism	Opinion 2
238	Nuclear energy is a better choice for meeting increasing demand. Do you support the use of nuclear technology for constructive purposes?	Environment - Nuclear power – good or bad	Direct question
239	Many people say that companies should give importance to their employees, whereas others say that they should give importance to customers. Discuss both and opine.	Jobs - Miscellaneous – Employees vs customers.	Discuss
240	The movement of people from agricultural areas to cities to work can cause serious problems in both places. What are the serious problems and what measures can be taken to solve this problem?	People - Urbanization	Problem solution
241	A report indicated that many children between 7 and 11 spend too much time watching television and/or playing video games. How does the problem affect the children, their families and society? What measures can be taken to control it?	Children - Excessive TV viewing by children aged 7-11	Effects and solutions
242	Some people believe that if police force carries guns, it can encourage a higher level of violence. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Crime - Police carrying guns encourages violence	Opinion 1
243	Some people think governments should spend money on measures to save languages with few speakers from dying out completely. Others think this is a waste of financial resources. Discuss both views and opine.	Language – should money be spent to save dying languages	Discuss
244	In schools and universities, girls tend to choose arts subjects, while boys choose science subjects. What is the reason? Should the trend be changed?	Education – Gender issues in selection of subjects	Reasons and direct question
245	Nowadays, sport is becoming a business and more and more professionals and big companies are getting involved in sporting events. Do you think that it is a positive or a negative development?	Sports – Commercialization of sports	Opinion 3
246	Some people believe that the fittest and strongest individuals and teams always succeed in sports. Others think that success in sports depends on mental attitudes. Discuss both views and give your opinions.	Sports – success depends on fitness or mental attitude	Discuss
247	Some people think that we should invent a new language for international communication. Do the benefits of this outweigh the problems?	Language – Inventing a new language	Opinion 3

248	In order to learn a language well, we should also learn about the country as well as the cultures and lifestyles of the people who speak this language. Agree or disagree?	Language – to learn we should also learn culture	Opinion 1
249	Some languages are increasingly spoken in different countries, while the usage of others is rapidly declining. Is this a positive or a negative development?	Language – Some languages spoken more	Opinion 2
250	Should tourists accept social and environmental responsibility OR should not accept any responsibility at all. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Tourism – Should tourists accept responsibility	Opinion 1
251	Some people think visitors to others countries should imitate local customs and behaviours. Some people think the host country should welcome cultural differences. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.	Tourism – tourists should follow host customs or not	Discuss
252	People moving to a new country should accept new culture in the foreign country rather than living as a separate minority group. Do you agree or disagree?	Tourism – Should immigrants follow hosts or not	Opinion 1
253	The spread of multinational companies and the increase in globalization produce positive effects for everyone. Do you agree or disagree?	Globalization – MNCs good or bad	Opinion 1
254	Personal happiness is directly related to economic success. OR happiness depends on different factors. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.	Miscellaneous - Happiness and economic success	Discuss
255	Housing shortage in big cities can cause severe social consequences. Some people think only government action can solve this problem. Do you agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous – Only government can solve housing issues	Opinion 1
256	When families have a meal together it is considered social activity. Do you think eating together is important to people in your country?	Family – Importance of family meal	Direct question
257	Some people say that parents have the most important role in a child's development. However, others argue that other things like television or friends have the most significant influence. Discuss both views and opine.	Family – Children - Is family more important or other factors	Discuss
258	Some scientists believe that studying the behaviour of 3-year-old children can tell which children would grow up to be criminals. To what extent is crime a product of human nature or is it possible to stop children from growing up to be criminals?	Nature vs Nurture –	Direct question
259	Children who grow up in families, which are short of money are better prepared with the problems of adult life than children who are brought up by wealthy parents. Agree/Disagree	Nature Nurture - Children and family's financial status	Opinion 1
260	In many countries today there is insufficient respect to old people. Reasons? What problems might it cause?	Old people - lack respect	Reasons and direct question
261	Some people think parents should read or tell stories to children, while others think parents need not do that, as children can do it themselves. Discuss both & opine.	Family – Children Should parents read stories to children	Discuss
262	The news reported in the media focuses on problems and emergencies rather than the positive developments is harmful to both the individual and the society. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?	Media – Focuses on negative news.	Opinion 1

263	Some people say that some urgent problems in modern society can only be solved with international cooperation. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous - International cooperation	Opinion 1
264	It is believed that education is of vital importance to the development of individuals and the wellbeing of societies. What should education consist of?	Education – What education should consist of	Direct question essay
265	In some countries more people choose to live alone or by themselves. Reasons? Is it positive or negative?	People - living alone	Reasons and opinion 2
266	More and more people are using mobile phones and the Internet to communicate. Therefore, people are losing the ability to communicate face to face. Agree/Disagree?	Technology and communication	Opinion 1
267	Some people say that the best way for children to learn to read is by using online materials. Others say that printed materials should be used. Discuss both & opine.	Education – Technology –reading skills in children	Discuss
268	Schools should stop using books for teaching children as they find them boring, and use film, TV and computer instead. To what extent do agree with this?	Education – books vs film, TV, computers in schools	Opinion 1
269	Nowadays it is easy to apply for and be given a credit card. However, some people experience problems when they are not able to pay their debts back. Do the advantages of credit cards outweigh the disadvantages?	Credit card – advantages disadvantages	Opinion 3
270	It is important for all towns and cities to have large public places like squares and parks. Agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous -public outdoor spaces	Opinion 1
271	International community must act immediately to ensure all nations reduce its consumption of fossil fuels e.g. gas and oil. Do you agree or disagree?	Environment –reduce its use of fossil fuels	Opinion 1
272	Some people believe that the best way to produce a happier society is to have a small difference between the richest and the poorest. Do you agree or disagree?	Rich poor gap	Opinion 1
273	Children find it difficult to concentrate on or pay attention to school. Reasons and solutions.	Education – children	Problem solution
274	The best way for government to solve traffic congestion in cities is to provide free public transport 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Agree or disagree?	Environment – Government Free public transport	Opinion 1
275	Some people argue that public should be allowed to have guns. Others do not agree. Discuss both and opine.	Crime - Gun ownership	Discuss
276	Some people prefer to go to health clubs and gyms for health care, but some say that walking and climbing stairs are more effective. Discuss both and opine.	Health – Gyms vs walking and stairs	Discuss
277	Adult youths are often called up for working for the development of communities. Should they work voluntarily or should they get paid? Give your opinion.	Young people - work voluntarily or get paid	Discuss
278	Science tells there are activities that are good for the health. However some people still continue doing unhealthy habits. Causes and solutions	Health - Why people have unhealthy habits	Problem solution
279	Although countries with long average working hours are economically successful, this often has some negative social consequences. Agree/disagree	Job - Long working hours are negative for society	Opinion 1
280	Money should be used in new housing and road development than on restoring old buildings. Agree or	Buildings restoration vs new ones and	Opinion 1

	disagree?	roads	
281	If some people get a chance to choose between life without work and spending most of the time working, then they would choose not to work. Agree or disagree?	Job - People - would love a life without work	Opinion 1
282	Some people think that the government should strictly control the supply of fresh water, as the resources are limited. While others think we can use as much water as we want. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.	Water – should there be a restriction on its use	
283	People want to buy famous brands of clothes, cars and other items. Reasons? Is it positive or negative?	Miscellaneous - Brands	Reasons and opinion 2
284	The tendency of human beings to copy one another is shown in the popularity of fashions in clothes and other consumer goods Do you agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous - Copying one another	Opinion 1
285	Young people are not only richer, but also safer and healthier BUT are less happy. Reasons and solutions.	Young people - unhappier	Problem solution
286	Should museums should be free, OR some entry fee should be there. Discuss both sides and opine.	Tourism - Museums - ticketed or not	Discuss
287	It is expected that there will be a higher proportion of old people than young people in the future. Is it a positive or negative development?	Old people - Greying society is positive or negative	Opinion 2
288	Some people think news have no connection to people's lives, so it is a waste of time to read the news in the newspaper and watch on television. Agree or disagree?	Media - News is not important	Opinion 1
289	In many cities and towns, the high volume of road traffic is a problem. Causes & solutions	Environment - Road traffic	Problem solution
290	Ambition is an important character for people who want to be successful in life. How important is it? Is it a positive or negative characteristic?	Miscellaneous - Is ambition good or bad.	Direct question and opinion 2
291	Do politicians have the greatest influence on the world OR do scientists have the greatest influence. Discuss both & opine	Miscellaneous Politicians vs scientists	Discuss
292	Some people think job satisfaction is more important than job security, while others think having a permanent job is more important. Discuss both & opine	Job - Job security vs job satisfaction	Discuss
293	Some people think foreign visitors should be charged more than local people. Do you agree or disagree?	Tourism – charging foreign tourists more	Opinion 1
294	Young people are often influenced by "peer pressure". Do the disadvantages outweigh the advantages?	Children and Peer pressure	Opinion 3
295	Everyone should stay in school until they reach the age of 18. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Education - age for leaving school	Opinion 1
296	Some think that children should start school as early as possible, while others believe that they should start school at the age of seven. Discuss both views & opine.	Education - School going age – 4 or 7	Discuss
297	Some teachers say students should be organised into groups to study. Others argue students should be made to study alone. Tell the benefits of each study method. Which one do you think is more effective?	Education - Group study vs studying alone	Direct question and discuss.
298	Some people think students should learn more practical courses like computer, OR should learn more about theoretical courses like geography and mathematics.	Education - Practical vs theoretical courses.	Discuss

	Discuss both views and give your opinion.		
299	The typical teaching of a teacher and students in the class will not exist by the year 2050. Agree or disagree?	Education - The future of education	Opinion 1
300	University students spend most time studying. They should be doing other activities too. Agree/disagree.	Education – Extra curricular activities	Opinion 1
301	Many people who leave school hold a negative attitude towards learning. Why does this happen? Solutions.	Education – Negative attitude of students	Problem solution
302	The subjects and lesson contents are decided by the government. Some people argue that teachers should make the choice. Do you agree or disagree?	Education - Who should decide the school curricula	Opinion 1
303	Nowadays sending children to boarding school (either in other countries or in one's own country) is becoming increasingly popular. Reasons? Is it positive or negative?	Education - Boarding schools	Opinion 2
304	Rote learning plays a role in many education systems. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?	Education - Rote learning	Opinion 3
305	Some people think secondary school students should study international news as one of their subjects. Other people say this is a waste of valuable school time. Discuss both views and give your opinion.	Education – International news in secondary schools	Discuss
306	Good schools and medical facilities are available only in cities. Some people think new teachers and doctors should work in rural areas for a few years, but others think everyone should be free to choose where they work. Discuss both and give your own opinion.	Education – Government – Fresh teachers and doctors to work in rural areas	Discuss
307	Some people think that students benefit from going to private secondary schools. Others, however, feel that private secondary schools can have a negative effect on society as a whole. Discuss both these views and opine.	Education – Private secondary schools	Discuss
308	Is it better for children to begin to learn a foreign language at primary school than at secondary school? Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?	Children – Language - Education	Opinion 3
309	Is using animals for experimentation purpose cruel, OR is necessary for development of science. Discuss both.	Animal-Experimentation	Discuss
310	Is the main benefit of international cooperation in protection of the environment, OR in the world business. Discuss both views and give your opinion.	Miscellaneous – International cooperation	Discuss
311	The increased world demand for oil and gas has made it necessary for locating these sources in remote and untouched natural areas. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?	Environment – Remote drilling (Against Drilling)	Opinion 3
312	The increased world demand for oil and gas has made it necessary for locating these sources in remote and untouched natural areas. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages? (For Drilling)	Environment – Remote drilling (For Drilling)	Opinion 3
313	Some people tend to take temporary jobs so that they have time to do other things. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?	Jobs – Temporary jobs	Opinion 3
314	Professional workers such as doctors, nurses and teachers should be paid more than those in the field of sports and entertainment. Agree or disagree?	Jobs – Pay issues of celebs	Opinion 1

315	Some countries have introduced a law to limit working hours for employees. Why is this law introduced? Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?	Job – working hours	Direct question and opinion 2
316	In some countries, it is illegal for companies to reject job applicant for age. Is it a positive or negative?	Jobs – Age issues	Opinion 2
317	Nowadays, some workplaces tend to employ equal numbers of men and women workers. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?	Jobs – Gender issues	Opinion 3
318	Men are placed in most high-level jobs. Government should encourage a certain percentage of these jobs to be reserved for women. Do you agree or disagree?	Jobs – Gender issues in high level jobs	Opinion 1
319	What are the benefits of requiring young people to serve the army? Does participation in community work qualify as an alternative?	Miscellaneous – Compulsory Military conscription	Direct question
320	The traditional life style of local people in developing countries is attracting tourists, which prevents local people changing to modern ways. Agree or disagree?	Tourism – Traditional lifestyle Agree	Opinion 1
321	The traditional life style of local people in developing countries is attracting tourists, which prevents local people changing to modern ways. Agree or disagree?	Tourism – Traditional lifestyle Disagree	Opinion 1
322	A lot of charities and organisations have to publicize their activities by setting up a number of days to name the special day like National Children's day and National nonsmoking day. Causes and effects.	Miscellaneous – Charities and special days	Cause effect
323	Rich countries should not employ skilled labour from poor countries, as poor countries need the workers more. Do you agree or disagree?	Rich Poor – Job – skilled labour	Opinion 1
324	With the use of mobile phones and computers, the traditional skill of writing letters will disappear. Agree/ disagree. How important is letter-writing?	Technology – Letter writing	Opinion 1 and direct question
325	Society is based on rules and laws. If individuals were free to do whatever they wanted to do, it could not function. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	Miscellaneous – Rules and laws	Opinion 1
326	Economic progress is the only way to measure a country's success, OR other factors. What are these factors? And among them, which one is more important.	Miscellaneous – measuring success of country	Direct question
327	People have thought about creating an ideal society, but fail in making this happen. What is an ideal society? How can we create an ideal society?	Miscellaneous – Ideal society	Direct question
328	Male leaders lead us to violence and conflict. With female leaders, it will be more peaceful. Agree/disagree	Miscellaneous – Male vs female rulers	Opinion 1
329	Characteristics we are born with, have more influence on our personality and development than experiences we may have in our life. Which is the major influence?	Nature Nurture	Discuss and direct question
330	People aim to achieve a balance between their work and lives, but few people achieve it. Causes & solutions.	Job – People –Work life balance	Problem solution
331	People thought that human race is steadily improving in every area of life. In which areas do you think we have made important progress nowadays? In which areas do you think we still need to make progress?	Miscellaneous – human progress	Direct question

1. *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?*

It is commonly said that today's children are pressurized and are facing harder and harder academic, social and commercial challenges. This essay intends to discuss the causes of these pressures and suggest some measures to alleviate the problem. I believe that children must be shielded from such mounting pressures.

There are many academic pressures on children. Today's child is not competing with the child next door, or even of one's town or country. He is competing with the child of the global village. The big planet Earth of yesteryears is a small well-linked global village of today. Parents want their children to excel in every field. They send their children to the best schools, where the school bag is often heavier than the child himself. Even after school hours there are private tuitions. Children don't have time to bloom and bring out their hidden talents.

There are also many social and commercial pressures. Socially, the children of today are in a huge dilemma. They want to adopt the global culture, whereas their parents force them to confine themselves to the traditions. This sometimes makes them rebel against the rules laid by their elders. Then, they also face peer pressure, which can be good if their peers are good, and bad if their peers are not disciplined. This peer pressure coupled with the consumerist society of today can lead to a lot of stress and strain on children. They see the latest models of cell phones and other items with their peers and want to buy them. When they are unable to do so, they get stressed.

The solutions are not simple. Children have to be handled with great care. Parents should have realistic expectations from their children. They should have a pro-active approach and give time to their children. The biggest onus is on the schools and teachers. They should strive to bring out the best in every child and competition and co-operation should both be taught simultaneously. The aim of competition should not be to win at all cost. Children have to be taught to win with modesty and lose with grace.

To summarise, there is no doubt that the children of today are facing so many pressures, but steps should be taken on a war footing to protect their innocent childhood. Otherwise, these pressures will stifle the physical and psychological growth of children.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Academic pressures
Para 2: Social and commercial pressures
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

2. *Some people believe they should keep all the money they have earned and should not pay tax to the state. Do you agree or disagree?*

I disagree with the statement that individuals should not pay taxes to the state. The government runs the country from the taxes it collects. Taxes are collected only from those who earn above a certain minimum limit. It is our moral duty to pay taxes.

Tax money collected by government is used to fund basic amenities, provide various services to citizens and for government administration and projects, running of jails and defense system, and many other operations. It is not wrong to say that "taxes run a country." Thus, it is very important for a government to make people pay taxes.

Let us analyze why people do not want to pay taxes. The main reason is their dissatisfaction with government in serving them. They blame government for things like lack of infrastructure, poverty and unemployment, but they are not completely wrong as tax revenue is misused in some or the other way in every country. In developed countries, however, because of higher satisfaction from government's functioning, citizens may be more willing to pay taxes. Another factor generating dissatisfaction is the tax structure itself. Often the tax system is complex and it drives people away from paying taxes. It is also felt that the tax rates are high and tax slabs are unequal. So they feel it is not unethical if one goes for tax avoidance or tax evasion.

Not paying taxes can drastically affect a country's revenue generation, my own country, India, for that matter. But then, it is equally desired that government come up with a fair tax structure and also make people aware where the taxes are being diverted. Even lowering the tax rates can help a country increase its tax collection as it would increase compliance among the taxpayers. Tax reform should also be fast so that no public grievance or non-compliance remains for long. A proper tax system backed up with strict tax laws can produce the best results.

Summing up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that it is the duty of every citizen to pay tax and the duty of every government to use it appropriately in public interest.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages of taxes
Para 2: Why people don't want to pay taxes
Para 3: Disadvantages of not paying taxes and what steps to take
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

3. *Some people think that cultural traditions may be destroyed when they are used as money-making attractions aimed at tourists. Others believe it is the only way to save these traditions. Discuss on both sides and give your opinion.*

It is irrefutable that cultural traditions attract lure from all over the world and develop local economy. Some individuals are of the opinion that these may be destroyed if they are modified to attract tourists. Others, however, hold the view that if we don't use them for tourism, these cultural attractions will die. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss both sides of the argument. I, personally side with the latter view.

We have to make these cultural traditions alluring for tourists, because we need tourists. Firstly, tourism boosts our economy and secondly we get a chance to spread our culture to different countries. If our artists and artisans do not earn money from their art, which depicts our culture and tradition, then this art will die off and we'll only be the losers.

Tourism is the backbone of any country's economy and every country does its effort to attract tourists. Many people depend on tourism for their livelihood. People in the food industry, hotel industry and transport industry depend on tourism. Presentation is very important to attract visitors, and to present nicely some change is unavoidable.

On the other hand, when cultural traditions are used as money-making attractions, they lose their original features. Sometimes it makes cultural traditions disappear altogether. However, I believe that culture and tradition are deep rooted and minor superficial changes cannot harm them in any way. Change is the law of nature and all we should look into it that the changes are made with caution to retain the inherent elements of culture.

Summing up, to save cultural traditions we need to make some changes to make them captivating to the tourist of today. If we don't do so we'll lose our cultural traditions altogether and we'll lose our tourists also.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why we should use cultural attractions for making money
Para 2: More advantages of tourism
Para 3: Disadvantages of using cultural attractions as money-making ventures
Conclusion: to save cultural traditions we need to make some changes to make them

4. *Some people believe that reading stories from a book is better than watching TV or playing computer games for children. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Reading stories in books is a basic way for children to obtain knowledge and open their minds. Although watching TV and playing computer games are also popular educational methods among children, I believe that reading books is better and offers more advantages than watching TV and playing computer games.

Learning by reading is more effective compared to TV and games because it is an active activity. Like any other skill, reading takes practice. To fully understand the content, children have to give all their attention to the text. Also, more than just understanding a certain topic, children tend to develop imagination, as they imagine the characters from the description they read, which helps them to learn more efficiently and deeply in the future.

Furthermore, reading stories also helps children master language development, as by reading stories, children learn pronunciation and vocabulary. It also increases a child's attention span, and develops the ability to concentrate. It develops children's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken and written terms. It develops and fosters a child's natural curiosity

On the other hand, the knowledge disseminated by vivid pictures on screen is easier for children to imbibe, but too many moving objects and colorful images can distract children, especially some young kids, from other important tasks. Playing computer games also can be very addicting, as a result of which children fail to do their homework. Additionally, spending too much time before a computer screen or watching TV can lead to health problems such as shortsightedness. Therefore, reading is better for both efficiency and health purpose.

In conclusion, it can be reiterated that reading stories in book is better than watching TV and playing on computers, as it is a more effective way to learn and is better for health.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Advantages of reading
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Advantages of computer games and TV with reasons why they are not better than reading
Conclusion:

5. *In many parts of the world, children are given more freedom than in the past. Is this a positive or a negative development?*

The world is changing fast and so are the rules and the norms of society. When grown-ups today compare their childhood with that of today's children, they find that today's children have more freedom than what they used to have. I believe this situation is largely positive.

There are many advantages of children enjoying more freedom. They grow up quicker than their parents did. This produces more liberal, mature and adventurous adults, which obviously has an effect on society in the long run. Today's children follow the global culture, which is the amalgamation of the good points of the various cultures of the world. Consequently, countries progress more rapidly because of this shedding of many traditional ways of doing things and becoming freer and more open societies. For example, in India, if today's youngster wants a dowry free marriage, he will go ahead and have it against all odds, where as earlier youngsters could not take a stand against it as it was considered customary.

Furthermore, today's children have the power of the Internet and the satellite TV in their hands. Today's young generation is the most well informed generation than ever in the history of mankind. They know what their parents and grandparents do not know. They have oceans of opportunities in front of them, which they want to explore. They adopt careers of their choice and do not hesitate walking on the un-trodden path. They are not afraid of taking risks. For instance, earlier children were pressurized by their parents to take up medical, non-medical or commerce streams, but today's children are going into computer animation, computer gaming and other fields, which were unheard of before.

On the other hand, sometimes this freedom can be detrimental for children. They like maturity and fail to see the far-reaching consequences of their actions. It is also the time when teens make mistakes and need someone there to guide them understand what went wrong, take a step backward, analyze, and again take a step forward. Freedoms should come in small steps so that the teens are ready to move forward having proven their ability to handle each small movement. Too much freedom can end them in bad company and also drugs.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that freedom enjoyed by children is, by and large, a good thing, but the onus is on the parents to prepare them for this in small steps, so that the negative side of this excess freedom does not go against them.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Advantages are more than disadvantages
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

6. *Because of the global economy, many goods including what we use as daily basics produced by other counties have to be transported for a long distance. To what extent do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?*

Globalisation has revolutionized our world in many aspects. Now, we don't belong to a big planet Earth. We belong to a small global village. Everything is available everywhere. There are many advantages and disadvantages of transporting goods over a long distance. In my opinion, the pros outweigh the cons.

On the positive side, transporting goods over a long distance gives us a lot of choices. We can taste a variety of fruits and vegetables from all parts of the world. For example, about ten years ago, we hardly saw kiwi fruit, which is from New Zealand. But, now it has a place on every fruit stand. Earlier, we had very few shoe brands like Bata and Carona, but now the market is flooded with Reeboks, Nike, Adidas and other foreign brands.

Secondly, many people get employment in this field. Small businesses have a chance to expand globally and it increases the overall economy of the country. Finally, it helps in developing good relations between countries, which helps in international co-operation and peace. If countries are dependent upon one another's economic success, then armed conflict would be less likely.

On the downside, importing goods can have a negative effect on local culture. This can be seen in countries such as Japan where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. A second major disadvantage is pollution. When goods are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, it increases pollution from exhaust fumes.

To conclude, importing goods has both merits and demerits but the pros outweigh the cons.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: In my opinion, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages
Para 1: benefits
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Disadvantages – loss of culture and pollution
Conclusion: importing goods has both merits and demerits but the pros outweigh the cons.

7. *Environmental problems are too big for individual countries and individual persons to address. In other words, we have reached the stage where the only way to protect the environment is at an international level. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?*

Climate change is a phenomenon affecting all people in all walks of life, from individual citizens to whole countries and huge multinational companies. Therefore, I disagree with the notion that the only way to address the environmental problems is at international level. I firmly believe that this colossal problem can only be handled if all individuals contribute; all governments take steps at national level and also join hands at an international level.

Undoubtedly, gigantic steps need to be taken, and are being taken at the international level. The 'COP21' in Paris in November 2015 is a step in this direction. The aim of 'COP21' is well known: to reach a universal agreement limiting the rise in global average temperature to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. All nations are realizing that climate change is one of the greatest challenges faced by mankind today.

Many steps can be taken at the national level. Governments can aware people of the benefits of using energy efficient devices. For instance, this year government of India gave 2 LED bulbs to each government employee at Rs 10/- each under the "Prakash Path" scheme. The cost of each bulb is Rs 400/-. The cost will be recovered by adding a very small amount in each month's electricity bill for about a year. In about 100 cities, the streetlights have been replaced with LED bulbs, which is a saving of a huge amount per day. LED bulbs use a tenth of electricity as compared to other bulbs. Once people realize that by using LED bulbs, their electricity bills will reduce, they will be prepared to make the initial heavy investment also.

Although the international and national level steps are imperative, it is also a fact that individual action combined with governmental action can do a lot more to prevent climate change than if individual citizens were not involved. In a world of six billion people, if everyone stopped wasting water, disposed off their rubbish properly, started accepting recycled material and stopped succumbing to consumerism, then it would go a long way in solving the problem of environment.

Summing up, individual citizens cannot sit back and say it is someone else's responsibility to protect the environment; we must all play our part - individual citizens and governments at the national and international level.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: steps can be taken at the international level
Para 2: Steps at national level
Para 3: Steps at individual level
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

8. *People are surrounded by advertising, which has an increasing effect on our lives. Do you think the positive effects of this outweigh the negative effects?*

Whether it is on TV, radio or hoardings at the side of the road, advertisements have become a part of our lives. Advertising is a powerful and persuasive medium. I believe that the beneficial effects of ads overpower the detrimental ones.

On the positive side, advertisements provide us with information on new products. If it were not for electronic and print advertising, many products would not be bought. In this way, advertising provides an important service to manufacturers and some consumers. Additionally, it fuels the advertising industry, creating jobs for thousands of people. In this respect it has become the backbone of many economies of the world.

Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, when Amitabh Bachhan tells people to bring their children for pulse polio immunization, people listen. Then, there are ads against female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come. This is because through satellite TV we can see ads from all over the world. For instance, when we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the traditional clothes of Japan.

However, adverts also have a downside. Because of advertisements, sometimes we buy what tempts us without the insight of what we need actually. Impressive images, videos, or captions are bound to leave an imprint on us. Secondly, ads are very disturbing at times. Television commercials are a great example of this. Just as we are enjoying a TV program, a commercial break occurs, forcing us to listen. Then, ads show dangerous stunts, which may be copied by children and they may get hurt. Finally, some ads target vulnerable children and so children pester their parents to buy things which can upset the family budget.

To conclude, adverts have their advantages and disadvantages. Indubitably, the merits outstrip the demerits. The onus lies on us to look into our real needs and not be swayed by adverts.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro – Agree
Para 1 – Advantages
Para 2 – Advantages
Para 3 – negative effects
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

9. *Many people believe that today there is a general increase in anti-social behaviour and lack of respect for others. What might have caused this situation? How to improve it?*

It is unfortunate that in the midst of vast progress in every field of life there is also a growth in the anti-social behaviour and people have become less respectful of each other. This essay intends to analyze some causes of this phenomenon and suggest some ways to ameliorate the situation.

Today, we live in an era of technology in which the whole Earth has shrunk and become a global village. Everybody is connected to everybody through telephone lines and the Internet, but the warmth of relationships has taken a back seat. Most people have more than enough wealth, comfort and freedom, but their hearts desire even more. To satisfy their hearts greed people have become workaholics, and as a result have no time for family and friends. People have become selfish, isolated and indifferent. Each person is busy in his own quest for more. To add to it, the youngsters who are at ease with the new technology think that the elderly are good for nothing and that is why they don't respect them.

The changing family structure is another big cause of this phenomenon. Earlier, people lived in joint families and the grandparents were there to supervise the children. Now there are nuclear families in which both parents go out to work, and children are left unattended in the hands of pervasive media like the TV and the Internet. No one monitors what they watch and they see the programs full of violence and crime, which makes them anti social. The pressure of consumerist society and peers also breeds anti social behaviour. To add to it, the values of traditional culture are being lost and people are following the global culture, which is also considered anti social by the orthodox elderly.

There are many solutions to this problem. To begin with, people have to learn to strike a balance between work and family life. Government should also fix the maximum hours a worker can work per week so that exploitation is not there in the job market. People should revert back to the old joint family system. This would be in the benefit of all. The children would learn moral values and the elderly would be well looked after. Negative effects of excessive consumerism should be taught to the people. Media can play a big role in highlighting the good points of the traditional and the western culture so that the people can adopt good social values. Neighbourhood associations should be set up to connect people to each other.

Summing up, anti social behaviour and mutual lack of respect in today's times can be dealt with by taking simple measures, and individuals and governments should collectively take these steps.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Causes
Para 2: More causes
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

10. *Interviews form the basic selecting criteria for most large companies. However, some people think that interview is not a reliable method of choosing whom to employ and there are other better methods. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Recruiting new employees can be a long and painful process. The success of any business or organisation depends on the quality of its staff. Some employers conduct interviews to select new workers. I agree with the given statement which says that there are various other approaches. This essay intends to analyze methods of hiring new employees.

Undoubtedly, an interview is an important method of recruitment. If selection has to be done merely on an interview, then the interview has to be well executed. It requires a detailed understanding of the organizational needs as well as a careful grasp of the prospective employees' responses. It is not an easy task. If the recruitment is small scale and only a few employees are needed, it can prove fruitful otherwise alternative methods to hire have to be taken into account.

There are many other methods, which can be employed to hire new personnel. These hiring methods are a combination of several step-by-step tests. Initially, job vacancies are advertised, after which the recruiters select resumes, which meet the basic requirements for that particular job position. Then the written test is conducted to judge the skills and knowledge of the person. This is followed by group discussions and some other skill tests. Then the shortlisted candidates are interviewed. After this, background checks and reference checks are done of those shortlisted after the interview. It is important to check the credit record and criminal record. The reference checks are done to ascertain the authenticity of what is written in the resume. Finally, the selected candidates are sent for a health check to rule out any communicable diseases.

Analyzing the above mentioned methods it can be seen that no single method is perfect. Each job has its own requirements. Some jobs require qualification and some require experience. Big companies have a department devoted to human resources, which takes care of the hiring issues, but for small businesses finding the right employees at the right times can be an especially time-consuming and frustrating struggle. External recruitment agencies can be assigned the task of searching suitable candidates for jobs, but it may be very expensive. However, I believe that spending on the recruitment of new employees can prove to be a good investment, as good employees can breathe new life into your business.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that finding suitable employees is an arduous task and has to be a combination of written tests, group discussions, interviews and reference checks.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro:
Para 1: Importance of interviews
Para 2: Other methods
Para 3: More methods and own opinion
Conclusion:

11. *In some countries, fast food restaurants and supermarkets give money to schools to promote their products. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?*

In the highly competitive era of today, marketers such as restaurants and supermarkets have realized the marketing opportunity offered by schools and so are giving money to schools. Even though the administrators of schools are using that money to raise funds for school activities, this is definitely disadvantageous for school children.

To begin with, adverts of fast foods and their availability within school premises would help to develop children's taste for such foods. This can increase problems like obesity, which in turn is the root cause of many other health issues among children. As it is, children today have sedentary lifestyles, which makes it imperative that healthier food options should be made available to them. The welfare of students should be the top priority of schools and they should not fall in the bait of these companies for monetary benefits.

Secondly, such commercial intrusions within the academic environment can promote consumerism. For instance, if schools promote advertisements of any products like toys or computer games from supermarkets through educational materials, billboards or school television, children would think that they have the approval of teachers and school authorities. Consequently, these vulnerable children pester their parents to buy those products, which can upset the family budget. This is a very vivid example of how commercialization of schools can promote materialism in children.

Supporters of such practices claim that the money such companies give for promoting their products inside the campus, helps financially-strapped schools to buy library books or improve sports facilities. They claim that children benefit from the additional resources and facilities that schools can afford due to such funding. What they fail to see is that commercial intrusions are already present in children's lives these days and there is no scope for more.

To sum up, it is definitely a negative development to use schools to advertise their products as this may lead to unhealthy eating and a materialistic attitude in children

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: It is a negative development
Para 1: It promotes unhealthy eating and thus obesity
Para 2: It promotes consumerism
Para 3: View of the supporters of such practices
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

12. *Some people believe that young people know about international pop and movie stars but know very less about famous people from the history in their own country. Why is this? How can more interest be created in young people to gain more knowledge about their own famous people from history?*

It is irrefutable that today we are flooded with information about everything. The youth of today know about global celebs but are increasingly ill informed about their own historical personalities. This essay shall analyse why this is happening, and also suggest some measures, to generate their interest in historical events and people.

The first and major reason for this is that the education system in most of the countries is test-based. Students are only taught to get good grades and as a result, they only focus on passing their exams, rather than gaining knowledge about any topic. Their interest is never developed in history and heroes of our past. On top of that, the youth today is more fascinated towards the celebrities because of the exposure and importance the media gives to them. Furthermore, most of the families have now started living in nuclear setups, where both the parents are working, and because of this the children's education about their roots and history has taken a back seat.

There are many methods that can be used by parents, schools and the media to develop the interest of youngsters in knowing about the famous people from history. The schools can incorporate technology in teaching methods, like the use of audio-visual aids. Educational trips to museums and famous historical places also help develop the children's interest. The government should set up museums and encourage children to visit them by highly subsidizing tickets for the students. For example, the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Museum has become a great source of information about the freedom struggle and the sacrifices made by freedom fighters. Also, the Virasat-e-Khalsa museum has become very popular among the youth as they can learn a lot about Sikh history and culture.

Moreover, TV shows and movies can be made around famous historical personalities and their contributions. For instance, the recent Bollywood movie Bajirao Mastani, has been a super hit at the box office and has made a lot of people more aware about historical events and characters. TV channels like History channel has shows which run throughout the day, giving information about famous people and events from history.

To conclude, there are several innovative and creative methods that can be used to make the youth more interested and aware about the notable people from history. This effort has to be made by parents, at schools and media also has a big role to play in spreading this awareness.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Steps, which can be taken
Para 3: More steps
Conclusion:

13. *Environmental problems such as pollution and climatic variations are increasing nowadays. The governments have taken some measures at a global level. But they got only few solutions. Why is it so? How can this problem be solved?*

Saving the environment has become the top priority across the world. No country in the world disagrees with the fact that the Earth is at the brink of a climatic disaster, but the measures taken neither have legs nor the lengths to address the issue. This essay intends to look into why the measures have always fallen short of the mark, and suggest some solutions to mitigate the problem.

The first reason why global measures have failed is that the developed world is shying away from the burden it needs to bear for the damage it did to the environment in the colonial industrial revolution times. Hence we are stuck in a limbo of bipolar world of developing nations on one side and the developed on the other. And the compromises reached between the two have always been far from satisfactory. If we need to see a real positive change, the developed world has to do more than the developing world. It cannot just say that everyone should play an equal role. It can do so by providing wealth and technology related to renewable sources of energy to the developing and the least developed countries.

The second major reason of not being able to do for the environment is that our governments are acting in the interests of powerful lobbies and corporations. For example, the fossil fuel industries are trillion dollar businesses. If clean energy succeeds, these giants would lose. The clout of these is so strong that instead of acting with ambition and urgency, the governments are making feeble efforts. The solution, for this would be to create awareness that fossil fuel industries have to step down to let the greener energies succeed.

Finally, development and environment are always seen at loggerheads with each other. Environment always ends up taking a back seat to development. Thus, looking at the two as separate entities has delayed and brought us to our current position. The answer to this is sustainable development, which is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the environment.

To sum up, it can be seen clearly, why the steps taken so far have failed to save the environment. However, the time has come to do some soul-searching and take pro-active steps for the environment.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: First reason of failure with solution
Para 2: Second reason of failure with solution
Para 3: Third reason with solution
Conclusion

14. *Now a lot of people in college are doing academic study. We should encourage them to learn vocational skill (like plumbers and electricians). Do you agree or disagree?*

People have different views about tertiary education. Some believe that it is very beneficial for the nation if majority of the youngsters go for higher education. However, others opine that they should go in for some vocational training to start earning soon. I firmly believe that university education has an edge over vocational education.

The option to start work straight after school seems attractive to some for several reasons. Many young people want to start earning money as soon as possible. In this way, they can become independent, and they will be able to afford their own house or start a family. In terms of their career, young people who decide to find work, rather than continue their studies, may progress more quickly. They will have the chance to gain real experience and learn practical skills related to their chosen profession. This may lead to promotions and a successful career.

On the other hand, I believe that it is more beneficial for students to continue their studies. Firstly, academic qualifications are required in many professions. For example, it is impossible to become a doctor, teacher or lawyer without having the relevant degree. Another advantage of graduating from a university is that it gives you more choices when it comes to choosing a job. Most employers will be more impressed by a candidate who has a degree than they would be by one who only has high school qualifications because it shows a certain level of intelligence and education, as well as the commitment and self-discipline that is needed in order to study a degree course for three or four years. University graduates also tend to earn higher salaries than those with fewer qualifications.

Furthermore, the job market is becoming increasingly competitive, and sometimes there are hundreds of applicants for one position in a company. Young people who do not have qualifications from a university or college will not be able to compete. What is more, those who work in the construction work or as car mechanics will always have to work under those who have civil and mechanical engineering degrees.

To sum up, for the reasons mentioned above, it seems to me that students are more likely to be successful in their careers if they continue their studies beyond school level.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of stepping into the job market before university education
Para 2: Advantages of university education
Para 3: Own view.
Conclusion: University education is definitely better

15. *In most of the societies, the role of mother and father differs. What are the causes of this difference? What will be the parental roles in future?*

Families are the building blocks of the society. Parents play an incredible, crucial and indispensable role for the development of children. Fathers and mothers both have an individuality, and are equally responsible for the growth of the child physically, mentally and emotionally. But still most of the societies have a different thinking that their role differs. So here I would like to discuss the reasons of these differences.

In most of the societies, especially the remote areas and villages, people believe that role of mother is just to give birth to a child and look after child's schooling, eating and home work and father is the one who brings the money for bread and butter and doesn't have to do anything with the child's care. Due to this, women are deprived of working out and even are deprived of education. First and foremost reason for these differences is that people are illiterate and 60% of the people are still below the poverty line. They are not aware of the good and bad things. Secondly, they follow the old fuddy-duddy customs and traditions.

Thirdly, I believe that in these old fashioned societies people don't have family planning, birth rate is high so women are forced to sit at home and feed the children. Therefore, all the burden of child's development comes on her shoulders and men have nothing to do except working and earning money. Just imagine if a father is asked in which class his child studies he has to think so hard and even then he cannot recollect. If women go out and work, then older people get skeptical and scold them, as they are narrow minded.

However, in the future the scenario will change. We are living in an era of globalization and westernization in 21st century. We are influenced by western culture. Nowadays people are educated, literate and aware of things and are broadminded. Parents understand their responsibility and work equally for the holistic development of the child. So, in the future conditions will improve a lot. Parents will plan the things for the bright and shiny future of their children. And they will be united and the child will not be deprived of the fathers love. Both will work so that they can do savings in the future for their child and presently in urban areas things are like this only.

To conclude, there are many reasons for the gender differences in parental roles, but the future is predicted to hold no such differences.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: So here I would like to discuss the reasons of these differences.
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Third reason
Para 3: the future scenario
Conclusion:

16. *If children behave badly should their parents take responsibility and also be punished? State your answer and give your reasons. OR If a five year old commits a crime (any kind), should his/her parents accept responsibility and how should they be punished. What is the age of a child when parents no longer have the responsibility of a child's behaviour?*

The debate on whether parents should be held responsible for their children's misdeeds has been going on for ages and people are divided on the issue. I believe that parents should be held responsible if their children commit any crime. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, if parents know that they will be held responsible for their children's inappropriate actions, they will see to it that their children are well supervised and well cared for. Parents are responsible for bringing their children on Earth and only they are responsible for raising them in such a way that they act appropriately in society. Everyone knows that juveniles make mistakes but it is the onus of the parents to keep an eye on them so that they do not exceed their limits and commit grave crimes.

Secondly, it has been seen that if parents are held responsible then it would definitely lead to an improvement in family life. Such parental responsibility would become a cultural norm and families will develop closer bonds. Divorces would become rare and broken families would also become less. Finally, children are also less likely to commit a crime if they know that their parents would be held responsible.

There are those who oppose holding the parents responsible. They say that children today are independent and there are many external influences, which affect the behaviour of children such as TV and peer pressure. However, I firmly believe that if parents take care of their children and monitor their activities and friends circle, the effect of external influences could never be so overpowering that children commit crimes. Parents could be made to pay fine if children commit petty crime and the punishment could also be more severe such as a heavy fine or imprisonment if the child commits serious crime such as murder.

Summing up, if we want to reduce the number of such crimes, we need to make parents take more responsibility.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: parents should have responsibility
Para 1: Reason 1
Para 2: Reason 2
Para 3: Opponents view and restate your view
Conclusion:

17. *Some people say that industrial growth is necessary to solve poverty, but some other people argue that industrial growth is creating environmental problems and it should be stopped. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

The persistent problem of poverty in the developing world has put a question mark on the relation between economic growth and poverty. Some individuals are of the opinion that when economy develops, because of industrial growth, poverty comes down. Others believe that economic growth leads to poverty. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, agree with the former view.

To begin with, industrial growth benefits nearly all citizens of a country, even if not equally, and therefore reduces poverty. For example, in rural areas, most of the poor are engaged in agriculture. When such a country grows through agricultural exports, it benefits both poor farmers and the even poorer labourers they employ. Similarly, rapid growth in manufacturing sector because of increase in demand creates a lot of new jobs, and eventually causes a rise in wages that further reduces poverty.

My second argument comes from historical records. Western countries began discovering the positive relation between economic growth and poverty reduction around 1820 and as a result the living standards in Europe and the United States improved many fold in the next years. Economic growth thus eliminated mass poverty in what is today considered the developed world. Even a short-term view confirms that the recent acceleration of growth in many developing countries has reduced poverty, measured the same way.

The opponents of this view claim that economic progress leads to inequality between the rich and the poor. They opine that a handful of rich are getting richer while the poor are being driven to the wall. However, results have proved that such inequality is only short lived and everyone has benefited in the long run. It is because of the high initial inequality that it appears as if economic growth is leading to poverty.

Summing up, industrial progress definitely reduces poverty. Sometimes, there is unequal distribution of wealth in the initial stages of economic development. Nonetheless, everyone benefits eventually.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: when economy develops, poverty comes down
Para 1: Reason for saying so
Para 2: My second argument
Para 3: opponents view -
Conclusion: economic progress definitely reduces poverty

18. *Many people use distance-learning programs to study at home, but some people think that it cannot bring the benefit as much as attending college or university. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

It is undeniable that the distance learning mode is very useful, especially for those living in remote areas, for those who are physically challenged and for those who want to do a job while studying. However, there are many advantages in actually attending a university, which would not accrue to a person who prefers to learn through the mode of distance education. Let us see how going to a university scores over the distance-mode.

In the very first place, going to a university provides the opportunity of face-to-face interaction with the teachers. Classroom lectures are more educative and enlightening than mere reading of written courseware due to the direct interaction between the students and the teachers. The student not only masters the contents of the prescribed lessons, but also gains a deeper insight into the subject as the teacher elucidates from his own experiences. If there are any doubts in the mind of the student, the teacher can readily offer the necessary clarifications. If he has not been able to fully comprehend any particular aspect of the lesson, he can request that it be explained to him again. Students can also help each other through the exchange of ideas and information, after the class hours.

Secondly, one learns in a more disciplined atmosphere. One has to attend the classes regularly and in time. This results in a more focused and systematic study. This leads to better preparation for the examinations and consequently better results. Also, one can easily access reference books and other valuable reading material from the University Library.

Apart from the academic curriculum, the student also gains by useful participation in other extra-curricular activities like sports, competitions, contests and the like. All this helps in the sharpening of his communication skills and the overall development of his personality. He develops better team spirit and learns the art of working with others in a group. Another great advantage is that of campus placement opportunities. Many reputed companies approach the good universities with offers of campus placements for their students. They are thus saved from the uncertainty and hassles of a later job hunt.

To conclude, a university education is certainly packed with several privileges.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: going to a university scores over the distance-mode.
Para 1: 1st argument
Para 2: 2nd argument
Para 3: 3rd argument
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

19. *Government needs to spend money to encourage the development of sport and art for school students, rather than to support professional sports and art events. Do you agree or disagree?*

The professional sports and the cultural programs have been in existence for a long time and have played an important part in people's life. Therefore, I disagree that government should direct the funds allocated to such events towards encouraging sports and arts among school students. A number of arguments support my opinion.

To begin with, the professional sports bring name and fame to a country. Countries, which spend a lot on such sports, are always leading in sports in the Olympic Games, the World Cup and other such international competitions. Professional sports also boost the economy as millions of spectators come to see and cheer for their favorite teams in the stadiums. There are also big benefits from advertisements on TV as millions of people sit in front of TV and watch sports shows.

Furthermore, the cultural programs are effective ways that help people relax and reduce stress after work. Every day, there are a variety of cultural performances happening all over the world. These fascinate thousands of young people as well as adults. These cultural programs not only enrich people's mind, but also spread our rich culture globally.

Finally, it is difficult to motivate children to take up sports and arts without naming and praising super stars in professional activities. The success from people such as Sachin Tendulkar (a cricket player) or A R Rehman (a musician) is even more important in encouraging children to participate in sport and art subjects than any other kind of motivators. How could we tell our children to put more efforts on arts and sports if it would not lead to any money and success in the future?

To sum up, it can be reiterated that spending on professional sports and cultural programs is imperative for the governments. Promoting sports in schools should also be there, but not at the expense of professional sports and cultural events.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Reasons for promoting professional sports events
Para 2: Reasons for promoting arts events
Para 3: Another reason for promoting both
Conclusion

20. Now the machine is very complex, and a lot of difficult work is automated. Does this machine automation have more pros than cons?

Modern technology has equipped us with machines, which are working like robots. There are positive and negative effects of these machines on the individual and the society, which I shall highlight in this essay. Overall the pros outweigh the cons.

On the positive side, machines are faster, more convenient and energy saving. Households and industries are much facilitated with machines. Personal use of machines gives people more free time to spend with family and pursue hobbies. Likewise, industrial use of machines reduces manpower for work and increases output. In the words of Oscar Wilde – "On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends."

Moreover, computer machines or robots manage our banks and even the tickets at the airport are issued by machine-robot. The computerization certainly relieves human beings from dull repetitive tasks without any human error. What is more, robotic surgery is being done to overcome the limitation of human beings such as trembling of human hands. Microscopic surgeries and eye operations can be better done with the help of robotic surgeons.

On the negative side, machines reduce the need of manual work, which can lead to unemployment especially in the developing countries. What is more, insufficient knowledge of machine handling and operating is detrimental to uneducated workers and they end up getting injuries or disabilities while working with machines. Technical failures can also disturb the whole working system and lead to losses. Other negative effects of machines are on the health of individuals, especially the housewives who rely heavily on machines for the household chores. Machines are a failure where creative work is required. For example, machines cannot reproduce the unique and original work done by many artisans. It has been rightly said that a machine can do the work of a thousand ordinary men, but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

Overall, the positive effects of machines outweigh the negative effects on the individual and society. However, in developing countries, in order to meet the employment needs of the population, a balance has to be maintained between manual work and mechanization.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Overall the pros outweigh the cons
Para 1: Advantages of machines
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: pros more than cons

21. *Newspapers have influenced people's ideas and opinions. What are the reasons for this? Is this a positive or a negative situation?*

Media has an indubitable role in refining the outlook of people. This essay intends to analyze the reasons for this. Admittedly, the influence created by media is largely positive, although there is a slight negative effect also.

Firstly, the diverse news in print media brings out huge responses and emotions in people. Newspapers have a wide coverage and manage to fetch the latest happenings around the globe. The way news items are reported influences the way people think and act. Moreover, media always presents the news in an appealing way, which catches people's attention and they want to dig into it deeper. People find such news hard to be neglected. The quest of people to know more about the world is undoubtedly well looked after by the media. It is the media because of which the people are aware about what the government is doing for them, and through letters to the editor they can reach out their voice to be heard by the government. People realize that media is a link between them and the government, and so it influences their opinions even more.

The influence created by the media is undoubtedly positive as knowledge about one's fellow beings makes one more empathetic and alert. The fact that media update people with both good and bad latest happenings is a helpful influence. For example, media's wide coverage of rapes and murders in surrounding areas creates sympathy as well as alertness in people. The live television of instances like earthquakes and floods helps people to be pro active. For example, when tsunami hit Japan in 2011, people from all over the world came out to help. The varied other information like entertainment, sports and arts is good enough to ease the stress level.

On the other hand, although there are some unhealthy practices like gutter-press journalism, cheque-book journalism and libel writing, people today are mature enough to take it all with a pinch of salt, and use their own analytical ability to shape their judgement. Such media, which takes the help of ill-founded news and other wrong means cannot sustain long. On the whole, media always act as custodians of the interest of the general public.

To conclude, media is powerful enough to influence ones attitudes and thought process because of many reasons. However, such changes always act positively despite some drawbacks.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Positive impact
Para 3: Negative impact
Conclusion:

22. *The economic growth in developing and developed countries is making people richer. However the research indicates that people in the developing countries is happier than people in developed countries. What is your opinion on this?*

There is no denying the fact that economic growth has improved the standard of living all over the world. However, growth in global economy may mean different things to different people. To the developing world, recent growth may be coupled with a rise in standards of living, and thus seen as positive. To the already developed countries, this growth brings with it increased global competitiveness, and is thus seen as negative. Both sides will be analyzed in this essay. The lesson we get from this different perception towards development of global economy shall also be discussed.

For people in the developing world it means better opportunities for personal and professional growth. More and more people in developing countries such as India and China now earn more than enough to lead comfortable lives. Now they have high disposable incomes that make it possible for them to lead luxurious lives. They can now buy the latest gadgets, travel to the most exotic places on earth and own luxury apartments and cars. Their children now get world class education and healthcare. None of these would have been possible if the economy wasn't growing. Needless to say, for people in the developing world growth in the economy is a positive development.

Now let us see what global economic growth means to people in the developed world. Majority of people in the developed world already lead comfortable lives. They already possess disposable income and the recent growth in the global economy hasn't really done anything to further improve their standard of living. On the other hand, they now face stiff competition from their counterparts in the developing countries. Their market share has started eroding. They are no longer the most sought after candidates for jobs even in their own countries. Worse still, more and more jobs now get outsourced to the developing world, where the cost of labour is low compared to that in the West. As a result of this people in the developed world are now losing their jobs. Needless to say, they aren't all that happy with this sudden spurt in global economy.

The lesson we learn is that the growth of economy in developing world should not hamper the economy of the people of the developed countries. The focus should be on raising the bottom without pulling down the top. Jobs and opportunities for the people of the developing countries should be generated within their countries and not in the developed countries. Governments of developed countries should not lay-off their people to give low paid jobs to others.

The facts given above should explain why researchers feel that people in the developing countries are happier with the growth in global economy than the people in the developed world. These viewpoints are not expected to change much into the foreseeable future unless some steps are taken.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why developing countries are happier
Para 2: Why developed countries are less happy
Para 3: lessons we learn
Conclusion:

23. *People are encouraged to get rid of things in order to get the newest fashion and the latest technology. Do the disadvantages of a throwaway society outweigh the economic advantages?*

It is irrefutable that consumerism is promoted in many nations of the world. This essay intends to analyse the positive and negative effects of this use-and-throw culture. I personally believe that the disadvantages outstrip the advantages.

On the positive side, consumerism leads to mass production, which is something good for the employment sector. Mass manufacturing definitely leads to mass employment. This is undoubtedly beneficial for the overall economy of the country. Furthermore, because of consumerism, people get choices. When there is demand, more and more manufacturers come in the market. For instance, about two decades ago, there was only Kissan tomato ketchup in the market; but today we have Heinz, Del Monte, Cremica, Maggi and so many more varieties of tomato ketchups in the market.

On the downside, consumerism promotes a use-and-throw culture, which is very bad for the environment. There is a lot of rubbish generated because of excessive consumerism. Unnecessary packaging is also done to make these goods appealing to the eye. Often, this rubbish is not decomposed and ends up in rivers and waterways. This is definitely harmful to the environment.

Secondly, consumerism makes people work more and more to afford these products. This workaholism makes them forget to draw a line between work and leisure and also between work and family. The desires never end and consequently over-working becomes a part of life. This leads to stress and strain in life. Another negative point is that when children or youngsters are lured by these things and their parents cannot afford them, then they resort to petty crime such as pick-pocketing and chain snatching, which is certainly not good for any society.

To sum up, consumerism has both merits and demerits, but the cons are definitely more than the pros.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro:
Para 1: Positives of consumerism
Para 2: Cons of consumerism
Para 3: More cons of consumerism
Conclusion:

24. *Once children start school, teachers have more influence than parents on their intellectual and social development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

I definitely agree with the statement that once children get admission in school, teachers have more impact on them than even their parents. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, children spend quality time with teachers. Although they spend more time with parents at home but this time is not as productive as the small amount of time spent with teachers. We all know that parents are busy with their work most of the time and even if children are around, they hardly pay any attention to them. Teachers, on the other hand are in school for the students. All the time they are either teaching the students or guiding them in extra-curricular activities. They keep children focused on study and as a result have more intellectual impact on them.

What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only influence intellectually but socially. Students inadvertently follow their teachers' behaviour too. They observe how the teacher walks, talks and tackles difficult situations. At home they have parents to guide them socially, but it is seen that in nuclear families, parents hardly find time for this. Whatever social skills children learn are from TV or other activities they do at home. So definitely teachers have an edge over parents even as far as social skills are concerned.

Teachers also guide students for their future careers. Students follow teachers more than parents because they feel that teachers are more aware of the world around them and they have better capability of guiding them. So, they depend on teachers more than parents.

To conclude, it can be said that once the schooling starts, teachers and parents both have influence but teachers influence children more.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: once children get admission in school, teachers have more impact on them than even their parents
Para 1: how teachers are more important than parents for intellectual development
Para 2: how teachers are more important than parents for social development
Para 3: how teachers are more important than parents for career counseling
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

25. *Some people think that the news media nowadays have influenced people's lives in negative ways. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

I disagree with the given statement that media has a negative influence on our lives. I believe that the media is doing a great service to us and whatever negative effect it has is negligible if we compare it to the benefits of the media.

There are many positive effects of media. To begin with, the usefulness of the media in almost instantly providing information about events around the world is undeniable. It is because of the media that today we don't belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. Furthermore, media also shapes our opinions. It is a link between the government and the people. Our conceptions of our elected officials spring from television images and newspaper stories. Most of us will never meet prime ministers or presidents, but anyone who is regularly exposed to the media will know about them. When it is time to cast our vote, we will make our decision based on the media coverage of candidates.

The media are also influential in the way they facilitate the spread of culture and lifestyle. Today, the popularity of Indian culture is an example of the media's enormous impact. It is the media, which highlights the good points of our own culture through programmes such as 'India's got Talent'. What is more, the reality shows of today have given exposure and fame to the common man with talent today. Indeed, with technological advancements such as the Internet bringing even more forms of electronic media to our homes and workplaces, it is likely the media's influence will grow even stronger. Finally, the media also helps in providing justice to the common man. Who has not heard of the Jessica murder case and the case of Nithari killings? Were it not for the media, Jessica's parents would have never got justice.

On the other hand, the media too has its downside. The paparazzi can invade the privacy of famous people. Sometimes violence and vulgarity is shown and at times it can shape our opinion in negative ways. For that my counter argument is that once the person becomes famous then his private life becomes public and he has no right to crib about the paparazzi. People can choose what they want to see and technology has provided them the tools to block those channels, which they don't want their children to see. Finally, God has given us brains to judge what is right or wrong. The media is just doing its job by providing us with the latest information.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate by saying that the influence of media on our lives is largely positive.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Positive side of media
Para 2: More positives of media
Para 3: Opponents view with counter-argument
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

26. *Differences between countries are barely evident these days. Everyone in the world is wearing the same brands and watching the same TV channels and movies. Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?*

It is irrefutable that because of globalization, similarities between countries are more obvious these days than in the past. In many ways people around the world are becoming more and more similar. This situation is both – a positive as well as a negative development. I personally believe that the advantages are much more.

The main advantage of this change is that communication is much better nowadays; people understand other cultures much better and have become more open in their outlook of life. This has resulted in more business and cultural contacts among different nations. Multinational companies have opened in many parts of the world providing jobs to thousands of people. There is also more efficient trade between different countries around the globe thereby improving the economies of developing countries. People have more opportunities to travel and therefore have awareness of other cultures.

The major reason why people consider such a situation negative, is that national identities are being lost. We eat the same food, watch the same TV programmes, listen to the same music and wear the same clothes. For instance, the international outlets like Reebok, Nike and Levi's can be seen everywhere. Food outlets like MacDonald and Starbuck's etc. can be seen in almost all corners of the world. People wearing the same type of clothes can be seen everywhere. People have also started speaking one language, English, in many parts of the world. In fact, English has become the lingua franca today.

However, I feel that this is a very narrow definition of national identities and nations are as different as they were ever in the past. Cultural identity is based on far more than just the films we watch or the clothes we wear. For example, take my own culture of India and compare it to the west. We may wear any clothes, but we never take the names of elders and call them with respect. In the west, it is quite OK to call anyone by name. In fact, they appreciate it more. I believe that after knowing about other cultures, we learn to respect our culture even more. So, some very deep-rooted national identities will always be there.

To conclude, similarities among people and their lifestyles cannot be denied. However, the similarities we see today are only on the surface. Total loss of national identities can never take place. Therefore, this situation is largely positive.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why it is positive
Para 2: Why it is negative
Para 3: Why the similarities are only superficial
Conclusion:

27. *Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes serious pollution and uses up the world's fuel resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

It is irrefutable that air travel causes pollution and uses a lot of fuel, but I disagree that air travel should be restricted. I believe that restricting air travel would solve some problems but would lead to many other problems.

At a time when people all over the world worry about the decreasing level of fossil fuels and global warming, it is right to take action to save the planet Earth. However, to simply discourage flights is not the answer. International tourism has become the backbone of many economies of the world. Many countries are earning from tourism. Many people are employed in this industry. Many businesses like hotels and leisure centres are dependent on tourists. So, if we discourage international tourism, it would create new and even worse problems. Many businesses would go broke and many people would be without jobs.

Air flight also enables intercultural exchanges between countries. The advent of cheap air fare makes it possible for people the world over to travel regularly, regardless of the purpose of the trip. Therefore, people have the opportunities to learn from different cultures and have a better understanding of countries they used to be unfamiliar with. This, in turn, enhances cultural communications between countries.

It is true that air travel consumes oil, but other modes of transportation are also causing pollution and using fuel. Discouraging private cars and encouraging people to use public transport could help save the environmental resources in a big way. Therefore it would be a very unpractical decision to restrict air travel at the cost of people's mobility, or worse, at the cost of the development of the economy. Technology could also be used to produce more environmentally friendly and fuel efficient engines.

Summing up, instead of restricting air travel, we should develop more efficient engine that produces more energy output with less fuel and fewer major air pollutants. We should also focus on limiting private vehicles and encouraging public transport.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why we should not discourage flights
Para 2: More advantages of tourism
Para 3: Talk about other things causing pollution and using fuel
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

28. *Some students take one year off between finishing school and going to university, in order to travel or to work. Do you think advantages outweigh disadvantages?*

A gap year is a year after high school when a student takes time to explore his or her interests, which usually entails some type of travelling or working. After the gap year is over, the student begins his or her career. It has both pros and cons, which I shall discuss in this essay. I, personally believe that the benefits of 'gap year' outstrip the drawbacks.

There are many benefits of taking a year off. Firstly, the student can explore his interests before deciding on a major. Just passing out of secondary school, a student does know what his real interests are. A gap year gives him time to introspect and he may also find something he has never considered studying before. Secondly, he can save money to finance his education and ease some burden off his parents' shoulders. Higher education is very expensive and some parents cannot afford the full cost of students' university fees.

Furthermore, during this year, the student meets different people and experiences different cultures. As a result his personality develops and he comes to know about the outside world. Finally, a well-planned gap year is attractive to some admissions tutors and to future employers. For example, a student can add his activities of the gap year in his resume when he applies to the university, or for some job after completion of his education. This is taken in a positive light by the admissions committee and some job providers.

As every garden has weeds, similarly a gap year also has a downside. A student may find it difficult to get back to study. A year is a long time and once that tempo of attending classes and doing home-work etc. is lost, a student may not feel like studying again. Secondly, if he starts earning enough, education may seem unimportant. Finally, if a student doesn't plan it properly, it may end up as a wasted year.

To sum up, a gap year has a lot of advantages provided it is planned well.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of gap year
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: Gap year has many advantages if planned well

29. *Some people say that every human being can create art (e.g. painting), others think only the people born with the ability can create art. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Nature vs nurture debate has been raging for generations and no clear-cut answer has come up so far. Some think that artistic ability is inborn, whereas others say that such a talent can be acquired by training and hard work. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I personally believe that artistic knack is a combination of both, talent and training.

On the one hand, there are evidences to prove that genes do influence the innate abilities of a person. When you see 2-5 year olds in reality shows like, 'India's Got Talent' and 'Dance India Dance', you are forced to believe that they have some inborn talent. They are gifted with that talent. They certainly have more natural aptitude than others in certain areas. Other well-known examples also can be cited here. Who has not heard of the achievements of people like Mozart and Einstein?

On the other hand, anyone can produce art by practice and training. Had this not been the case, there would be no schools for Art, and Art and Fine Art would not exist as subjects. More often than not, the verdict of someone being naturally talented is skewed. For example, if we see a beautiful painting or any other such work of art, we reach the conclusion that the person must be really gifted. We tend to ignore the fact that the person may have travelled a long journey of perseverance to reach that point.

In my opinion, to reach the recognizable top, even those gifted with talent have to work hard and practice a lot. Talented people may need less hard work to reach there, but they cannot reach the pinnacles of success without sufficient practice. Even the most talented can lead a life of oblivion if they don't polish their art by continued practice. Conversely, anyone with a passion and determination can succeed in creating unique masterpieces of art.

To sum up, both talent and hard work have a role in creating art. Both are inextricably linked. The nature vs nurture debate has no clear-cut answer and will never have.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Arguments in support of natural talent
Para 2: Arguments in support of hard work
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

30. *Some people say that economic development is necessary to reduce the poverty in the world. Others say that economic growth should be stopped immediately to stop damaging the environment. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.*

People are divided on the role of economic development. Some opine that it is essential in addressing poverty whereas others say that it should be stopped as it is causing irreversible damage to the environment. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I personally believe that both arguments have weightage as poverty has to be mitigated, but saving the environment is also equally important. So, we have to look into methods of sustainable economic development. Stopping economic development is not the way out.

It is irrefutable that by the development of economy people can improve their quality of life. For example, in developed countries even the poorest of the poor has the basic amenities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. All the citizens enjoy high level of social welfare and they enjoy free medical care and free education. Even in countries like India and China, International Companies have created many jobs and as a result, economic development has accelerated even further.

However, it is also true that in our quest for development and becoming richer, we have harmed some of our environment. Most of the things we use require some kind of energy to manufacture, operate and maintain. Disposing-off these things is very difficult too. Most of the energy that we use is polluting the environment. Renewable energy forms a very small part of what is used on a significant scale. Effluents from large factories are being dumped indiscriminately and landfill sites are filling up with non-biodegradable wastes. All this is being done in the name of progress.

Looking at both arguments, it is clear that with economic development, the damage to the environment is inevitable. But, we cannot put a halt on economic progress because the status of the underprivileged has to be improved. Therefore, we have to look into methods by which we can achieve progress without damaging the environment. For instance, we know that there are renewable sources of energy which are less polluting. So, the answer lies in the green technologies, which increasingly use renewable resources of energy. We should also remember the three "Rs" - reduce, reuse and recycle. In this way we can achieve an ecologically sustainable development. In order for progress to cause minimum damage to environment, sustainability has to be worked at.

Summing up, there is no doubt that with economic development, poverty is lessened. At the same time, it is also definite that development is leading to pollution. But, instead of stopping development we can work upon environmentally friendly development.

Plan Followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: How poverty is reduced by economic development
Para 2: Pollution due to economic development
Para 3: own view
Conclusion

31. *As we are facing more and more problems, which affect the whole planet, good relationships between different countries are becoming more important than ever before. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

It is irrefutable that nowadays the whole world has become a global village and communication and trade between different countries is also becoming more frequent than ever before. At the same time, the whole planet is facing problems, such as environmental problem, terrorism and poverty and diseases. In my view, countries cannot solve these problems on their own and governments of different countries must cooperate to fight these problems.

To begin with, take environmental problems. It is a bitter truth that the Earth is facing the problem of global warming and if the whole world does not unite to fight this problem, then the day is not far when the whole Earth will become a boiling pot and life would not be possible here. The Kyoto protocol has been signed by many countries of the United Nations in which, they have pledged not to make industries, which emit more than 5.2% carbon dioxide.

Furthermore, there are problems like terrorism, which are having a detrimental effect on our society. There are various global organizations, which are working towards eradicating these issues but it cannot be possible without trust and harmony between different nations.

What is more, the poor countries are getting aid from developed countries to develop their infrastructure and develop themselves. In these countries many people are suffering from starvation and poverty which can harm the neighbouring richer nations and that is why all nations realize the importance of maintaining good relations.

Summing up, good relations between different countries are absolutely necessary nowadays to solve these critical issues.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: To begin with, take environmental problems – Kyoto protocol
Para 2: Talk of problems like terrorism, which cannot be handled alone
Para 3: In poor countries many people are suffering from starvation and poverty, which can harm the neighbouring richer nations – so cooperation needed
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

32. *Some people say that playing computer games is bad for children, whereas others say that it has positive effects on the way children develop. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.*

The computer game industry is a part of our world today. From its humble beginnings in the 80s, the video game industry has exploded into a 10-billion dollar empire. It is a debatable issue whether these games are good or bad. In this essay, I intend to delve into the pros and cons of these games. I personally believe that these games are good, but only if played in moderation.

There are many advantages of playing computer games. To begin with, video games introduce children to computer technology. Secondly, some games provide practice in problem solving and logic, e.g. Age of Empires. Video games have proved to improve visual skills. They also improve motor and spatial skills. Children who play video games have better reflexes.

What is more, these modern games make learning fun. The cost of failure is lower. This encourages risk taking and exploration. If the child gets the answer wrong or their character dies, he just starts the game over and tries again. Finally, some games have therapeutic applications.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of these technological inventions. Firstly, overdependence on these games leads to social isolation, as these are usually played alone. Secondly, some games have violent characters, and seeing their violent acts leads to aggressive behaviour in children. Moreover, these games can confuse reality and fantasy. For example, when children play car-racing games then they may race their own vehicles in real life, which can lead to accidents. Finally, these games are addicting and once a child sits to play these games, time flies and everything else, such as studies and outdoor games are forgotten, which is indubitably bad.

To summarise, on the whole these games are very good and certainly their advantages outweigh their disadvantages, but these should be played in balance. Parents should limit the game playing time and see to it that home-work and other important chores are done before playing.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: Advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion

33. *Fewer and fewer people today write by hand using a pen, pencil or brush. What are the reasons? Is this a positive or negative development?*

Writing by hand using a pen, pencil or brush has come under a serious threat. This essay intends to delve into the reasons of this phenomenon. I firmly believe that this is a negative development.

The decline in handwriting is mainly because there is little place for it in the average modern life. Today, people need to be able to reach many people and edit documents quickly. In the competitive era of today, business matters require speed and clarity for reaching a wide audience. Therefore, a technology-based solution is always better. Technology has put everyone on one level when it comes to the ability to communicate clearly. Handwriting may be beautiful or just a scrawl, but typing will always be uniform.

Secondly, the tablets, smartphones and laptops have come within the pocket of most individuals. The earlier traditional writing tools such as the pen and pencil have been replaced with the stylus. Some schools in developed countries have spent enormous amounts to equip all classrooms with tablets. For some courses each student has a tablet equipped with specific educational programmes. The teacher can see the students' work while they are actually working on the exercises. In place of the blackboard, a projector displays the image of the tablet from the teacher.

Despite the various advantages of digital writing, I believe the slow death of handwriting is a negative development. Research shows that when children learn how to write, they also learn how to express themselves. Handwriting is so much more than simply putting letters on a page; it is a key part of learning to communicate. Writing is almost as important as speaking, as a medium for communicating thought.

Moreover, handwriting is a complex skill that affects cognitive development of children. When they write, they build hand-eye coordination and practice fine motor skills. Good handwriting can lead to better grades, too. Studies show that pre-kindergarten kids with fine motor skills scored higher years later in reading and math than those with poor handwriting. In short, there's a direct link between writing skills and academic success.

To conclude, the traditional methods of writing with a pen, pencil or brush are dwindling because of the ease, which technology is bringing in, but this is indubitably a negative occurrence.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons for the death of handwriting
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Why it is negative
Para 4: Why it is negative
Conclusion:

34. *Students today can access information online, so libraries are not necessary. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Since centuries libraries have been in the service of man. These libraries are the repositories of never ending knowledge known as books. Some people opine that we can do away with traditional libraries because technology has given us the facility of virtual or online libraries. I, however, believe that even though technology has reduced our need to go to the libraries, our traditional libraries can never become redundant.

With the advent of new technologies in the field of computers and telecommunications, revolutionary changes have taken place in the field of Library and Information Science. The shape of traditional libraries containing a large number of printed documents is in the process of being transformed to paper less libraries containing a large number of digitized documents. The facilities offered by networking have not left libraries untouched. Modern libraries are not only digitized but networked also. This has led to the creation of virtual libraries i.e. libraries without walls through which the user has access to information at anytime, anywhere in the world by using the modern tools of communications, such as computers and Internet facilities.

However, one should keep in mind that a person goes to a library not only to search and get information from books, but also to sit and study there. The ambience and the peaceful and scholarly atmosphere of the library helps one to concentrate more on one's work and study. Thus, libraries will never become unneeded. They will always be there to indicate the presence of a well-read and educated society.

Another important point is that it is very difficult to always read books from the computer monitor. Traditional books can be issued from the library and read in the comfort of your bed. Virtual libraries can be accessed only by those who are computer literate. The access to virtual libraries can be affected by power cuts and network failures. Moreover, in a traditional library you are guided by the librarians if you need any help in searching for the book.

To conclude, it can be said that advancement should be welcome in every field but the importance of the libraries for their fundamental role cannot be put aside. Every library should have its digital segment also so that more and more people can access them. This will add more crowns of success to the importance of libraries.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: How technology has brought about virtual libraries
Para 2: Advantages of libraries
Para 3: Advantages of traditional books vs high tech media
Conclusion: Every library should have its digital segment also, but libraries should be there.

35. *Some people think that teachers should be responsible for teaching students to judge what is right and wrong so that they can behave well. Others say that teachers should only teach students academic subjects. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

A well-known adage from India says "Acharya devo bhava," which means teachers are next to God. Right from the ancient times, teachers are put on the highest position. It is a highly debatable topic whether teachers should be concerned with only academics or also teach manners and etiquettes to children. In this essay I intend to discuss both perspectives. I, however, believe that teachers have a much wider role than just teaching subjects.

Teacher is like a potter, who moulds the earthen vessels in whichever form he wants. A child's mind is like raw clay and is very much ready to be moulded in the shape it is guided to. A good teacher always feels responsible to develop a child's conscience. He has the potential to become a friend, philosopher and guide for his students. With this special position in students' life, he often acts as their role model. His words highly influence the minds of the students. Students always try to imitate his actions or implement his teachings, so he has to be much careful of his behaviour. Therefore, in that respect a teacher has a much more role than just teaching academic subjects.

Furthermore, teachers convey many good things to parents and society through students in many parts of the world. For example, in Nepal, where illiteracy rate is very high, teachers convey many valuable messages such as of personal hygiene through students. When a student goes home and tells his parents that his teacher says everyone should wash hands before meals, then parents listen. In such set-ups teachers are playing a much greater role than academicians.

On the other hand, those who say that teachers should only concentrate on teaching course material, argue that competition is stiff and if children lag behind in curriculum, they will never be able to catch up with their counterparts in other parts of today's global village. They opine that rules of behaviour can be taught by parents at home.

In conclusion, I believe that teachers have a much bigger role than just covering the syllabus.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para1: Role of teacher apart from teaching
Para 2: More role
Para 3: the other view
Conclusion: teachers have a much bigger role

36. *In some countries celebrities complain about the way media publicize their private lives. Some people say that they should accept it as part of their fame. Do you agree or disagree?*

I disagree with the view that celebrities have to accept the manner in which their private lives are made public by the media. It is undeniable that they are in the spotlight and want to be popular by choice. However, their rights to privacy need to be protected as well, as they too are humans. I shall put forth my arguments in this essay.

To commence with, celebrities are already under a lot of pressure to perform well, as they are public figures and are always in the public eye. Be it a politician, a sportsperson, a singer or an actor, all these professions require them to be at their best at all times. This stress of someone constantly following them affects the way they perform, which ultimately leads to a loss for the masses.

Secondly, these celebs are role models for the people. When any negative side of their private life is exposed, their followers think it glamorous to do the same, which is definitely detrimental for the society as a whole. For example, if people come to know that the celeb they adore, smokes and drinks in private life, they think there is nothing wrong in doing so and also copy their idol. This is where responsible journalism is needed.

Undoubtedly, the celebrities choose this life for the name and fame and to be in the spotlight. Without the media, the term celebrity will not hold any meaning. However, that doesn't mean that the media and paparazzi have a right to stalk them at all times. To add to it, sensationalizing the news in order for the channel to get more TRP is unethical. Responsible journalism and some ethics need to be followed by those who get the news to the masses, as they may adversely affect someone's personal and professional lives. Who doesn't remember the unfortunate incident when the world lost a very eminent public figure, Lady Diana? That accident happened because the paparazzi were chasing the car she was travelling in. It is something which could have been easily avoided, had the paparazzi been a little rational in their behavior.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that responsible journalism means knowing its limits. Celebs too have their private lives and they have a right to privacy. The media has to be judicious in knowing what to report and how much to report, and should never misuse its power.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: It affects celebs performance
Para 2: It affects society
Para 3: Media should know its limits
Conclusion:

37. *Some people think governments should focus on reducing environmental pollution and housing problems to help people prevent illness and disease. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

It is indubitable that people's health is influenced by the environment and housing conditions. That is why some people are of the opinion that governments should focus more on the environment and housing to avoid illness and disease. I, however, disagree with this notion. I believe that even though government should address environmental pollution and housing scarcity, there are many other things on which government must spend equally to prevent ill health.

Indeed, the environmental problems and housing conditions are two main sources for illness and diseases. For instance, in many parts of my country, India, people live in slums and do not have access to clean air and potable water because of air and water pollution. In these areas people suffer from diseases such as dengue, malaria, diarrhea and so on. So, if the government looks into environmental pollution and provides basic housing, such problems could be avoided.

However, simply focusing on the environment and housing would not prevent all diseases. Government also has to allocate budget for other preventable diseases such as polio and TB, whooping cough, measles, mumps and so on, which need immunization. All over the world all governments are spending on pulse polio vaccine to eradicate polio from the world. Then, there are diseases such as cancers, which can be prevented by screening tests. Government should spend on tests like PAP smear and mammography, through which cancer of the cervix and breast can be diagnosed much before the actual symptoms appear. In such stages, these cancers are totally curable with very inexpensive treatment.

Another important area, which needs government action, is the awareness of people. Mass awareness campaigns are needed along with looking into the housing so that people can take steps to prevent themselves. For example, even if the government provides housing to all, but the people keep stagnant water in coolers and other areas, dengue can spread like an epidemic and all government efforts will go in vain.

In conclusion, I reiterate that simply giving priority to environmental pollution and housing will not prevent all disease. Government should allocate funds to other things such as screening tests and awareness of the people also to prevent disease.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages of addressing environmental problems and housing
Para 2: Other areas to focus
Para 3: More other areas
Conclusion:

38. *Most employers nowadays put increasing emphasis on social skills. Some people believe that social skills are important in addition to good qualifications for job success. To what extent, do you agree or disagree?*

I definitely agree that today social skills are considered as important as good qualifications while recruiting new employees. Hiring the right candidate based on technical knowledge without looking at social skills is like designing a race-car with a powerful engine but substandard steering and braking systems. The car may go fast, but in the wrong direction and may even hurt a lot of innocent bystanders along the way.

A few years ago, when it came to recruiting strategies, hiring decisions often focused largely on candidates' technical skills and expertise, with relatively little attention given to soft skills. This resulted in hiring employees who had the intellect to succeed but lacked the social skills required to work effectively. This resulted in interpersonal conflict and frustration and sometimes such employees had to leave the job. What is more, such employees were unable to handle the social demands of leadership and so had to remain at lower level jobs.

Social skills reflect a person's ability to work with others in a way that strengthens long-term working relationships. Social skills depend primarily on four fundamental characteristics. The first is self-awareness, which means monitoring how our actions affect the behavior of those around us. The next is sensitivity to others, which implies concern toward the needs and feelings of others. Then there is social intelligence through which the person understands how to influence others' behaviors and finally there is self-control because of which a person is able to control his actions and emotions, particularly when under stress.

Undoubtedly, a university education is essential if you want to have a career in a profession such as law, engineering, teaching, or medicine. What is more, it opens more doors than you would have if you didn't get one. A university education is a great platform in learning more and gaining valuable knowledge in the field we are passionate about. Also, the university is a great place to network for friends and business associates or partners. So, definitely, in this respect, university education can help you get success.

In summary, it is clear to understand why social skills are given a lot of importance in addition to qualifications. Such skills are the key to success at work.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1- the disadvantages of not considering social skills
Para 2 – The type of social skills and their importance
Para 3 – Benefits of university education
Conclusion:

39. *Recent advancements in technology have made the TV screen so live that people don't feel the need to go for any live performance (e.g. live shows or concerts). To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Although the live plays and musicals have a magic, and a strange elusive energy between the audience and the performers, I agree with the given statement that in the current age of live TV screening, there is little incentive to go out and see such events. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Undoubtedly, the experience of live performance builds community. There's never going to be anything like sitting in a theater with hundreds of people around you who value what you value. The appeal of live performance also provides the excitement of the actor-audience connection in real time. These will keep the theater from fading away completely no matter how much technology takes over our lives. However, the TV of today has eroded the influence of live events so much so that the theatre and television have become competitors.

The main factors in favour of TV are the high cost and the limited accessibility of actual live shows. Even if more people wanted to actually go and watch live shows, the seating capacity is limited. On top of that the tickets are very costly, especially if you want seats near the stage.

Another thing, which goes in favour of TV is the lack of time in today's fast-paced world. People also have to stand in queues and drive distances to watch these shows. One 2-3 hour live show actually takes away a whole day at times. Despite the fact that people want to experience live shows, such shows have become once or twice in a lifetime events and that too for those, who have the time and money to do so.

Live television has also many other benefits. You don't need to dress formally. It can be watched in the comfort of ones sofa or bed and while doing some other household chores. The focus of the cameras is also on the main characters, because of which you can in fact get a better view of the actual show.

To conclude, I reiterate my view by saying that while actually going an attending a concert or drama is in itself a unique experience, the live TV screen of today has and edge over it all, because it has made arts accessible to all regardless of geographical, social or economic boundaries.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: In favour of attending in person
Para 2: Disadvantage of actually attending
Para 3: More disadvantage
Para 4: Advantage of live TV
Para 5: More advantages
Conclusion: reiterate opinion.

40. *Some children find some subjects such as mathematics and philosophy too difficult to learn, so some people argue that those subjects should be optional rather than compulsory. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Mathematics and Philosophy seek to find the truth behind the underlying workings and meanings of the universe. Mathematics teaches the formulation of proofs and concepts and Philosophy teaches the theoretical basis of our social organisation and social relationships. It is difficult to agree or disagree with the entire statement. I believe that maths should be compulsory in schools even if students find it difficult but philosophy can be made optional. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Mathematics should be a mandatory part of school curricula because maths is the basis of all other subjects. Children need to be taught numeracy from early childhood. The knowledge of maths makes children smarter as it teaches them to think critically. If maths is not taught then the phobia some children have of maths will be even more pronounced when they are older.

Secondly, if maths is studied in school, then it opens doors to many interesting subjects and careers. Many good universities and colleges in Canada and USA, require the knowledge of maths till Senior Secondary level. Many high paid jobs require analytical thinking which only those children have who have a good mathematics base. Therefore, maths should be compulsory in schools. The onus is on the teachers to make it interesting for the students.

Coming to Philosophy, it can be made optional because school children are too immature to learn about the complexities of human relationships. They can learn such social skills from parents and teachers in an informal way by just observing them. Philosophy, as a subject, would be too boring and would only add to the burden of the students. As it is, today's children are over-burdened with tough academic subjects to make them competent enough to be a part of the global village of today. So, only those who are really interested to study philosophy should be given the option of studying it.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that maths should undoubtedly be compulsory but philosophy should be optional as maths is needed to survive today in this era of technology where as philosophy can be left for college or university studies. That is why, perhaps, in our Indian school curricula, maths is compulsory but philosophy is optional and that too in the senior secondary classes.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Maths should be compulsory but philosophy can be optional
Para 1: Importance of maths
Para 2: More importance
Para 3: why philosophy should be optional
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

41. *Some people believe that teenagers should concentrate on all school subjects. But, others believe that teenagers should focus on the subject that they are best at or that they find the most interesting. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.*

People are divided on the issue of the subjects which teenagers should be required to study. Some believe that these young school goers should be made to study all subjects, whereas others say that they should be given the choice of studying subjects of their interest. This essay shall analyze both perspectives. I, personally side with the former view. I believe that in today's competitive world, a broad knowledge is needed to succeed in any field.

There are many reasons why some people hold the opinion that students should not have to study all the subjects and should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study. They opine that in this case the students will probably be more enthusiastic about their study. In addition, if students are forced to study all subjects, they can easily lose interest in education. What is more, if all subjects are compulsory for studying, students will not have enough time to learn all of them properly; therefore they will be constantly under a lot of pressure.

However, I believe all subjects are of great importance and for the holistic development of the students they need to study all subjects equally at school level. Later on, during admission to the colleges, students can select the subjects of their choice and can explore them further. At that age they are mature enough to decide their subjects for themselves. At school level the student may not know what his real interests are.

Furthermore, nowadays, the job market is very demanding and the recruiters select students who are skilled in various fields. Having the basic knowledge of varied subjects during school time definitely widens the horizons for the students. To add to it, it is a well-known fact that most subjects are related to each other in some way or the other. For example, a basic knowledge of mathematics is needed to excel in computer languages. Finally, I believe that it is up to the teachers to develop interest of the students in any subject. For instance, during my school days, my history teacher was so good that a boring subject like history was the favourite subject of the whole class.

To sum up, it can be said that students should learn all subjects at school level, as they are not mature enough to know their real interests at school level and a broad knowledge is also needed for their holistic development.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para1: Why some people opine that teenagers should not be forced to study all subjects
Para 2: Advantages of studying a range of subjects
Para 3: More advantages
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

42. *In some cultures the old age is more valued, while in some cultures the youth is more valued. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

People of different cultures have varied attitudes toward age. They suggest that in Western societies old people are not respected, while in Asian societies elders are revered. Similarly, youth is either highly valued or ignored, depending on the culture. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives.

First of all, old age is valued everywhere. Old age is often associated with wisdom. With age comes experience, and in many societies younger family members consult older ones for advice on relationships or problems. In some societies, not just older living family members but ancestors are revered and consulted. For instance, in the Far East, people respect grandparents, older leaders, and bosses.

In some nations, the youth are valued more because a young, vibrant workforce in a country is usually regarded as an asset. Most governments give priority to youth in terms of education so that they can move the society forward. A case in point is America, a country sponsoring university students by different forms such as scholarship and student loans. By doing this, young people can be well educated and equipped with proper knowledge and useful skills. Consequently, the young will be able to promote the development of the society.

I believe that age in itself is not a qualification for anything. If we look at western countries, we also find politicians in their sixties or seventies, and company executives in their sixties, despite strong business competition. In addition, as life expectancy increases, older people are becoming more important as consumers and voters. On the other hand, even in countries where elders previously were respected and obeyed blindly, people are realizing that old age does not always mean wisdom. The old way of running families, companies, or countries may not work today.

In conclusion, the old and the young are essential for our society, so they both should be valued. An ideal society should have a balance. We should appreciate both the vitality and potential of youth and the advice and experience of old age.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why old are valued more
Para 2: Why young are valued more
Para 3: Personal opinion
Conclusion:

43. *Studies show that many criminals have a low level of education. For this reason, people believe that the best way to reduce crime is to educate people in prison so they can get a job when they leave prison. Do you agree or disagree?*

Unemployment and poverty are indisputably the major reasons of crime. Providing vocational education to prisoners inside penitentiaries would definitely reduce joblessness and destitution. However, I disagree with the given statement that providing education to inmates is the best way to reduce crime. It is a good method, but there are other better methods to curb crime.

To begin with, the main purpose of prisons is not just to punish criminals, but also to rehabilitate them. If this rehabilitation part is not looked into, then majority of criminals would re-offend after coming out of prison. This is because, such criminals are not accepted by the general public, and nobody likes to give them jobs. Therefore just educating them is not enough to reduce crime. The government must ensure that they are given jobs to fend for their basic needs.

Another important fact, which has to be considered, is that these penitentiaries are very costly to maintain. When these inmates are taught vocational skills such as carpentry, a lot of infrastructure is required. While all this expenditure may help a few prisoners, it may be futile in case of those hard-core criminals who are not in there because of illiteracy or unemployment. They just have a criminal bent of mind. They would never become useful members of society even after such education. Rigorous imprisonment would be better to deter potential criminals.

The best way to reduce crime would be to never let it happen in the first place. Laws should be enforced so strictly that people should think a hundred times before resorting to crime. Compulsory primary education should be given to all children. Youth unemployment should be dealt with by creating job openings or by encouraging entrepreneurship.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that while educating the prisoners and trying to make them self-sufficient would be good to reduce crime, the better methods would be to stop crime from happening in the first place.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: just educating is not enough; ensuring they get jobs is imperative
Para 2: such education would not work for many hard-core criminals
Para 3: Other better methods
Conclusion:

44. *Many different countries have most shops and products as the same. Some consider it a positive development, whereas others consider it negative. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.*

It is indubitable that globalization has ushered in an era of similarities. People are divided on whether these likenesses are good or bad. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

On the positive side, people have more choices, as now everything is available everywhere. Earlier, only locally made products were available, but now people are able to enjoy things from all over the world. For instance, earlier there were only two popular brands of shoes available in India, which were Bata and Carona, but today we have Reebok, Nike, Adidas, Puma and so many more. Similar examples can be cited for infinite number of other products. Therefore, in this regard, having similar shops and products is a positive thing.

Secondly, people are becoming aware of other cultures and lifestyles through these products. They are becoming tolerant of each other. They have the choice of picking and adopting the best points of each culture, and as a consequence a global culture is emerging. The youth of today are adopting this culture and are wearing globally similar clothes, eating similar food, using similar cosmetics, having similar furniture in their homes and they are living similar lifestyles.

Another benefit of this similar situation is that relations between countries are improving. When countries import or export their products, they develop bonds with each other, which is good for both. For instance, India exports tea and iron ore to other countries, and imports automobiles, refrigerators and televisions etcetera. It is but obvious that countries, which are linked by trade, cannot afford to go against each other.

On the other hand, these similarities are diluting the national identities. Our diversity is disappearing. It is well known that diversity adds spice to life. Unfortunately, malls in any country have the same showrooms of the same brands that there is no charm of going anywhere for buying something unique. Another big demerit of all products being available everywhere is that the local businessman cannot compete with the international giants and is therefore going into oblivion. However, despite these disadvantages, I still believe that the advantages are much more.

To sum up, similarity in shops and products has its dark and light side, but the pros definitely edge over the cons.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of similarities
Para 2: More advantages of similarities
Para 3: More advantages of similarities
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

45. *In some parts of the world, it is becoming increasingly popular to try to find out about the history of your family. Why do people do this? Is this a negative or positive development?*

The study of family history or genealogy has become very popular especially after the coming of the Internet. People are indulging into this study for various reasons, which I shall highlight in the following paragraphs. I believe that it is largely a positive development although there are some disadvantages also.

The most popular reason for studying the family history is that people want to know their roots. Besides honoring the significance of one's ancestors, studying one's family's genealogy can just be plain fascinating. It is considered by most to be the fastest-growing hobby in North America, with many surveys and media sources proclaiming that it has surpassed quilting, stamp collecting and even gardening in popularity. Another reason for studying family history is the potential to trace living relatives. This then opens up the possibility of finding out about and connecting with long-lost cousins or relatives. The ability to trace living relatives can also be important in tracing an heir or beneficiary.

Finally, the most significant reason is that studying family history is an important tool in maintaining good physical health. Studying family history helps to predict risk for a range of health concerns and diseases, including heart disease, osteoporosis, type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer. Once a person's family medical history has been established, it is far easier for physicians to advise patients on how to keep healthy.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of tracking family history. Genealogy begins as a curiosity, which becomes a hobby and then may become an obsession. Then people waste too much time and money on it. One should not forget that it is the present, which influences the future more and not the past. Often knowledge of family history is disastrous, leading people to keep old enmities alive. It may also reveal unpleasant facts that one would regret knowing.

In conclusion, it can be said that there are many motivations for studying family history, from developing a sense of belonging to maintaining good health. However, one should not develop an obsession for it and waste too much time and money on it.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why people study family history / Advantages
Para 2: Other reasons / advantages
Para 3: disadvantages of tracking family history
Conclusion: it is good to know family history provided it does not become an obsession

46. *Everyone should become vegetarian because they do not need to eat meat to have a healthy diet. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

A lot of scientific evidence indicates that wholesome vegetarian diets offer distinct advantages compared to diets containing meat. However, I disagree with the given statement that everyone should adopt a meat-free diet to be healthy. In this essay I intend to support my opinion with my arguments.

Undoubtedly, there are many benefits of a vegetarian diet. To begin with, vegetarian diets are easy to digest, whereas meats can be difficult to digest. The fats in meat are saturated, which means they are unhealthy and contribute to higher cholesterol levels. Plant sources of food, on the other hand, are rich in fiber, complex carbohydrates, magnesium, folic acid, vitamin C and E, carotenoids and other phytochemicals. Dietary fiber helps prevent colon cancer, which is more prevalent in meat-eaters.

However, a totally vegetarian diet can be deficient in several nutrients including protein, iron, zinc, calcium, vitamin B12 and A, n-3 fatty acids and iodine. Although vegetarians can consume protein through legumes and nuts, these protein sources are incomplete. A complete protein contains the essential amino acids that your body needs, and animal products provide a complete protein. Many animal products are also high in iron and vitamin B12. Iron found in animal products is easier for your body to absorb. A deficiency in iron or B12 can result in fatigue. For women, who lose iron through menstruation, getting enough iron through their diet is important.

Proponents of vegetarian diet claim that veggie diets have high-protein gems like cottage cheese, nuts, and tofu. I still believe that people who go vegetarian may have to take a lot of supplements, and would definitely need to put in a lot of effort to have a balanced meal full of essential macro and micronutrients. A purely vegetarian diet, which is not planned well, may prove very bad for health. People, who are non-vegetarian, can easily have a mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian diet to remain healthy. They can cut down their meat intake to avoid the detrimental effects of a non-veg diet.

To sum up, I reiterate that although a vegetarian diet has several benefits, I differ with those who say that everyone should turn vegetarian to be healthy.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: advantages of vegetarian diet
Para 2: Advantages of non-vegetarian diet
Para 3: More advantages of being a non-vegetarian
Conclusion

47. *Some people believe that success in life depends on hard work and determination, while others believe that other factors like money and personal appearance are important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Success means different thing to different people. Therefore, success by "hard work + determination" or "money + looks" is a hot topic of debate. This article will discuss both these views. I personally believe that success comes mainly from the hard work and perseverance and only on some odd occasion money and looks can play a role. It would be quite unwise to give credit solely to money and looks for success.

Determination and hard work is an important prerequisite for success. First of all, determination gives us an impetus of setting up goals, which become the cornerstone of success. For example, Marie Curie (Madame Curie) determined to finish her husband's lifetime unfinished work after his death and eventually discovered radium.

However, determination alone is not enough; efforts are also very important as without hard work determination is of no value. It has been well said that 'Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety nine percent, perspiration'. Take the example of businessmen. Only those succeed who have determination and who put in a lot of sweat and toil in their business. Good looks and money cannot help you sell your products.

Those who advocate that money and good looks are needed for success, believe that good looks increase the confidence of a person and a confident person has more chances to succeed in his life. With good looks a person can succeed in the acting and modeling fields. They also opine that money is needed to become an entrepreneur and those who have the capital to invest have more chances to succeed. They have faith in the dictum that money multiplies money.

To sum up, a powerful background of money as well as attractive looks can help a certain number of persons to succeed, but too much reliance on these is unpractical. So, success depends on how firmly people hold on to their determination and how much effort they put into their work.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Role of determination
Para 2: Role of hard work
Para 3: Importance of money and looks
Conclusion:

48. *Teachers think that international student exchange would be beneficial for all teenage school students. Do you think its advantages outweigh its disadvantages?*

International student exchange programs involve exchanging students of one country or place, with those of another country or place to complete part of their education there. A lot of people find these programs very beneficial, while there are some people who do not approve of these. I believe that the educational, personal and long-term advantages of these programs, to the teenage students, outstrip the disadvantages.

There are many educational benefits of these programs. Because of international learning and knowledge, students accept and understand different cultures and their perspectives. Secondly, as the students mingle with the local people in another country, they get to learn a new language. They become aware of, and adopt alternative, multi-faceted approaches to learning. They develop analytical and problem solving skills. Students have enhanced interest in global issues, as well as a broader general knowledge.

At the personal level, the most noticeable change in returned exchange students in their enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem. They become mature, as they get to confront challenges outside a familiar comfort zone. They develop life-long friendships and also appreciate their home and family even more than before.

In the long run, students who go on to tertiary studies find themselves more comfortable in 'foreign' environments. They have better job opportunities. This is because, prospective employers in almost every field look favourably upon experience gained while living overseas and knowledge obtained of another language and culture.

On the other hand, the most obvious disadvantage of a student exchange program is the cultural shock that any student has to go through. For instance, if a student from India has to shift for an exchange to China and the vice-versa, it is going to be a big challenge initially. The student needs to be acquainted with at least one of the official languages of the host country otherwise it would be difficult to stay there. Next, the student has to adjust or compromise with the habits of the homestay family. Finally the time zone difference is a big problem during the initial days in the guest country.

To sum up, there might be a lot of problems in another place for the teenage student, but it is an opportunity that can change the students' life for the better. It is altogether a good blend of educational benefits along with personality development.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Advantages more than disadvantages
Para 1: Educational benefits
Para 2: Personal benefits
Para 3: Long term benefits
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

49. *Students at schools and universities learn far more from lessons with teachers than from other sources (such as the Internet and television). To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

It is irrefutable that students can learn a lot nowadays from Internet and television and these have become an indispensable part of education, but I firmly believe that teachers play a more significant role in the classroom. I believe that no amount of technology can ever undermine the importance of the teacher. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, teachers can stimulate interest, and it is an undeniable fact that interested stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. A student studying by himself through Internet and TV, may get bored and stop studying. Secondly, teachers can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. In addition, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills.

Furthermore, there are many practical subjects, which students can learn best from the teacher. For example, experiments of physics and chemistry, are best learnt by the teacher guiding you at every step. What is more, teachers give assignments and regularly check them. This helps the teachers to recognize the weak points of students and guide them accordingly. All this cannot be done by the Internet and TV.

On the other hand, it is also true that the Internet is an ocean of knowledge. You can get information about any topic on Earth from the Internet. But there is no authenticity of this information. What information to get and from where to get, requires a lot of expertise. The television also has a lot of educative programmes but students still need the guidance of the teachers at all stages of learning. Teachers can make even the dull and boring subjects seem interesting. So definitely students learn more from teachers.

To conclude, it can be said, that no doubt TV and the Internet are very educative these days but students definitely learn more from the teacher.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: no amount of technology can ever undermine the importance of the teacher.
Para 1: Advantages of teachers as compared to the internet and TV
Para 2: Advantages of teachers
Para 3: advantages of internet
Conclusion: Teachers are always better

50. *Animals are in danger of extinction. Some people say that we should protect only those animals, which are useful to humans. Do you agree or disagree?*

Animal extinction has become a matter of great concern. I disagree with the given statement that we should conserve only those animals, which are beneficial to humans. I believe that all animals have direct or indirect effect on mankind. It has been rightly said that plans to protect wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.

The most important reason for saving all animals is that they are part of our ecosystem. Every species of wildlife plays a role to maintain the balance of life on Earth. Thus, the loss of any species can affect us directly or indirectly. For example, there are many bat species that are becoming extinct. Such bats help keep the insect population in control. If these bats die then the insects will increase a lot and destroy our crops. So, we will have nothing to eat. In addition, many animals, like rodents, help in the dispersal of plant seeds and in the pollination of plants. By protecting endangered animals we ensure not only their survival but also the biodiversity that is necessary for the ecological health of the planet.

Secondly, wild animals provide many valuable substances such as medicine and fur. The horn of the rhinoceros has medicinal value and the fur of the mink is very valuable. The recreational viewing of animals at zoos is also a source of revenue. Thus, the financial value of wild species is important to the economies of many nations.

Furthermore, wild animals have aesthetic appeal. They are beautiful creatures of nature and are a part of our bio-diversity. Their beautiful and mysterious life has enchanted mankind since the dawn of evolution. Scientists have been awed, by observing their behavior. Such study has helped scientists understand how the human body functions and why people behave as they do. Scientists have also gained medical knowledge by studying the effect of many drugs on these animals.

Finally, it is undeniable that animal species have been vanishing at a much faster rate for about a century now due to human factors such as pollution, commercial overexploitation, poaching and deforestation. Knowingly or unknowingly, we humans are doing so much damage to plants and animals that working for their conservation has become a necessity.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that saving all the animal species on the verge of extinction is well justified. All animals have direct or indirect relation to humans. So we should not work to save only those few species, which have a visible effect on humans.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Part of ecological chain – interconnected
Para 2: Provide us many things
Para 3: Aesthetic appeal
Para 4: we humans responsible for the damage to them
Conclusion:

51. *Many people are afraid to leave their home because of crime. Some believe that more action should be taken to prevent crime. While others feel that little action can be done to stop crime. Discuss and give your view?*

It is irrefutable that crime is burgeoning day by day in many countries. Many people are scared to go away from their home because of crime. Some people contend that number of ways can be used to prevent crime. While other people argue that nothing can be done to prevent it. I believe that it is possible to tackle this serious issue by taking some action.

Firstly, some people do not want to leave their home because they think that they are secure only in their homes. They feel that if they go out of their home then they may be affected by crime like chain snatching, murder, kidnapping etc. One approach would be to increase the number of police on roads. If more police were on the streets, whether on foot or on patrol cars, criminals would be less likely to commit crime and people would feel much safer. Having more police especially at night would be particularly beneficial.

A second possibility would be to make laws stricter and punishments more severe. This could involve increasing fines or lengthening prison sentences. If a criminal has to pay more money for doing something illegal or would have to face more time in prison then I believe this is likely to reduce the crime rate.

On the other hand, some people are frightened to leave their home because they feel that if they are not present in their home then their home is not safe from crime. To solve this problem, methods to increase security might deter potential criminals. For example, more effective alarm devices can be used in houses. Technology is so advanced nowadays that the alarm could ring on your mobile device if someone breaks-in your home. This would reduce burglary and theft. In addition, hidden security cameras like surveillance cameras can be used in homes with the help of which people can watch what is happening in their homes from anywhere. In this way one can feel secure about one's home.

In conclusion, although crime is a major problem in most cities in the world, the situation can be addressed by adopting the methods mentioned above. It would definitely be wrong to say that nothing can be done to address this problem.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I believe that it is possible to tackle this serious issue by taking some action.
Para 1: increase the number of police on roads
Para 2: make laws stricter and punishments more severe
Para 3: effective alarm devices can be used in houses - hidden security cameras like surveillance cameras can be used in homes
Conclusion:

52. *The best way to solve the world's environmental problem is to increase the price of fuel. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

Excessive traffic and increasing pollution are affecting every major city in the globe. To lessen such problems, some people say that governments should raise the price of fuel such as petrol and diesel. It may help to some extent, but I disagree that it is the best solution to solve the problem of environment.

To begin with, the number of cars in a country directly depends on the proportion of the population, affluent enough to own cars. As a result, raises in gas price could invoke hard feelings among this segment of people, but would not drastically change their behaviour in using cars. Even if the number of cars on road is reduced due to higher gas cost, this is not the best way to solve traffic problems. Such policy would hurt the auto industry, place higher costs on current and prospective car owners, and be detrimental to the economy of a nation. In the long run, the final way out could be the construction of better roads and more effective use of available public transport facilities.

Secondly, there is evidence that waste gas from cars is not the leading cause of air pollution. The culprit may be the discharge of polluting substances into the atmosphere due to the rapidly growing manufacturing industry. As a result, reduction of the number of cars would not return us a blue sky and fresh air. We could better handle this problem if we could increase control over industrial waste-discharge and adopt more environmental friendly materials and production equipment.

Finally, other measures like the application of cheaper and cleaner energy resources could also be a better solution. For example, we now have the ability to make cell-powered or even solar-powered cars. Such energy is completely clean and plentiful.

Summing up, it is not the best way to control traffic and pollution by increasing gas price because such action will hurt consumers and economy without achieving what it is aimed for. Measures such as construction of better transport facilities and development of new energy resources could be more effective solutions.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why it is not the best way
Para 2: Manufacturing industries are the main cause of pollution – better to have control over them
Para 3: Use of renewable (cheaper and cleaner) energy sources
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

53. *Some people think that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace in the future. Others think the true function of a university is to provide access to knowledge for its own sake. What do you think are the main functions of a university?*

As university education is the last stage before the starting of career, many people believe that it prepares students for employment only, but the fact is that it serves a lot many purposes. In this essay I shall discuss the various functions of a university.

Universities provide specialised education in fields such as medical, engineering, commerce etc. They provide library facilities, which support the curriculum. They provide laboratory facilities for science and technology related subjects. They send students to factories and industries so that they get practical experience. This job-oriented training helps them to understand the working conditions and also gives them an idea about competition in the market. They also create job opportunities for the students by arranging campus interviews.

On the other hand, universities also perform other functions, which help the students in their personal life. They organise co-curricular activities such as cultural programmes, sports, debates, fairs etc. Students gain many qualities such as self-confidence and positive attitude, which help them in their future life. Moreover, some people just go to university for gaining knowledge just out of interest for the subject. For example, a doctor may want to learn French language just for interest in the language.

Furthermore, a university is a place to know more about the world because there are students from across the globe in a university. For many, who may never travel abroad, this may be a chance of a lifetime for them to broaden their horizons and know more about the different cultures of the world. For example, in LPU (Lovely Professional University), there are 200 students from Malaysia, Korea and other parts of the world.

To conclude, universities do not simply prepare a person for employment, but also have many other functions.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I shall discuss the various functions of a university.
Para 1: Universities provide professional knowledge and jobs
Para 2: Other functions
Para 3: a university is a place to know more about the world
Conclusion:

54. *Some people think that the government should provide assistance to all kinds of artists including painters, musicians and poets, etc. However, other people think that it is a waste of money. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Many people's lives are richer because of art - music, paintings, calligraphy, pictures, sculpture, poems and dance. There are some who claim that it is important to support the artists, and others who are opposed to government funding. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

There are many reasons why government should fund artists. The contributions of artists to the society are very essential. Art can bring out people's creativity, views and personalities. For example, we learn about our history, traditions and culture through movies, songs and paintings made by artists. Artists are the media of diffusing tradition. All kinds of tradition are the basis of a country without which the country can't be civilised. So artists are the ambassadors of culture and play a vital role in elevating the level of civilization of the country. Art is a major form of cultural abundance.

Another important aspect of this is that art is an ancient means of communication. Our language is a result of people's need to communicate. Art is what differentiates us from animals. Art is our soul and it is a source of courage. Artists also entertain us. Finally, government should fund artists because earning a livelihood from art is difficult, especially in the budding stages.

Opponents of government funding on artists say that money spent on the arts could have been used for considerably more vital purposes. They have strong reasons as a nation's health and wellbeing should be paramount. The idea that elderly people are forced to wait for essential operations, whilst the money required to increase available medical provision is spent on opera and ballet is plainly immoral. There are also more deserving social causes for the money that should be considered before the arts. Homelessness, unemployment, illiteracy - all of these deserve to be addressed before money is spent on what is essentially little more than entertainment.

To summarise, I would like to say that even though both sides have strong arguments, spending on arts is a must, but funds allocated for spending on basic healthcare and education should not be diverted to the Arts. There should be separate funding for Arts, as it is as important as other basic necessities.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: I shall discuss both sides of the argument and finally give my opinion
Para 1: why government should fund artists
Para 2: More contribution of artists
Para 3: Opponents views
Conclusion:

55. *Some people think that government should not give international aid since they have disadvantaged people like unemployed and homeless in their own country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

International aid is a voluntary transfer of resources from one country to another. I disagree with the given statement that governments should not give aid to poor countries if there are underprivileged people within their own country. I believe that the developing and developed countries should always step forward to help the impoverished countries.

My first argument is that if unemployment and homelessness are the criteria for not giving aid, then there would be no aid on humanitarian grounds at all. Some degree of unemployment and homelessness is there even in the most developed countries such as the USA and the UK. If such countries stop giving aid, then there would be no one to help the poverty stricken world. For instance, according to statistics of 2013, nearly 6% people in the USA were unemployed, but aid given by USA was $30 billion approximately. Even the developing countries such as India have allocated some part of their budget for foreign aid.

Secondly, most aid indirectly helps the donor country, such as for resource extraction form the recipient country or to gain some commercial access. For example, the MNCs opened in India as a part of foreign aid, no doubt are providing jobs to many youngsters, but in fact are paying them much less than what they have to pay their own country's employees. Many foreign companies have opened their retail outlets in India because India is a strong commercial market due to its burgeoning population. Therefore, aid works as a win-win situation for both the giver and the taker countries.

Furthermore, in emergencies or natural calamities such as earthquakes and tsunamis, all countries should come forward and help. Aid need not be monetary; it can be in the form of volunteer workers or providing goods needed by the affected people. Such help should be given even if there are situations within the country needing attention. This also strengthens relations between countries.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion saying that all countries should help by giving foreign aid even if there are problems of unemployment and homelessness within them.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First reason for giving aid
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Third reason
Conclusion

56. *International travel makes people prejudiced rather than broad-minded. What are its causes and what measures can be taken to solve this problem?*

It is irrefutable that international tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. Unfortunately, sometimes, international tourism creates tension rather than understanding between people from different cultures. In this essay I intend to delve into the causes of this situation and suggest some ways to alleviate the problem.

The most important reason why some are opposed to international tourism is that tourists may unknowingly show disrespect for local culture. For instance, we generally cover our heads in a religious place. A tourist may not do so or take his shoes inside a temple. This may offend the local people. Sometimes, youngsters may be attracted towards the western culture, which the tourists bring with them and many may find this as a threat to the local culture.

Moreover, the tourist dollar may not be helping the local people. We all know that tourists stay in five star hotels and enjoy the best facilities. They may be taking two showers a day, where as the local people may not have enough water to drink. This has been the case in Shimla, which is a very popular hill station in Himachal Pradesh, India. On top of that, when tourists buy souvenirs from local artisans, they bargain a lot. The poor artisans, who look up to tourists for their livelihood, end up earning the bare minimum. Finally, tourism creates pollution, which helps nobody. We are all suffering the consequences of global warming.

The solutions are not simple. We cannot discourage tourism. It is the backbone of many economies of the world. First of all, the tour operators should take the onus of guiding the tourists about the main things of local culture. Secondly, the tourists should stay with locals as paying guests. This would be a win-win situation for both. Local people would earn and the tourist would taste the local culture. Finally, ecotourism should be promoted. For example, if an elephant ride is possible, the tourist should avoid using car. After all, a good tourist is one – who takes away nothing, but photographs, and leaves behind nothing, but footprints.

Summing up, international tourism does have a downside to it, but many steps can be taken to lessen the negative effects.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: This essay shall discuss why International tourism makes people prejudiced and suggest solutions
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: solutions
Conclusion:

57. *Rich countries often give financial aid to poor countries, but it does not solve the poverty, so rich countries should give other types of help to the poor countries rather than the financial aid. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Even though technology is developing at a fast pace and the standard of living of most individuals has gone up, billions of people still live in poverty, and in many places, the rich countries give financial aid to developing and under-developed countries. Some people consider it improper to give direct monetary help. I agree with them. I believe that the developed countries should give some other types of help to the poor countries and not direct financial aid.

My first argument against financial aid is that this aid may not actually reach those for whom it is meant. It may go into corrupt pockets. Secondly, it would make those people lazy, as they would be getting aid without doing any work. Thirdly, the aid may be used for wrong purposes. For example, the aid may be given for development projects but it may be used to promote terrorism. Finally, if aid is given without proper research, then it may be used for projects, which are not the priority of the people. For instance, the people may need health and educational institutes, whereas the aid may be used for making dams or expanding roadways.

The best way to help poor countries would be to open good educational institutes, good health centres and create job opportunities for people of the poor countries. It has been wisely said by someone, 'Give a man fish to eat, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime'. If people of the poor countries start earning well their standard would definitely become better and the whole country would become richer.

If rich countries open factories and multinational companies in poor countries it would be a win-win situation for both, as the poor would get employment and the rich would have to pay much lesser to these workers than they would have to pay their counterparts in their own country. So, more and more rich countries would step forward to help the poor. Direct financial aid would not bring such a situation.

Summing up, financial aid is not the best way to help poor countries. From my own perspective, the developed countries ought to assist the impoverished countries through other approaches.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: negative effects of financial help
Para 2: advantages of helping in other ways
Para 3: More ways of helping
Conclusion:

58. *Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later. Some people think that they are the best people to talk to school students about the danger of committing a crime. Do you agree or disagree?*

It is understandable that ex-prisoners can share the consequences of their crime with school children and educate them against delinquency. However, I disagree that they are the best people for this job. I believe that other measures taken by parents and teachers are better to teach the next generation how to become law-abiding citizens.

Obviously, the released prisoners have witnessed the tough life in the jail and can share the tears and sorrows they suffered in the jails and the harm they have brought to the victims and their family members. This may be more impressive than the traditional lectures given by professors. By listening to a wide range of real cases in person, young generation will realize the consequence of the irresponsible behaviour deeply and discipline themselves strictly in the future.

Nevertheless, I believe other alternatives should be taken into consideration as well. It is common for people to have a fear towards criminals, especially those who have committed violent crimes and therefore face-to-face conversation between the school students and people with such criminal record might be unfitting in some cases. Another point to be taken into consideration is that by inviting such people to schools to address the students, some vulnerable students might start thinking it glamorous to commit a crime.

By contrast, policemen normally have a good impression among youngsters and they can become the active voice in reducing juvenile delinquency. Senior police officials could be called to deliver lectures to students and show them videos of the harsh life in prisons to deter them from committing crime. Apart from them, parents can certainly be the first to help children learn the differences between right and wrong since they are the people who know their children the best in the world. Teachers also are good to guide children about what is right or wrong.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion that ex-criminals are good, but not the best to guide children against immoral behaviour. It is the responsibility of every member of a society to help the young generation to become good citizens.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: How ex-criminals can help
Para 2: Why ex-prisoners are not the best.
Para 3: What other people can help
Conclusion:

59. *The food travels thousands of miles from farm to consumer. Some people think it would be better to our environment and economy if people only ate only locally produced food. What extent do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?*

Nowadays, supermarkets are stocked with food products from around the world. Some individuals are of the opinion that this imported food has detrimental effect on our economy and culture and it would be better if people ate only the local produce. Certainly, the disadvantages of imported food outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, transporting food over a long distance gives us a lot of choices. We can taste a variety of fruits and vegetables from all parts of the world. For example, about ten years ago, we hardly saw kiwi fruit, which is from New Zealand. But, now it has a place on every fruit stand. Secondly, many people get employment in this field. Small farmers have a chance to expand globally and it increases the overall economy of the country. Finally, it helps in developing good relations between countries, which helps in international cooperation and peace. If countries are dependent upon one another's economic success, then armed conflict would be less likely.

On the other hand, importing food can have a negative effect on local culture. This can be seen in countries such as Japan where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. Although some would claim that this is a natural part of economic development, in an increasingly global world, I feel strongly that any loss of regional culture would be detrimental.

A second major reason to reduce imports is the environmental cost. Currently, many food imports such as fruit, are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, making the produce more expensive to buy and increasing pollution from exhaust fumes. Despite the fact that trade in food exports has existed for many years, I am convinced that a reduction would bring significant financial and environmental gains.

In conclusion, I am certain that if people ate locally produced food, it would have environmental benefits. It would also benefit the local economy because, in time, people would prosper commercially as the demand for local and regional produce would remain high resisting the competition from overseas.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Certainly, the disadvantages of imported food outweigh the advantages
Para 1: advantages of transporting goods
Para 2: Negative effects on local culture
Para 3: Negative effect on environment
Conclusion:

60. *The natural resources such as oil, and fresh water are being consumed at an alarming rate. What problems does it cause? How can we solve these problems?*

The time has come for international soul-searching about the environment. The industrial revolution has changed forever the relation between humanity and nature. In this essay I intend to explore the problems caused by the increased consumption of oil, forests and fresh water, and suggest some solutions.

Talking about oil first, it is well known that oil is non-renewable and so will finish very soon. Pollution is another problem that is caused by the use of oil. Oil is used in vehicles, industries and homes. Simple measures can be taken to lessen its use. At individual level we can use more public transport; we can make lifestyle changes and use fewer luxuries. At government level, people can be educated. More effort can be done to research alternative sources of energy.

Secondly, water, especially fresh water, is another big area of concern. There can be no life without water. Water is the most precious commodity today. Fresh water resources are depleting fast. At individual level we should use water conservatively and recycle water wherever possible. At government level desalination plants can be set. Strict laws can be enforced for industries against pollution of fresh water by effluents.

Finally, because of deforestation, many animals and plants, which provide us food, medicine and other valuable products, are facing extinction. We have less bio-diversity also. Moreover, when trees are cut, the soil is exposed to heavy rain and so is washed away. The soil also becomes infertile. Also, trees absorb carbon-dioxide, which causes global warming. If there are no trees, there will be increase of greenhouse gases and this would not be good for our environment. As a solution, afforestation should be promoted as a solution. If each one of us plants a tree and nurtures it for few months, then the day is not far when we shall have greenery all over.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that oil, forests and fresh water are very necessary if we have to survive. So we should use them judiciously, else our future is bleak.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I intend to explore the problems caused by the increased consumption of oil, forests and fresh water, and suggest some solutions.
Para 1: Oil – problems and solutions
Para 2: Fresh water – problem and solution
Para 3: Trees – problem solution
Conclusion

61. *The most important decision that young people have to follow is what career to choose. Do you agree or disagree?*

I agree with the given statement, which says that the most pivotal decision that young people have to trail is what vocation to pick. It is indubitable that there are other critical issues of life, which are very significant but career choice remains at number one.

The main argument which goes in favour of making career choice the most vital decision is that when the young persons have an idea of the career path they want to pursue, it can help them make the best decisions about their training and education. Many lines of work require specific degrees and certifications, which can take years to pursue. Understanding the requirements of their chosen path will allow them to plan to prepare themselves for the career they want.

Secondly, when the youngsters choose a career path, they position themselves to look far into the future at their ultimate objective. This can help them identify positions they want to hold and income levels they want to achieve. It can also help to guide them in building their personal and professional networks in the industry in which they are interested. Having long-term goals can help him stay focused on their ultimate career objectives, rather than moving aimlessly from job to job.

Finally, choosing a career path can help the youth make other important life decisions. Their choice of profession can dictate where they live and may affect if and when they marry and have a family. Choosing a life partner is another very important life decision, but it comes secondary to a career choice. Achieving a satisfactory work-life balance can be a challenge for many professionals, but career planning can help to minimize some of this stress.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that choice of career is certainly the most important decision for the young people and all other decisions depend on this one primary decision.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Main reason
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: More reasons
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

62. *Most of our information comes from the Internet nowadays. Some people say that a large part of the information we get is incorrect. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.*

Someone has rightly said that the Internet is the first thing that humanity has made that humanity doesn't understand, the largest experiment in anarchy that we have ever had. We are all bombarded with information on the Internet once we go online. Although some of the information may be wrong but I still believe that most of the information is correct.

My first argument is that only if the information is correct, it can enjoy a lasting attraction to readers. With an expectation to have more readers, the author will be encouraged to post correct and authenticated articles which will in turn attract more and more visitors to the website. Otherwise, when the audience comes to know they are being cheated, then they will stop visiting the blog or website.

Secondly, as the people are surrounded by such a wide sea of information, they will definitely not believe in one report, but may search out all the related information to compare and form their own opinion. To add to it, the issue of cybercrime has also led to the websites being supervised because of which discourages people to post wrong and misleading information. Plagiarism is also considered an offence and so those posting any information know that they are being monitored.

Admittedly, some false, misleading or incorrect information do exist, but the person surfing the net have to learn how to look for the authentic websites. This takes a little time but ultimately people come to know about the websites imparting useful and correct information and then bookmark those sites and avoid going back to the fake sites.

To sum up, most of the information on the internet is worth our trust. With the rise of people's awareness of its accuracy, more correct information will be there awaiting us in the future.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First argument
Para 2: Second argument
Para 3: Responsibility of the person accessing the internet
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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

I definitely agree with the given statement that the corporate sector should focus on creating personal wealth as well as shoulder social responsibilities. This would be beneficial to the society and also for the companies themselves to sustain in the long run.

To begin with, it is an inescapable responsibility of every business enterprise to create more money for itself and its employees. Only when businesses achieve profitability can the employees remain loyal to the organisations that they work for. Meanwhile, companies can themselves remain competitive in the long run. In the initial stages, great amount of investments are needed for employee training, buying equipment, advertising, marketing, research and development. Therefore, economic stimulus is the driving force for employers and employees to work hard.

On the other hand, social responsibility is also very essential for businesses. In times of natural disasters, business houses are supposed to make generous donations and set an example. All businesses should also abide by the law and never make profit by unethical means. If any business becomes prosperous by honest hard work, it can provide a number of job opportunities, which can greatly reduce the pressure of social unemployment.

Furthermore, taking social responsibility would help these large business houses themselves. For example, when any business house donates for charity, the media spreads a word about their efforts and they get advertisement for free. In my hometown, many parks and roundabouts are maintained by the textile, sugar and starch mill in my hometown. These business houses do not need to spend extra for their adverts. Providing scholarships to poor, meritorious students is another way these enterprises can take social responsibility.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that businesses need to make money and also look into their social obligations. This would be a win-win situation for the society and the enterprises themselves.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Why businesses should make money
Para 2: Why and how they should have social responsibilities
Para 3: Doing for society would help themselves also
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

64. *People have to spend more and more time to travel from their homes for jobs and study. What are the reasons? How can we solve this problem?*

It is indubitable that commuting time for study or work has increased in the past few years. This essay intends to analyze some causes behind this situation and also suggest possible ways to alleviate this problem.

The most obvious reason is that roads are very congested, as the number of vehicles has increased to unprecedented levels in the past decade or so. Everyone seems to own a car nowadays and so the traffic during peak hours moves at a snails pace. What used to take 20 minutes earlier, takes about 50 minutes now. Second reason for this is the suburbanization of cities. People are moving to the suburbs in search of quieter, cheaper and more open houses, as a consequence of which travel time to work or study has gone up.

The solutions are not easy, but joint efforts by the government and the people can help to lessen the gravity of the situation. At the government level, steps could be taken to improve the public transport. This could be done by increasing the comfort and frequency of public transport and decreasing the fare. That way more people would be motivated to use the public transport. People should be motivated to do car-pooling by having HOV (High occupancy vehicle) lanes. Only those cars, which are fully occupied, are allowed to move on such lanes, because of which the traffic on these lanes moves faster. Such a system is being used very successfully in many parts of the USA.

At the individual level, people should voluntarily opt for public transport even if that involves being bound by the time of the bus or train. Wherever office and lecture timings are flexible, people can choose to work or attend lectures in those hours when commuting can be done at off-peak hours. Car-pooling should be done by conscious effort. For example, my friend works in an office, which is in a city, which is 20 km from her home. Other people in her neighbourhood also commute to the same city. She approached them for car-pooling, and now every day, one person takes his car. Instead of five cars on the road every day, now there is one and each one is doing some extra saving too.

To sum up, it is undeniable that commuting time has increased, but many steps can be taken to ameliorate the situation.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: solutions
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

65. *The main purpose of public libraries is to provide books and they shouldn't waste their limited resources and space on providing expensive hi-tech media such as computer software, videos and DVDs. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

Since centuries libraries have been in the service of man. These libraries are the repositories of never ending knowledge known as books. Some people opine that libraries should only provide books and not other hi-tech media such as computer software, videos and DVDs. I, however, believe that such hi-tech media should be there in libraries in addition to books.

It is easy to see why some people say that libraries should not have CDs and DVDs. They fear that the traditional book will lose its appeal. Because of technology, books are now being converted into disc forms such as CDs and DVDs. Even the availability of books in the form of electronic media on NET is putting in danger the importance of the traditional libraries, which house only traditional books. Here, my argument would be that libraries have to keep in stock many copies of a single book. CDs and DVDs occupy less space and so the availability of CDs and DVDs in addition to books seems very practical because of the shortage of space in most libraries.

Secondly, one should keep in mind that a person goes to a library not only to search and get information from books but also to sit and study there. Some books, which are out of print or not available in that particular area can be accessed through CDs and DVDs. What is more, many students cannot afford the expensive hi tech media and Internet connection in their homes. It is well known that the Internet is an ocean of knowledge and students need to access it for assignments. Therefore, they can access all this in the library. Therefore, computers and the Internet should be available in libraries.

Another important point why people oppose such hi-tech media is that they fear that instead of using it positively students will use it for chatting and surfing objectionable sites. They have a point, but this can be looked into by blocking such sites in the libraries. My final argument would be that with the help of computers the records of the books in the library could be maintained very efficiently. For example, most modern libraries can be maintained by just one or two librarians, whereas earlier they needed a lot of manpower.

To conclude, it can be said that advancement should be welcome in every field but the importance of the libraries for their fundamental role cannot be put aside. Equipping libraries with high-tech media will add more crowns of success to the importance of libraries.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: such hi-tech media should be there in libraries
Para 1: why libraries should have CDs and DVDs.
Para 2: Other advantages of adding this media
Para 3: Another reason why people oppose high tech media
Conclusion: Equipping libraries with high-tech media will add more crowns of success to the importance of libraries.

66. *Many people think young people should follow traditions. Others argue that young people should be free to be individuals. Discuss both views.*

It is a highly debatable issue whether the youth should follow traditions or have liberty to be what they want. This essay shall look into both sides of the debate before forming an opinion.

There are many reasons why some individuals opine that the youth should follow traditions. The prime reason is that the youth has been neglecting its own very rich culture and traditions in order to adapt to the western ideas. They have their mindset that what the west is doing is right and one should follow it without hesitation. For example, the youth of India does not perceive its identity as traditional Indians any more. They think that their centuries old traditions are outdated and prevent modern development. But they should know that nobody likes copy-cats. They should learn from a country like Japan, which is one of the leading economies of the world and also one of the most advanced countries in terms of modernization, but it still follows and respects its old traditions and cultures. Another reason of people's opinion is that some traditions are very good and need to be preserved at all costs. For instance, touching the feet of the elderly as a token of respect and welcoming guests with folded hands.

On the other hand, it is easy to understand why some people are in favour of letting the youth have their own individuality. This is mainly because the youth of today is better informed than ever before in the history of mankind. They do not just accept things without reasoning. Today, the nations of the world are more closely linked than ever before. It would be wrong to impose traditions on them, which are obsolete in the modern era. For example, the dowry system, in which the bride's parents gave her gold, money and household items, was acceptable earlier as women were not working, but today dowry system is being condemned because the youth of today realize that it has led to many vices such as female feticide.

What is more, today, we are living in a modern world calling for innovation and modernism, which pulls us toward a new vision of traditions; a vision which respects our traditional spirit but which concurrently supports newness and modernity, and promotes making the most of the global village of today. The youth of today are borrowing methods and taking aspirations from one country to the other. For example, the beautiful traditions of The West, such as celebration of Mother's Day and Father's Day are being celebrated in India today.

In conclusion, it can be said that the youth of today should be allowed all individuality. They are not part of a big planet called Earth; they belong to a small global village. Traditions should not define them; they should define traditions. It has been rightly said that 'Traditions' should be guides and not jailors.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: This essay shall look into both sides of the debate
Para 1: Why the youth should follow traditions
Para 2: why favour the youth have their own individuality
Para 3: How the youth of today can blend traditions with modernism
Conclusion:

67. *Some people say that the government should give priority to health care whereas others say they should spend on other important priorities. Discuss both views and give your opinion*

People are divided on the issue of the allocation of funds for healthcare by the governments. Some opine that health care is a crucial facet that governments have to pay attention to. Others, however, believe that there exist other areas on which governments should attach equal or even more weight. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

On the one hand, prioritizing healthcare would lead to a healthier and happier society. It is quite obvious that the people would be less economically burdened if governments prioritize health care. It would make it more convenient and cost-effective for the public to see a doctor. For example, the financial support from governments is likely to make various medicines and treatments more affordable to people who are not so well-off. Compared with the situation where citizens have to bear the cost totally by themselves, the economical pressure will be much relieved.

However, governments' investment should not be confined within the boundary of health care. Education, which concerns the long-term development of the whole nation, should also receive similar funds. Primary education should be free and mandatory. Higher education should be highly subsidized for students whose families are under the poverty line.

Apart from education, it is also advisable that taxpayers' money should be distributed to public facilities, which will not only benefit every citizen's daily life, but also attract more investment and create more job opportunities. Public transport should be improved so that more and more people like to opt for it. Condition of roads should be bettered. Facilities for the elderly cannot be ignored in the greying society of today.

To sum up, the allotment of governments' funds should equally go to more sectors, which will exert more influence on public and the society as a whole, although the importance of health care can not be underestimated.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of spending on healthcare
Para 2: Other important issues
Para 3: More important issues
Conclusion:

68. *Government spends much money for education. More money should be spent on free-time activities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

It is true that spending on education is top priority for many governments across the world, and in doing so they ignore the recreational activities, which are as important. Therefore, I agree that the government should allocate more funds for such leisure time activities. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Undoubtedly, spending on education is very essential for the progress of any nation. Educated people get higher paid jobs and add to the economy of the country. To add to it, educated societies are crime free and peaceful societies. That is why literacy rate is an important factor in determining the status of any country in the world.

However, spending on free-time activities is equally important. Such activities benefit students academically. They learn character-building lessons that they can apply to their study habits and to their lives. Activities such as athletics, music, theater, and organizations teach students how to discipline themselves through drills, practices, or rehearsals. In addition, extracurricular activities in the arts teach students analytical skills and creative problem solving skills since they have to think creatively to successfully perform music, act in a play, or produce a work of art.

Furthermore, life is stressful and free time activities act as stress-busters. They break the monotony of hectic day-to-day life. They also build community spirit among people as during free time people meet each other and socialize. It is the responsibility of the governments to provide stadiums, playgrounds, gyms and community centres where people can do free-time activities.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate my opinion that apart from education, spending on recreational activities is a must. These activities are as important as education for the overall development of any society.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Importance of education
Para 2: Importance of free-time activities
Para 3: Importance of free time activities
Conclusion:

69. *Some people say that in our modern age it is unnecessary to teach children about the skills of handwriting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

A common opinion is that with the increasing role computers play in our society; handwriting is no longer an important skill to learn at an early age. Unfortunately this opinion is misguided. I firmly believe that handwriting is very important even in today's era of technology. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Handwriting is important because research shows that when children learn how to do it, they also learn how to express themselves. Handwriting is so much more than simply putting letters on a page; it is a key part of learning to communicate. Writing is almost as important as speaking, as a medium for communicating thought. For this reason it is said that "Writing is a secondary power of speech, and those who cannot write are in part dumb." Scrawls that cannot be read may be compared to talking that cannot be understood; and writing difficult to decipher, to stammering speech.

Handwriting is also important because kids are required to use it daily in school from kindergarten on. Children who struggle with the mechanics of handwriting may have trouble taking notes or tests or completing their schoolwork. This can affect both their self-esteem and their attitude toward school. Good handwriting can mean better grades. Studies show that the same mediocre paper is graded much higher if the handwriting is neat and much lower if the writing is not.

What is more, handwriting proficiency inspires confidence. The more children practice a skill such as handwriting, the stronger the motor pathways become until the skill becomes automatic. Once it's mastered, children can move on to focus on the subject, rather than worry about how to form letters. Furthermore, handwriting aids memory. For example, if a person writes a list or a note — then loses it — he is much more likely to remember what he wrote than if he just tried to memorize it.

In summary, handwriting skills are very essential even today. Apart from being a tool of communication, it helps the brain develop, it can improve grades and confidence and also aids memory.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Writing is a method of communication
Para2: Handwriting improves grades
Para3: Improves confidence and memory
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

70. *Some developing countries invite large foreign companies to open offices and factories in order to help their economy. However, others feel that foreign companies should be shut out and instead the government should help the local companies to contribute to the economic growth. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

It is a highly debatable issue whether multinational companies (MNCs) should be encouraged by the governments of developing countries, or whether the local companies should be promoted. I firmly believe that MNCs are good for the economic growth. Therefore, I disagree with the given statement that MNCs should be shut out. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many advantages of MNCs. To begin with, these provide employment, which usually pays better than other available opportunities. What is more, they train local labour with more sophisticated techniques, which in the long run bring benefits to the host country. They also raise the growth rate of host nation by introducing new investment and new technology. To add to it, they promote efficient production and bring a broader range of products to the widest possible market.

Furthermore, such MNCs promote improvement or development of various supporting industries or complementary industries. For example, if an MNC opens in a place, then many businesses open in the neighbourhood, which cater to the workers working in these MNCs. In this way, these MNCs stabilize and stimulate local economies, and raise standards of living.

Another important advantage of MNCs is that they induce their local rivals to become more innovative and competitive. For instance, it is a well known fact that Indian company Videocon has improved its standard to compete with MNCs such as Samsung and Sony. Finally, these companies promote positive values, such as diversity, and equality for women. They also create an environment of nonviolence and international cooperation.

To conclude, MNCs may have their negative points, but their pros far outweigh their cons. So, they should be promoted by the governments of developing countries.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: I firmly believe that MNCs are good
Para 1: advantages of MNCs
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: more advantages of
Conclusion:

71. *Advertising discourages people from being different individuals by making us all want to do the same and look the same. Do you agree or disagree?*

The role of advertisements in destroying individuality has sparked much debate in the recent times. Some people opine that advertisements eliminate individual sense of identity, making people indistinguishable from each other. I, however, disagree with this allegation.

To begin with, when any advertisement bombards people with any new product, then people rush to buy it and it appears that all people are doing the same. However, this similarity is very short-lived, as sooner or later they realize that it is a huge waste of time and money to spend on something that is not really appropriate for them. Therefore, ads cannot suppress individuality permanently.

Secondly, all people cannot afford all things shown in the adverts. Even when ads use famous celebs to endorse their products, and people want to purchase those things, even then they have to consider their pocket and requirement. For instance, when it comes to luxury goods, solely a marginal number of purchasers can afford the financial cost. Therefore, no matter how attractive and persuasive an advertisement is, never can it tempt people to make the same purchase. Most people cannot afford to upset the whole monthly budget just because of certain alluring ads.

Furthermore, when we talk of the latest fashions, all people do not wear the similar clothes because of ads. If people wear jeans, it is because jeans are comfortable, and in today's fast life people need comfortable clothes. Nowadays, everyone knows that only that fashion should be followed which suits them. If adverts show celebs in flared pants, those who are not blessed with a good height would surely not follow them.

To sum up, from what has been analyzed above, it is concluded that advertisement cannot dominate the market trends as all people have different requirements, different material wealth and different choices. If at all there are any similarities, they are very short lived.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Ads have short term effects
Para 2: People have to see their pockets too
Para 3: Similarity is not because of ads. It is because of comfort.
Conclusion:

72. *It is suggested that all young adults should undertake a period of unpaid work, helping people in the community. Does it bring more benefits or drawbacks to the young people?*

The youth of today are generally considered to lack social knowledge and experience, which are of crucial importance in their future development. To solve this problem, some people suggest that they should undertake a period of voluntary work in the local community, helping people around them. Personally, I believe that making young people do voluntary work would be beneficial for the youth as well as for the society. The negative effects of such an approach would be negligible.

Undoubtedly, it can be a win-win approach - that is, it will benefit both the young and the community enormously if youth do a certain period of unpaid work. By helping the elderly, the sick and the disabled directly, or participating in charitable activities like raising funds or offering free consultation, young people will certainly gain and accumulate some valuable first-hand experience and know more about the society.

Moreover, young people with such experiences are more likely to become the most motivated ones in academic study or at work, and eventually become responsible citizens of the society. As far as the community is concerned, it will definitely become better with so many zealous young volunteers who are ready to help.

However, there may be some disadvantages if the young provide free service helping people in need. For example, it may conflict with their normal study or work if not arranged well. Then the result may be not as desirable as what is expected. But I think this sort of problem can be easily taken care of by meticulous planning by the school authorities.

To conclude, competitiveness of modern life and influence of global culture have isolated children from neighbourhood. So, such a step would be very beneficial to make today's children feel part of the community.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: its pros far outweigh the cons
Para 1: young people will know more about the society
Para 2: young people become the most motivated in academic study or work
Para 3: disadvantages
Conclusion: such a step would be very beneficial to make today's children feel part of the community.

73. *There are social, medical and technical problems associated with the use of mobile phones. What forms do they take? Do you agree that the problems outweigh the benefits of mobile phones?*

Mobile phone is one of the most important inventions that have brought people tremendous convenience and efficiency. Admittedly, if misused or overused, it may cause some social, medical and technical problems. However, its pros far outnumber its cons.

Mobiles have helped people remain connected with the world from wherever they are. Distance is not a barrier any more there is a sense of security if you know you have a gadget with which you can be in touch with your near and dear ones. At the time of emergencies and calamities, they are one of the most used tools for supplying immediate help.

Mobile phones also provide us with facilities like messaging, camera, recording and the Internet. As a matter of fact, now they can serve as a good replacement of laptop. Business transactions can also take place at any time of the day and family commitments can also be fulfilled while at work. Cell phones also serve as entertainment tools as many games can now be played and some phones have FM radio connection too.

On the downside, mobile phones emit infrared rays, which directly affect the body part exposed to. According to Australian Health Research Institute, use of mobile phones can lead to ear, eye and brain cancer besides some other disorders like heart ailments. Overuse of mobiles takes away the privacy and sometimes even the peace of mind. Wherever we are, at work, at home or in a social gathering, we are hammered with unwanted calls or messages. It is a boon to roadside paparazzi for whom taking snaps is just too easy with more advanced mobiles.

To sum up, the advantages of the mobile phone far outweigh its disadvantages. Mobile technology definitely has brought a revolution and changed the way to work, to socialize and to entertain, but we must be more wise and responsible in using it.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: its pros far outnumber its cons.
Para 1: Some advantages of cell phone – stay connected – good for emergencies
Para 2: Uses in business and entertainment
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: the advantages of the mobile phone far outweigh its disadvantages.

74. *Old generations often hold some traditional ideas on the correct way of life, thinking and behavior. However, some people think that it is not helpful for the young generations to prepare for modern life in the future. What's your opinion?*

Generation gap has been a debated issue since the dawn of civilization. I partially agree with this statement. Modern life has changed beyond recognition in many ways and so many ideas of the old generation are not suitable for today's life, but still there are some traditional ideas, which are evergreen and hold true even today.

The elderly had a very disciplined life. For instance, they believed in sticking to one job for life. They also believed in fixed-hours job. They had a stress-free work life. Moreover, they believed that marriage was for life. Divorces were rare. They had a stable family life. These values, if followed, are good for today's generation also.

However, in many ways the ideas of the elderly are obsolete in the times of modernity. The elderly live like a frog in the well. They forget that change is progress. They also want their children to follow the same profession. They do not give importance to aptitude. Youngsters are more intellectually evolved. They want to explore the un-trodden path to face the cut-throat competition of today.

Furthermore, the young differ in dress, food and habits. These things were not available to the elderly. The elderly had lesser opportunities to come in contact with the western world. The Earth was a big planet. Now it is a global
village. The young speak a universal language, eat Italian pizza and Chinese food and wear a universal dress. The leisurely ways of the old are gone. The young have the speed of bikes, cars and planes. What can link them to the old bullock cart? The young today have to change to survive.

To sum up, there are some traditional ideas of the elderly that are evergreen and will hold true for times to come. But, in many ways, they are obsolete in today's time.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Which ideas of the elderly hold true even today
Para 2: Which ideas of the elderly are obsolete today
Para 3: Why these ideas of the elderly are obsolete
Conclusion:

75. *Some people think that government should subsidize fruits and vegetables to make healthy food cheaper. Others argue that tax should be set on unhealthy food. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

The increase in the consumption of unhealthy fast food has led to a rise in health related problems, and it is becoming a cause of concern in most countries. Some individuals opine that government should subsidize healthy foods, whereas others say that the solution is in levying a 'Fat Tax', which means a tax on fast food. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The main argument in support of 'Fat tax', is that unhealthy food habits have led to an increase in health problems. The health of the general public is not only an individual's responsibility, but also the responsibility of the government. Moreover, the revenue earned can be utilized towards providing better health care, medical research and other such issues, which will in the development of the nation.

On the other hand, some people opine that a major reason for a higher consumption of fast food is that healthier food options are not affordable by everyone. For instance, a glass of sweetened soda is cheaper than a glass of milk. Therefore, instead of making the fast food more expensive, subsidies should be provided for producers of healthy foods, like vegetables, fruits, milk, etc. By doing so, people will have a choice to make between healthy and fast food, with both being priced equally. They also say that implementing the 'Fat Tax' is not an effective method, as it penalizes everyone, both the rich and poor, thus further increasing the gaps in society. This will affect the poor more and take away the simple pleasures that everyone enjoys.

I believe that taking care of one's health is an individual's responsibility and also is a right to freedom of choice. The causes of health problems like obesity, cardiovascular diseases, etc. are not limited to an unhealthy diet. Lack of exercise is also a major cause of an increase in obesity. These are all personal choices that people need to make and measures should be taken to make people aware of the consequences of the choices they make. It would not be wise to implement a fat-tax, as it will not be practical for the government to decide which food product should be taxed and which should be exempted. Also, it has been found through a research, that taste is the number one factor, when deciding what to eat. So increasing the tax on fast food will not make a considerable difference to the consumption of unhealthy foods.

To conclude, implementing the fat-tax is not an effective solution to the health problems. Subsidizing healthier food options should be done, so that those who want to refrain from eating unhealthy foods should have healthier options within the reach of their pocket.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay
Para1: For Fat Tax
Para 2: Other viewpoint
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion.

76. *Many people nowadays do not feel safe either when they are at home or go out. What are the reasons and what can be done to solve this problem?*

There is no doubt that an increasing number of people feel unsafe, not only when they go out somewhere, but also when they are at home. There are several factors, which have lead to this increasing fear. In this essay, I will look into the causes of this and suggest some solutions.

The reasons why people are afraid of going out of their homes are very obvious. The crimes committed on the streets, are on a rise. The road mishaps have risen to a proportion, more than ever before and continue to increase everyday. Some people are afraid to go out because of the fear of natural calamities and also, sometimes due to health related disorders, which might be caused due to the increase in pollution. The reports of bombings and terror attacks have become everyday news. As a result, people feel afraid of stepping out of their homes.

At the same time, people are also becoming increasingly scared within their homes. The main reason for this is the escalation in the crimes being committed at homes, like murders, robberies, etc. In a recent news article, it has been surveyed that there have been more crimes committed by domestic help at people's homes, than the crimes being committed on the streets. This has led to people feeling vulnerable, at home and when they are out on the streets.

There are certain steps, which can be taken, by the government and individuals, to make people more safe and protected. The increasing unemployment is the main reason of these crimes. If the youth of a country are provided vocational training and good job opportunities, they would not fall on the path of crime. Another important measure, which needs to be taken by the government, is to employ more security measures, like cameras, more police patrolling, and more security in public transport and public areas. This needs to be done in the residential and commercial areas, both, so that it deters the criminals and instills a sense of security in the public. For instance, in Bengaluru, government has now made it compulsory for all showrooms and shops to install security cameras. There are also random checks made by the government officials to ensure that the security standards are met in all commercial areas.

To add to it, stricter punishments for the offenders will act as a major deterrent for the criminals. This will greatly reduce the incidents of crimes on the streets and at home. Another important measure is the use of technology in the security systems installed at homes. People can install advanced alarm systems and security cameras in their homes, to avoid any unwanted incidents of crime. This also helps greatly in the reduction of domestic crimes.

To sum it up, people's fear and insecurity is justified, with the increasing reports of crime reported by the media. However, this situation can be mitigated by taking some measures, like tackling the unemployment problem, tightened security measures, stricter punishments and the use of advanced technology in households and commercial areas.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro:
Para1: Why people are not safe when they are out of their homes
Para 2: Why they are not safe within their homes
Para 3: Solutions
Para 4: Solutions
Conclusion

77. *Some people think that it is more important to plant trees in open areas of towns and cities than to build more housing. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

I completely agree with the statement that it is more meaningful to plant trees in the open urban areas, rather than building more houses. Trees not only provide environmental benefits, but also provide numerous social and economic benefits. This essay intends to discuss my opinion and these benefits.

Admittedly, housing is needed to meet the demands of the burgeoning population, but we can go for high-rise buildings and leave the open spaces for planting more and more trees.

To begin with the environmental benefits of trees, these help purify the polluted air in the cities and towns. Research has proven that 100 trees can remove tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. Trees are also known to create a buffer, which cuts down everyday noise of cities, thus tackling noise pollution also. To add to it, the water is also managed better, if there are more trees in a city. The rainwater doesn't run off into drains if there are trees in urban areas. It is filtered into the ground, thus saving the city money that is spent on drains and artificial controls. Providing a natural habitat to birds and animals is another advantage.

To add to it, trees also help save energy consumption. If planted in the right place, urban forests provide shade to homes, roads, office areas and parking spaces. Cooler homes and offices means, lesser air conditioning is needed, thus reducing the energy consumption. In parking lots too, trees help keep cars cooler, which leads to less pollution.

Planting trees in cities helps the city grow socially and economically as well. They provide an area where people can meet, socialize and also exercise. Children also get a close to nature place, where they can play. The commercial value of an urban property with trees, is more than one without trees. Retail outlets and businesses located in areas with trees, attract more customers.

To sum it up, we need houses in cities to live in, but to strengthen and improve the quality of the life in overcrowded cities we need trees. They play a vital role in combating climate change and provide numerous economic and social benefits.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Housing is needed but trees are more important
Para 2: Advantages of trees
Para 3: More advantages
Para 4: More Advantages
Conclusion

78. *In many countries traditional foods are being replaced by international fast foods. This is having a negative effect on both families and societies. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

In this era of technology and globalization, all spheres of life have changed dramatically and food is also no exception. I agree that international fast foods and restaurants have eaten up traditional foods and cuisines and this has had a detrimental effect on families and societies. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are a lot of damaging effects on families. Firstly in this torrid pace of life, people are working till their death. They have no time to prepare and enjoy traditional home cooked food. Ultimately, they switch to an easy option of restaurants. McDonalds have become a ubiquitous term in every home. Secondly, there is the influence of occidental culture over the oriental one. People are forgetting their roots. For example, in earlier times all family members used to sit together and eat, and over the dining table they shared their happenings of the day. These fast foods are eaten alone mostly because they don't appeal to the palate of the older members. As a result, family bonds and relationships are getting blurred. Moreover, the art of home cooking is suffering a lot.

Admittedly, this trend has harmful effects on individuals. Undoubtedly, people are affected by health hazards like obesity and other diseases. Obesity is the root cause of many other diseases. Fast foods are rich in fats and salts which are not good for health. An obese person is more likely to suffer from diseases like hypertension and diabetes.

There are tangible consequences on society too. Broadly speaking, as people get inclined towards fast food and restaurants, local culture dies out. It is because traditional food is inextricably linked with culture. Undoubtedly, the identity of the society and nation will disappear. It will be monopolized by western societies. Also, if people are not healthy, the productivity of the nation will come to a standstill. Last but not least, fast foods promote use-and-throw culture, which adds to the problem of garbage dumps, contamination, pollution and eventually many diseases.

To summarise, it can be reiterated that international fast foods have carved their niche and traditional food has taken the backseat. Certainly, this has adverse effects on individuals, families and societies.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: I agree
Para 1: Effects on families
Para 2: Effects on individuals
Para 3: Effects on societies
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

79. *In recent years, the number of crimes committed by teenagers in major cities throughout the world is increasing. Discuss this issue. Give reasons and suggest some solutions.*

It is a very shocking situation that the number of youngsters involved in crime is increasing day by day. In this essay, I intend to discuss the reasons for this phenomenon and suggest some solutions.

A number of factors are responsible for juvenile delinquency. Media is one powerful influence. Many times, vulgarity and violence is shown on TV. Children are vulnerable and accept it as natural and try to copy what is shown. For example, in Virginia USA, a student killed 30 students just after watching a TV program. Another cause of crime among youth is the changing family structure. Nuclear families are the norm of the day. Earlier, there were joint families in which grandparents used to teach moral values to children. They kept an eye on the friend circle of their grandchildren. Nowadays, both parents are working and children are left unattended at home. They may fall into bad company and resort to drugs under peer pressure. For drugs they desperately need money, which turns them towards crime.

Furthermore, increasing poverty, unemployment and competition is causing hopelessness and frustration among the youth. They are over ambitious and want to earn quick money. They have a lot of energy and if that energy is not harnessed in the right direction, they can go astray. Consumerist society is also a big factor to put them on the path of crime. When they see new things in the market, they want them by hook or by crook. Parents cannot satisfy all their whims and so they start doing petty crime, which turns to major crime very soon.

The solutions are not simple. The issue has to be dealt with on a war footing. Some censorship of TV channels is needed. Parents should ration the TV viewing hours of children. Parents should watch TV with children so that they know what their children are being exposed to. We should also encourage joint families. Parents should be good role models. Good family atmosphere should be provided to children. Friend circle of the children should be monitored. We should also educate children about the harms of consumerism. Schools should also provide good education. Finally, government should try and reduce unemployment and poverty, which are the root causes.

Summing up, crime among teens is a big problem and youth alone cannot be blamed for that. We should look into the causes and take relevant steps to fight this problem.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

80. *Individual greed and selfishness has been the basis of the modern society. Some people think that we must return to the older and more traditional values of respect for the family and the local community in order to create a better world to live in. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Dwight D. Eisenhower has rightly said, "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both." Therefore, I agree with the given statement that we must revert to the golden times when we valued traditions and respected the elderly and our neighbourhoods so that we have a happier today and a happier tomorrow.

Today we live in an era of technology in which the whole Earth has shrunk and become a global village. Everybody is connected to everybody through telephone lines and the Internet but the warmth of relationships has taken a back seat. Most people have more than enough wealth, comfort and freedom but their hearts desire even more. To satisfy their hearts greed people have become workaholics and as a result have no time for family and friends. People have become selfish, isolated and indifferent. Each person is busy in his own quest for more. To add to it, the youngsters who are at ease with the new technology think that the elderly are good for nothing and that is why they don't respect them.

On the other hand, life in the past was slower and simpler. People loved and respected each other. Family members had a lot of face-to-face contact with each other. Older members of the family were well looked after and their advice was valued. Divorces were very rare as marriage was considered a sacred institution. Moreover, community get-togethers were often organized and people knew the farthest neighbours. Nowadays, the next-door neighbours are also not recognized. There were lesser worries and tensions in earlier times.

To conclude, living in this modern toxic world, we are all slowly being poisoned to death. Therefore, it is clear that the traditional value-based society is a better world to live in. We cannot return from the age of the jet plane to the age of the bullock cart but we can certainly return to these traditional values to try to create a modern world which has both, material wealth and prosperity and also respect for the family and local community.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Where all we have fallen back in the modern world and why we need to go back to those traditions
Para 2: Good points of the old societies
Conclusion: Reiterate point.

81. *University students often focus on one subject. However, some people think that universities should encourage students to learn a range of other subjects. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

I agree with the given statement that students should study a range of subjects at university and not focus on only one major. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many advantages, for students, of studying a number of subjects. The first and foremost advantage is that if they don't get a job in their field they will be able to get any job related to their other subjects. They will not suffer unemployment and they will not be stuck to menial jobs despite being highly qualified.

Moreover, a well-rounded education is very important in today's time. Without a diverse background, a graduate will not be competent in any job. For example, excellent communication skills are very important while looking for a job. For that you need a basic English class. Most jobs require problem-solving skills which you get from basic knowledge of math and science. For instance, a doctor specializing in MRI scan, needs to have a good knowledge of physics – magnetism etcetera.

Another advantage is that learning a range of subjects can add spice to the students' studies. Students may be fed up with study when they concentrate on one subject constantly. Finally, it is well known that most of the subjects are linked to each other, to some extent. With a range of knowledge, students can find different solutions to approach the problems they encounter either at work or in life, which will definitely make them more creative and innovative in the field they specialize in. Clearly, the students with all-round knowledge have an apparent advantage over those specializing in only one subject.

Opponents claim that studying only one subject at university would make you a master in that field and you stand a chance of getting a high-paid job in that field. However, I still believe that that studying a range of subjects has an edge over specializing in just one.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion by saying that studying a variety of subjects is beneficial to the university students. In this case, not only can the students better themselves, but also become adaptable and flexible in the increasingly challenging and competitive world. It is advisable that students spend time learning more subjects instead of focusing on one specific subject, so that they can prepare themselves for the global society.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: advantage of studying a range of subjects – more choices of job
Para 2: another advantage -
Para 3: learning a range of subjects can add spice to the students' studies
Para 4: Opponents view
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion.

82. *As transport and accommodation problems are increasing in many cities, some governments are encouraging businesses to move to rural areas. Do you think the advantages outweigh disadvantages?*

It is true that the world's largest companies are located in large cities. In the city many people expect to find better employment opportunities, often with bigger, secure companies. As cities become overcrowded, problems relating to housing and transport arise, because of which some people suggest that the larger companies should relocate to the countryside. While this may have some advantages, I firmly believe that the disadvantages would be far more than the advantages.

It is reasonable to think that moving thousands of employees from large companies out to remote areas would have a positive impact on the overcrowding of some cities. There would be less traffic because of less people in the city centre, and this would obviously be highly desirable. In addition, there would be less strain on the services offered by the city – banks, public transportation, restaurants and the like. This would mean a reduction in queues and faster customer service. To add to it, housing would also become affordable. It is generally seen that because of too many people wanting to live in the city, land prices and even rents of houses start touching the sky.

The problem however would be that a dramatic reduction in numbers of people in the cities would mean that many businesses would go broke. Restaurants, cafes and other service areas would suffer tremendously. What would happen is that overcrowding would occur where the new, large organisations relocate. More and more people offering services would spring up - restaurants, shopping centres and other businesses would be needed to serve the increasingly larger numbers of people who moved to the area. In addition, the rural area may not be able to provide the enormous quantities of housing, electricity and raw materials required to run a huge company.

Furthermore, relocating businesses to rural areas may upset many households. Children also may have to change schools. So it would not be practical to do so. Transport and accommodation problems in cities need to be sorted out by connecting the villages and cities by very efficient public transport, so that people come to work in the cities and live in rural areas. Newer businesses should be encouraged to open in the suburbs; the already existing ones should continue to be where they already are.

To sum up, relocating the companies would assist with the overcrowding problem in some cities. However, a new set of problems would surface, which would be far more than the benefits. Therefore, I reiterate my point that the idea of moving larger corporations out to rural areas would not be beneficial.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: the disadvantages would be far more than the advantages.
Para 1: Advantages of relocating
Para 2: Problems that would arise
Para 3: More disadvantages
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

83. *Students should pay their full university fees themselves as they benefit from having university studies and not the society as a whole. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

People have different views about who should pay the fee of university education. Some believe that students should pay the full tuition fee as they benefit the most from university education. I disagree with the notion. I firmly believe that along with the student, the society also benefits from tertiary education. Therefore, the government and the student should share the tuition fees equally.

There is no doubt that the whole society benefits if majority of people receive higher education. In all developing countries there has been a strong effort to raise the educational level of the society by putting as much money as possible into providing educational institutions. Without enough educated professionals, such as doctors, teachers, scientists and engineers, developing countries cannot move ahead. Governments in such countries provide scholarships or free education, to as many students as they can fund, because they realize that the whole country will benefit. Many developed countries also try to offer free tertiary education because they want a highly educated population.

However, there is also a strong argument that individuals benefit so much from tertiary education that they should be expected to pay for it. Doctors, lawyers, accountants and engineers have some of the highest incomes in most societies. People argue that the government, and therefore the taxpayers should not have to pay for students who will later earn more than anyone else.

Moreover, most students come from the middle classes and their parents can afford to pay for their fees. There are, of course, some students who cannot afford to pay. This problem can be overcome by a system like the one being used in Australia, for example. The government gives the students a loan to pay for their fees, and later, when they are earning a good salary, they repay the loan.

To sum up, as the modern world is becoming increasingly complex and knowledge is becoming more and more specialised there is no doubt that tertiary education is necessary both for the whole society and for individuals who want to ensure that they have a good profession. It is probably impossible to decide whether the individual or the society benefits more from tertiary education, but since both benefit, the costs should probably be paid for by both equally.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages to society of higher education
Para 2: Advantages to individual. Example of Australia
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

84. *After completing high school and before going to college or university, some students take a year off either to work or travel. What do you think is better – travelling or working. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches.*

Taking a gap year to travel or work is in vogue in some countries, resulting in a whole market being built around providing travel and work services to these youngsters. This essay intends to explore the pros and cons of working or travelling in this year and to find out which approach edges over the other.

There are several benefits of travelling or working before embarking on further studies. Firstly, travelling broadens the mind giving young people skills they can use later on in life. They learn how to be independent, manage their budget, improve their social skills, and enhance their geographical, cultural and general knowledge. On the other hand, if they choose to work, they get a taste of the working world and know what to expect when they complete their studies. This is especially helpful in cases where they are uncertain about their study choice. Work experience gives them time to introspect and decide on what they want to actually do in life. They also earn enough to partly fund their higher education.

There are a few drawbacks of both approaches. The first has to do with finance. Some families are unable to fund their child's round-the-world trip. The negative side of working is that their earning may deter them from going back to study. Also, when young people are out of a study mind frame they might have difficulties getting back to study.

It is evident that both approaches have their own set of pros and cons. A well-planned gap year may provide the opportunity of working while travelling. For example, they may work in local farms or local hotels. This may be a win-win situation for them because they may get the opportunity of mingling with the local people and getting know-how of their culture.

To sum up, a gap year is a good idea for the youngsters of today and the choice to travel or work is a matter of personal choice as there are advantages and disadvantages of both. If planned well, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro
Para 1: Advantages of both
Para 2: Disadvantages of both
Para 3: The midway approach
Conclusion:

85. *Some people think that charity organizations should only offer help to people of their own country. But others believe that these organizations should give aid to people in great need wherever they live. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

"To have enough to share; to know the joy of giving; to thrill with all the sweets of life - is living". Helping others is a very virtuous thing. Charities help in basically two ways. One is by offering support to people in their own country, and the second is by helping the needy irrespective of their country. In this essay I intend to delve into the benefits of both approaches.

There are many advantages if charities help their own country's people. Firstly, these organisations remain directly in touch with the needy. They can see how the money or the other resources provided by them are being used. It has been well said that charity begins at home. What is more, domestic charities target problems specific to their home country. For instance, the Help Age India is an Indian charity providing help for the aged in India.

There are also many advantages if these organisations help the needy in any corner of the world. In such cases these organisations work on a larger platform and provide help for global issues. A larger platform is a must if one has a lot to offer in charity. Help activities can be better spread through a larger network. Help need not be always in the form of money. It can be in the form of services also. For example, these organisations can provide doctors and teachers, who volunteer to provide medical aid and also teach in the under-developed nations.

In my opinion, help in any form is good. The condition of one's country could influence the way of helping. In a developed country, where even the poorest of the poor has the basic amenities of life, it would be better to help in any part of the world where people need help. But, in the case of a developing or underdeveloped country, it would be better to help those around you.

Summing up, the purpose of charity organizations is to help people in need, and it does not matter where this help goes. If people of the home country need help then it would certainly be advisable to help those around you first.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of helping your home country
Para 2: Advantages of helping the needy irrespective of country
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

86. *Some people argue that companies and private individuals, rather than governments, should pay the bill of pollution. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Environmental pollution is a burning issue these days and to save our planet Earth, it has to be tackled on a war footing. Some individuals are of the opinion that businesses and individuals should pay for the bill of pollution rather than the governments. Although it seems reasonable to ask them to do so, it would not be easy. Therefore, I disagree with the above statement. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

First of all, it may not be possible to say who is to blame. For instance, in my home town, there is a sugar mill, a starch mill and a textile mill. All are adding to pollution in their own way. It would be very difficult to pin point the extent to which each one has to pay for pollution. Such businesses will find loopholes to avoid heavy bills. Therefore, the government should take the onus of handling the pollution costs.

Secondly, the big companies may be unwilling to accept the responsibility of paying the additional bill of pollution by saying that they are already paying heavy taxes to the government. They could also argue that they are assisting the governments indirectly by aiding many charity organizations.

Moreover, in places where governments have tried this policy and successfully prosecuted the companies who violated the law, it took years to get the result. Therefore, it would be very unpractical to make companies and individuals to pay the bill of pollution. The governments could, however, make it mandatory for companies to set up effluent treatment plants and subsidize them greatly so as to increase compliance of the companies to set them up.

Summing up, pollution is a serious issue and the government should not leave it to the individuals and companies to pay its bill. It can however, make it mandatory for the companies to set up effluent treatment plants so that pollution is minimized.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: it may not be possible to say who is to blame
Para 2: the big companies say that they are already paying heavy taxes to the government.
Para 3: in places where governments have tried this policy and successfully prosecuted the companies who violated the law, it took years to get the result.
Conclusion:

87. *In the past, lectures were used as a way of teaching large numbers of students, but now with the development of technology for education, many people think there is no justification for attending lectures. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

I disagree with the view that technology has reduced the need to attend lectures. I firmly believe that going to college or university and attending lectures is as important as before and even more so. In the following paragraphs I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

It is irrefutable that computer and Internet have made possible distance education and on-line education. In this regard, computers are a boon for the handicapped, those living in remote areas and those in job. They can study any time of the day or night because of the Internet. This has made education approachable for many who cannot for some reason or the other attend a college or university.

However, I still feel that technology cannot replace the need for going to the classroom. When students attend lectures, they learn from teachers. In learning and practice of more complex ideas, the computer is not adequate. It can tell if the answer is right or wrong but it cannot tell where the student went wrong. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught using computers. Moreover, teachers add their own knowledge gained through experience to that of books and other resources.

Furthermore, teachers can stimulate interest and it is an undeniable fact that interested stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. A student studying by himself may get bored and stop studying. Teachers can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills. Finally, when students attend lectures, they have interaction with other students, which gives them a sense of competition to study more.

To conclude, it can be said that, there is no doubt that modern technology has added many new ways to reach education to students, but attending lectures will always hold its importance.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I firmly believe that going to college or university and attending lectures is as important as before and even more so.
Para 1: Some benefits brought by computers and the internet
Para 2: Advantages of teachers as compared to the computer
Para 3: More advantages of teachers
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

88. *Most countries believe that international tourism has harmful effects. Why do they think so? How to change their views?*

It is irrefutable that international tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. However, the potential negative effects of international travel have made people to grumble. This essay will outline the main reasons for these complaints and provide certain measures to change their opinion.

The most important reason why some are opposed to international tourism is that tourists may unknowingly show disrespect for local culture. For instance, we generally cover our heads in a religious place. A tourist may not do so or take his shoes inside a temple. This may offend the local people. Sometimes, youngsters may be attracted towards the western culture, which the tourists bring with them and many may find this as a threat to the local culture.

Moreover, the tourist dollar may not be helping the local people. We all know that tourists stay in five star hotels and enjoy the best facilities. They may be taking two showers a day, where as the local people may not have enough water to drink. This has been the case in Shimla, which is a very popular hill station in Himachal Pradesh India. On top of that, when tourists buy souvenirs from local artisans, they bargain a lot. The poor artisans, who look up to tourists for their livelihood, end up earning the barest minimum. Finally, tourism creates pollution, which helps nobody. We are all suffering the consequences of global warming.

The solutions are not simple. We cannot discourage tourism. It is the backbone of many economies of the world. First of all, the tour operators should take the onus of guiding the tourists about the main things of local culture. Secondly, the tourists should stay with locals as paying guests. This would be a win-win situation for both. Local people would earn and the tourist would taste the local culture. Finally, ecotourism should be promoted. For example, if an elephant ride is possible, the tourist should avoid using car. After all, a good tourist is one – who takes away nothing but photographs, and leaves behind nothing but footprints.

Summing up, international tourism does have a downside to it, but many steps can be taken to lessen the negative effects.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: solutions
Conclusion: international tourism does have a downside to it but many steps can be taken to lessen the negative effects

89. *Some people think computer and Internet are important in children's study, but others think students can learn effectively in schools and with teachers. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.*

Some individuals opine that computers and the Internet have become an indispensable part of education and therefore schools and teachers do not play a significant role in education. Others say that for effective learning, schools and teachers are still required. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

It is an undeniable fact that teachers can never lose their importance. In learning and practice of more complex ideas, the computer is not adequate. It can tell if the answer is right or wrong but it cannot tell where the student went wrong. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught using computers. Moreover, teachers add their own knowledge gained through experience to that of books and other resources.

Furthermore, teachers can stimulate interest and it is an incontestable fact that interested stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. They can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills.

Schools are places where students learn many social skills apart from academic education. There are also practical subjects which students can learn best from the teacher. For example, experiments of physics and chemistry are best learnt by the teacher guiding you at every step in the school setting. What is more, teachers in schools give assignments and regularly check them. This helps the teachers to recognize the weak points of students and guide them accordingly. The Internet and computer cannot do all this.

On the other hand, it is also true that the Internet is an ocean of knowledge. You can get information about any topic on Earth from the Internet. But there is no authenticity of this information. What information to get, and from where to get requires a lot of expertise. Students still need the guidance of the teachers at all stages of learning. Teachers can make even the dull and boring subjects seem interesting. So definitely students learn more from teachers.

To conclude, it can be said that, no doubt computers and Internet have become important in education but the role of schools and teachers can never be undermined.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of teachers as compared to the computer
Para 2: Advantages of teachers
Para 3: Advantages of going to schools
Para 4: advantages of Internet
Conclusion: Teachers are always better

90. *In the last century when a human astronaut first arrived on the Moon he said: "It is a big step for mankind". But some people think it makes little difference to our daily life. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Almost every day we read something in the papers about the latest exciting developments in the space race. Many people are of the view that all the money and energy spent on space exploration and research is a complete waste because it has no effect on our daily life. I, however, disagree. In the following paragraphs I shall discuss how space research has touched our lives in more ways than one.

The technology, that put men on the moon, launched space shuttles and will build a space station, has found its way into everyday life on Earth. Common secondary uses of space research are called spin-offs. The common smoke detector used in homes was first prepared for space-crafts as a warning system. Computer bar codes in retail stores, shock absorbing shoes used by tennis players and athletes, lightweight materials used for helmets and sporting materials and non stick coating used in pans, were all first developed as part of space research.

Space technology has provided many benefits to the medical field as well. Pace makers used to treat cardiac as well as remote monitoring devices for intensive care patients, and portable medical equipment carried aboard ambulances are but a few applications of space technology providing daily benefits in hospitals, offices and homes. Artificial limbs of lesser weight are also a by-product of space research, and these are a blessing for the physically challenged.

Not only that, it is well known that global warming will soon transform our Earth into a boiling pot. Then it would be very essential to find alternative places to live. If we are able to find signs of life elsewhere in space, it would be a jackpot for mankind.

To sum up, space exploration and research has touched our everyday lives in numerous ways. So, it definitely is a big step for mankind.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree.
Para 1: Some spin-offs of space research, which have touched the common man
Para 2: More ways in which space research has touched the common man – in medical field
Para 3: Why it is necessary to see possibilities of life in space
Conclusion: So, it definitely is a big step for mankind.

91. *In some countries around the world men and women are having children late in life. What are the reasons for this development? What are the effects on society and family life?*

In the modern society, young people have a tendency of postponing their parenthood until late 30's or even early 40's. This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.

Many factors could be responsible for this trend. The most important reason is that in today's era of cut-throat competition, young people have to focus on their jobs and therefore have little time for their families. What is more, women of today have become more career oriented and do not wish to be held back by family responsibilities. Obviously under such circumstance, committing to a serious relationship or starting a family, which means tremendous responsibility and dedication, is not a preferable choice. The cost increase of raising a child is another barrier to late parenthood, and this is especially obvious in major cities around the world.

This change of lifestyle can have some negative effects on the society as a whole. Firstly, low birthrates can result in an ageing population and a lack of labor force in the future. A graying society is a dependent society and is a burden on the shoulder of the government. Medical care services can be in high demand and medical cost can rise significantly.

The families too cannot escape the brunt of such a situation. The most disturbing effect is that chances of congenital anomalies rise significantly if a woman bears the first child after the age of 40. The families with mentally or physically challenged children can never be happy families. Another effect can be that the age gap between parents and children is too much and so chances of generation gap are strong.

Summing up, there are many reasons, which are responsible for people marrying late and having babies late in life and this definitely is detrimental for the societies and families. Therefore, young people should learn to give importance to both, a career and a family life.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: negative effects on society
Para 3: negative effects on families
Conclusion:

92. *In some countries the number of people using bikes as main transport mode is decreasing, even though it is so beneficial. Why is this so? How can people be encouraged to use more bicycles?*

It is indubitable that the bicycle is being used less and less as a preferred mode of transport, despite the fact that it is advantageous. This essay intends to analyze some reasons of this phenomenon and also suggest ways to motivate people to use more bicycles.

There are many reasons for not using the bicycles in today's world. The first reason why people have abandoned the bicycle for the faster modes like car and motorbike is that life has become busy and everyone has so much to do and so little time. Other modes of transport are more time effective. Secondly, the roads are so full of heavy traffic that bicycles are not safe. If it were safer to ride bicycles, many people would commute short distances on bike. Another reason for not using the bike is the unfavourable weather. The hot and humid summer months make it impossible for anyone to use the bike. Of course, no one wants to reach the office smelling of sweat. Last but not least, people want to show off their status, and riding a bike does not solve this purpose.

There are many ways to motivate people to use the bike. The onus is on the government to make cycling safer and more inviting. Investment needs to be done in a vast network of cycling paths. For example, in Denmark, there are 19000 km of cycle tracks, as a result of which many people ride bikes. These cycle tracks are clearly marked, have smooth surfaces, separate signs and lights for those on two wheels, and wide enough to allow side-by-side cycling and overtaking. Perhaps, that is why, there are more bicycles than the number of people in Denmark.

Furthermore, people could be made aware of the benefits of cycling. Bicycle is a cheap and green mode of transport. Media, such as the TV, could be used for this purpose. Our celebrities, who act as the role models for many, could be a lot of help. If they start using the bicycle, many youngsters would follow them and do the same. For example, a few months ago, Vidya Balan, India's famous film star, was seen on TV saying that whenever she has to gift something, she gifts a sapling. Since then, I have started giving a sapling to my friends on their birthdays.

To sum up, there are many reasons why people do not use the bicycle now, but some effective steps could be taken by the governments to promote the use of bicycles.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: ways to motivate people
Para 3: More ways
Conclusion:

93. *Some people believe that the radio is the best way to get news, while others believe that TV is better for this purpose. Discuss both views, and give your opinion.*

People receive news from different sources. This essay shall compare two popular media from which people receive news – the radio and the television. I believe that both have their own importance as far as getting news is concerned, but TV certainly has an edge over the radio.

Radio, can be accessed in a variety of situations. You need to sit in front of the TV sets to watch it, but in case of radio you can put it in a pocket and listen to programs of your interest while jogging at a park, driving, commuting to and from work, having meals or even lying on the bed with lights off and resting.

Furthermore, the news script is also different as a radio newsreader has to describe the whole event through words and not to pause long whereas news reading script for TV newsreel is punctuated with long pauses when footage of some event is shown. For example, if a cricket sports match is going on, a radio commentator will have to speak a lot more than what a TV commentator will have to speak. This is very helpful to those people who cannot take a break from work, but still want to know what is going on in their favourite match.

On the other hand, TV seems overwhelmingly outplaying radio on various counts. Firstly, it combines both sight and sound, which are the two major human senses for communication, and is therefore more influencing. For instance if you hear a news item about an accident, you may forget it soon, but if you have seen horrifying images of the same accident on TV news, you may not forget the impact on your mind for a long time to come.

Secondly, with the advent of the latest technology, the TV has become as portable as the radio. The smart phones of today have apps such as 'Hotstar', which enable people to watch news on the go.

To conclude, both these media are not equivalent and interchangeable with each other, as they have unique characteristics. The television, however, has a slight edge over the radio because of its visual impact.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Opinion to be reached after comparing the two media.
Para 1: advantages of radio
Para 2: Advantages of radio
Para 3: Advantages of TV
Para 4: Advantages of TV
Conclusion: TV is better

94. *All over the world, people watch foreign films much more than locally produced films. Why? Should the government provide financial support to local film industries?*

Foreign films such as the Hollywood blockbusters are released all over the world and are enjoyed more than the locally produced films. This essay shall look into the reasons of this phenomenon and also discuss whether the government should provide financial aid to support the local film industry.

The popularity of Hollywood films and foreign films in general can be attributed to the fact that they use the most modern technology. For instance, the amazing visual effects and acoustics of the Hollywood movie Avatar won global audiences. What is more, these films are produced by big companies that have the money and the means to generate huge publicity for them. Today, we all know that marketing is what decides the fate of a product – be it a film, a book or a gadget. So it is not surprising that these films tend to do well overseas. In contrast, the locally produced films are usually produced by small production houses and on top of that they often have familiar storylines that may not interest some people. That probably explains why most people watch foreign films more than locally produced ones.

Another significant reason for watching foreign films is that people are curious to know about foreign lifestyles and culture. Today, we do not belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. So, people are exposed to different cultures and watching foreign movies satiates their curiosity of knowing about them. Recently, I watched a Japanese movie, 'Okurobito' which means 'Departures' from which I learnt how the Japanese do the last rituals when a person dies. This movie fascinated me a lot and I came to know about Japanese traditions. Some people also watch Hollywood movies to learn English, which has become a global language and watching English movies is a good way to learn English.

I firmly believe that the government should invest in the local film industry. To begin with, films are the carrier of a country's culture. Supporting the local film industry will enable to spread its culture and this seems an essential approach to help a country be more powerful in the world. Secondly, the boom of this industry would, to a large extent, produce an increasing number of job positions and consequently, the unemployment rate in this country might substantially decrease, which will contribute to its economy. Recently, our Bollywood movies such as 'Dabang' and 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan' have done business worth crores and this has definitely boosted our economy.

Summing up, people watch foreign movies because of their better technology and to satisfy their curiosity of foreign culture. The government should definitely promote local film industry for spreading our culture and for boosting the economy.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons for the popularity of foreign films
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Why the government should support local film industry
Conclusion:

95. *Nowadays education quality is very low. Some people think we should encourage our students to evaluate and criticize their teachers. Others believe that it will result in a loss of respect and discipline in the classroom. Discuss on both sides.*

It is a highly debated issue whether students should evaluate their teachers after each course. Some people believe the system has many advantages to the students and the teachers. Others argue that it would lead to poor discipline in the classroom. Indeed, evaluation of teachers by students has both pros and cons.

There are many drawbacks in student assessment. First of all, students are very young and, compared with their teachers, are less knowledgeable both in theory and practice on a subject. Therefore, they are unable to evaluate their teachers' performance in a sound way. Secondly, student assessment would lead to poor discipline in the classroom. If each of the students is allowed to comment on the teacher's performance, then there would be chaos in the classroom. Thirdly, in order to gain a better evaluation, teachers would seek to please the students and not bother about the content of their lectures. This would harm the students' academic performance in the long run.

However, advocates of student assessment have their reasons. Firstly, this kind of feedback can be used to improve teachers' performance. Teaching methods can only be successful if they are student-centered. Therefore, listening to the students' constructive suggestions, teachers will have a better idea of what students' needs are and can then adjust their teaching to meet them. Secondly, the process of writing evaluations will help the students think in their own way independently. Students should be encouraged to learn by even challenging their teachers' thinking. Thirdly, it would help the administrators. Teachers who provide good educational services could be retained and others could be laid off. So, all teachers would strive to do their best. This would be a win-win situation for all.

In my opinion, student evaluations of teachers would be beneficial to both teachers and students. Of course, the evaluations must be done responsibly, but when the students feel that their views are important and are listened to, I think they will do their best to contribute to the improvement in education.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: - evaluation of teachers has both pros and cons.
Para 1: Disadvantages
Para 2: Advantages of evaluation and criticism of teachers by students.
Conclusion and own view: Evaluation of teachers by students has more pros than cons

96. *Development in technology causes environmental problems. Some people believe the solution in these problems is everyone accepts a simpler way of life, while others say that technology can solve these problems. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

It is irrefutable that progress in technology leads to environmental problems. Some individuals are of the opinion that if people live a simple life and do not use the things that technology has brought us then these problems can be solved, whereas others opine that only technology can solve these problems. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss both viewpoints. I, however, side with the latter view.

Some people say that if humans stop using technology and lead a simple way of life, then only we can save the environment. They argue that it is the luxuries people use, which damages the environment. If people don't use air conditioners, automobiles and other such things that technology has brought us, then naturally there would be less pollution and natural resources like fossil fuels would be saved and all this would save the environment.

On the other hand, there are people who say that technology alone could save the environment. They opine that now we have come so far ahead in technology that there is no going back. We cannot ask the people of the jet age to go back to the age of the bullock cart.

There are a lot of advances going on in technology, which are helping the environment a lot. One prime example is finding solutions to water problems in developing countries such as Africa. Here, desalination plants have been set up to get clean drinking water from sea water – an almost inexhaustible resource. Furthermore, Japan is working to build a working space solar power system by 2030. By drawing on the colossal energy of the sun, it could meet the entire world's electricity requirements indefinitely without nuclear or GHG emissions. If successful, the impact on the world would be monumental. It would mean energy for schools, hospitals, and homes. It would mean another industrial revolution.

Summing up, technology alone can solve the world's environmental problems. We are finally entering an era where engineering and technology are making the world a better place. It would be highly unpractical to ask people to adopt a simpler way of life.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why some people opine that we should adopt simpler ways of life
Para 2: Why some people say technology alone can help
Para 3: Some examples of how technology is helping us
Conclusion:

97. *Governments should focus their spending on public services rather than on arts such as Music and Painting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Some people argue that arts like painting and music fail to directly improve people's quality of life and consequently government should allocate money on other things like infrastructures to promote people's quality of life. However, I disagree with this view. In this essay, I will explain why I think that arts, such as music and painting, is as essential for people as other public services.

The advantages of spending money on arts cannot be overlooked. The arts clearly make people's lives better. To begin with, the arts give us immense joy and relaxation. Consider listening to a beautiful song sitting on the sofa after a whole day's work; it really relieves the tiredness and we feel rejuvenated. Paintings, photographs and other pictures add color to our lives and often inspire people to create works of art of their own. I am not only thinking of artistic works produced by renowned artists, but also those produced by children for their parents to attach to refrigerators using magnets.

Furthermore, the arts like music and painting are part of our culture and give identity to the country. Arts also bring people together. By appreciating arts, individuals from different parts of the nation could feel connected and related. Moreover, arts like music and painting can help us express our emotions. It is a basic human need to be able to express themselves. Art is what differentiates us from animals. As humans, most of us need an outlet for our creative and emotional needs and the best way to express this is through arts like music and painting.

Many people feel that the government should spend money only on certain things, such as defense, health and education. Whilst I agree that these things are important, I think that governments should be able to find a little money to spend on arts, not only because they raise our quality of life, but because they can remind us of our heritage and show the world what kind of a country and people we are.

To sum up, our government is responsible for improving the quality of people's lives both physically and spiritually, therefore proper amount of money should be allocated wisely on arts. Only by this can we progress our society in a more balanced and more sustainable way.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Benefits of arts
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Opponents view
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

98. *The number of TV programs is growing day by day. Some people say that it is good as it gives people more choices, while others say it affects the quality of TV programs. Discuss both and give your opinion.*

Television has become the most pervasive of all media, and there is no doubt that the number of TV programs has also grown by leaps and bounds in the last one to two decades. Some individuals opine that this situation is good as it gives us a plethora of choices, whereas others believe that this is leading to a deterioration of the quality of TV programs. This essay intends to look into both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

On the one hand, people have a lot of choices because of too many TV programs. For example, if we look at the number of daily soaps, there are quite a few running on many different channels and people can select any one or two according to their taste. Even the reality shows related to music, dance, adventure and many other things are also far too many and people watch whichever they can relate to or whichever they are interested in.

Secondly, some reality shows have given an opportunity to the common man with talent to come forward and show his talent to the world. For instance, in recent years, singing contest programs such as 'Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa' and Indian Idol have uncovered many talented singers. This, is definitely a good practice for the Indian TV.

On the other hand, it is indubitable that there are too many such talent shows on television, which are similar in concept as well as content. Fierce competition between satellite channels for audience ratings has led to a large number of copycat programs. The excessive production of such programs that are quite similar to each other is a huge waste of resources and a waste of audience time. To exemplify, since the overwhelming success of Sony TV's 'Indian Idol' in 2005, talent shows have hit major TV stations across India. These programs have attracted a large number of viewers. However, at the same time, the similarity of such shows has made TV quite inanimate. Vitality of the cultural industry comes from originality and creativity. Program producers must realize that people need a richer and varied choice.

Furthermore, too many programs have resulted in choice overload. It is virtually impossible to keep up with everything that's worth watching, and at some point, viewers need to decide what they have to watch and what they can ignore. Even the popular programs may not always be on top, and they might gradually become paltering while quality declines.

To sum up, even though there are choices because of an abundance of TV programs, an excess of TV programs is definitely not good. We need fewer, quality programs, which make our leisure time worthwhile.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Advantage of many programs
Para2: More advantage
Para 3: Disadvantage
Para 4: Another disadvantage

99. *Figures show that some countries have an ever-increasing proportion of the population who are aged 15 or younger. What do you think are the current and future effects of this trend for those countries?*

Some demographic surveys have shown that the proportions of young people are rising rapidly. This may be because of any reasons such as illiteracy and poverty or wars or any other reasons. This essay shall delve into the immediate and long-term outcomes of this trend on those countries.

The most important current impact of such a trend would be on the national economy. For instance, goods and services would need to be imported, which would lead to an unstable economy. In addition to the effects on economy, there would be social implications also. The young population has lot of energy, which must be channelized in the right direction, or it would lead to crime and violence in society. The government will have to invest a lot on educational institutes, as more children need more schools and colleges. In addition more spending on health would also be needed.

If careful management of such a situation is done by the government, for instance, by providing good education and health facilities, then the future outcomes could be quite positive. The long-term result would be that the education and health infrastructure would be well developed. The society would be younger and more vibrant. The culture of those countries would be more fast-paced than the traditional culture.

However, in case the present time is not managed nicely, then the future effect would be different as there would be more people within the country needing employment. Then there might arise the problem of unemployment. Unemployment invariably leads to petty crime and violence.

Summing up, the long-term effects of having more young people, depends on how the situation is handled today. If handled well, the culture and lifestyle of these countries would be transformed if the population would be younger. Fresh opportunities and challenges would both be on the way. The trend would cause multiple possible effects and these countries should strengthen the education and health infrastructure to overcome its negative influence.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Current effects on economy and society
Para 2: Future effects on society if today is handled well
Para 3: Future effects if careful management is not done today
Conclusion:

100. In some countries, more and more adults are living with their parents after graduating from college, university, or even after finding a job. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

It is irrefutable that the economies are struggling all over the world. As a result, the youth of today is finding it very difficult to find good employment and become financially independent. This has consequently led to an increase in the number of adult children returning home to live with their parents. I believe that the advantages of children staying with parents, after completing their college or university education, are more than the disadvantages. I will put forth my views in the upcoming paragraphs.

The first and foremost advantage of working adult children staying at home is that they contribute towards the household income and share the expenses. This reduces the burden on the earning members of the family. Not only this, it also helps them reduce their own expenses and helps them save money. Rather than struggling to pay rents and take care of other expenses, they can invest money or save money for future home.

Furthermore, there is a better bonding and stronger family ties in a family that stays together. Even though life has become hectic and there is not enough time to spend with family and friends, it is very comforting to know that there is someone at home that they can share their problems with. This helps them deal better with stressful situations in life and at work. It is also said that if children stay longer with their parents, they are more likely to support and take care of their parents in old age, due to the strong family bonds.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages as well, which cannot be overlooked. Living with the parents after completing their education, may make the children more dependent, rather than independent. They depend on someone to do the daily chores, like washing clothes, cooking food, cleaning dishes, and so on. They might not also become financially responsible. Also, if the parents have a retirement plan, they have to put it on hold, till the time the children are staying at home.

To sum up, it can be said that living at home can be very beneficial for both the adult children and the parents, provided the children contribute towards the household resources, in terms of expenses and sharing work at home.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Advantages more than disadvantages
Para 1: Economic benefits
Para 2: Better family ties
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

101. How important is it for individuals and countries to think about the future, rather than to focus on the present?

It is pivotal to keep the future in mind and not fritter away everything to enjoy the present. One should always remember that the present would one day transform into the future, and when it eventually does, it should be safe and secure. The same holds true for nations. This essay shall discuss, why it is so important to be prepared for the coming time.

The most important reason to keep the future in mind is that the mortality rate has come down and the span of life is generally longer, but the period of earning is comparatively limited. Nobody knows how long he would live, but the age of retirement is generally fixed. One cannot work indefinitely. Therefore, during one's earning span, one has to put aside enough money for the later years, when it will be impossible to work any more. Further, the requirements in old age are sometimes more than a person's needs during the period of his youth. Deteriorating health translates into higher medical bills and hospital charges. Being weak and infirm, one needs to spend more on commuting. He will need to hire assistants to help in the house.

Next come the needs of the family. One has to provide for the education and marriage expenses of the dependent members of the family, like children and even grandchildren. One has to pay one's insurance premiums, and even for the day-to-day needs of the younger members of the family, till such time as they are employed and earning. Moreover, one may incur extra expenditure on leisure activities. People generally travel more after retirement to meet their relatives and friends who may be settled and staying far away from them. There would also be the usual expenses on house maintenance and repair, and the payment of personal and property taxes.

The countries should also think about tomorrow. Cities should be planned nicely. Good educational institutes and health centres should be there in all areas. If only today is looked into and no planning is done for tomorrow then crime and violence would increase in society and everyone would suffer. Relations with other countries should also be maintained. After all we all live in a well-connected global village today.

To sum up, it is imperative that people and countries plan wisely for the future. If one has saved enough, one can sit back and enjoy peace and comfort in one's later years and even witness the smile of joy on the faces of one's children. If he has saved not, then the journey ahead would be painful indeed.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: How saving money is important for one's own needs in future
Para 2: How saving money is important for one's family in future
- *More time for leisure in old age so more money needed*

Para 3: Why countries should think about tomorrow
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

102. Young people who commit serious crimes should be punished in the same way as adults. Do you agree or disagree?

The rising crime among youth has led to the debate whether they should be tried in court as adults or treated differently because of their age. The reasoning given is, 'old enough to do the crime, old enough to do the time.' However, I do not agree with this policy. I believe that trying juveniles in criminal court may actually result in bigger problems.

Firstly, although adolescents are old enough to understand the difference between right and wrong, they are too young to make the right choices yet. The teenage brain can be likened to a car with a good accelerator but a weak brake. Studies have shown that adolescents are more likely to act on impulse and engage in risky behavior. They are less likely to think before they act, or pause to consider the potential consequences of their actions. These brain differences don't mean that they shouldn't be held responsible for their actions. It just means that they should be sent to juvenile courts and put in reformatory schools, so that they get a chance to realize their mistakes and become good citizens.

Secondly, if tried in an adult court, they may even be sent in prison. As you all know, adult prisons are very harsh. These prisons expose these young kids to hardened criminals who may act as professors of crime for them. Statistics show that juveniles tried and prosecuted in adult courts are more likely to re-offend than those who were tried in juvenile court.

There are people who opine that a young person who does a serious crime knows very well that what he is doing is wrong and so should be held responsible for his actions. There were heated debates on this topic, when in August 2013, a juvenile court in India sentenced the boy to three years detention in a juvenile home after finding him guilty of charges including rape and murder. Another big question was raised in those debates regarding the official age when a person steps into adulthood. In most countries it is 18, but, is proposed to be brought down to 15, which sounds more practical.

To sum up, children can and do or commit terrible crimes, and it is true that the reform and rehabilitation of child offenders under the juvenile justice system is not only in the best interests of children, but also the short and long-term interests of society. So, juvenile delinquents should not be punished like adults. However, the age for defining adulthood could be brought down slightly.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Opposing view
Conclusion

103. News media is important in our society. Why is it so important? Do you think its influence is generally positive or negative?

News media is indeed very significant nowadays. This is because without the news media we would be totally in the dark and cut off from the rest of the world. Its impact is largely positive, although there is a negative side of the news media as well.

There are many benefits of media. To begin with, the usefulness of the media in almost instantly providing information about events around the world is undeniable. It is because of the media, that today we don't belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. Furthermore, media also shapes our opinions. It is a link between the government and the people. Our conceptions of our elected officials spring from television images and newspaper stories. Most of us will never meet prime ministers or presidents, but anyone who is regularly exposed to the media will know about them. When it is time to cast our vote, we make our decision based on the media coverage of candidates.

The media are also influential in the way they facilitate the spread of culture and lifestyle. Today, the popularity of Indian culture is an example of the media's enormous impact. It is the media, which highlights the good points of our own culture through programs such as 'India's got Talent'. What is more, the reality shows of today have given exposure and fame to the common man with talent today. Indeed, with technological advancements such as the Internet bringing even more forms of electronic media to our homes and workplaces, it is likely that media's influence will grow even stronger. Finally, the media also helps in providing justice to the common man. Who has not heard of the Jessica murder case and the case of Nithari killings? Were it not for the media, Jessica's parents would have never got justice.

On the other hand, the media too has its downside. The paparazzi can invade the privacy of famous people. Sometimes violence and vulgarity is shown, and at times it can shape our opinion in negative ways. For that my counter argument is that once the person becomes famous then his private life becomes public and he has no right to crib about the paparazzi. Moreover, people can choose what they want to see and technology has provided them the tools to block those channels, which they don't want their children to see. Finally, God has given us brains to judge what is right or wrong. The media is just doing its job by providing us with the latest information.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the influence of media on our lives is largely positive.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Positive side of media
Para 2: More positives of media
Para 3: negative side of media
Conclusion:

104. Many animal species in the world are becoming extinct nowadays. Some people say that countries and individuals should protect these animals from dying out, while others say we should concentrate more on problems of human beings. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

In the past few decades, animal extinction has become rampant because of human activity. Therefore, some people opine that it is imperative to save these dying species, whereas others believe in focusing more on human problems. This essay shall look into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

Conserving endangered species is essential, as they are part of our ecological chain. The removal of a single species can set off a chain reaction affecting many others. For example, the gray wolf was once on the verge of extinction, but has now been restored to Yellowstone National Park. These grey wolves control the growing population of elk, which had been over consuming the trees that grew along streams. These trees are now cooling the stream water, which is benefitting native trout. These trees are also the habitat for migratory birds. Beavers now have willow branches to eat, and beaver dams create marshland habitat for otters, mink, and ducks. So, it can be seen that saving one species has led to benefit many other species, which would have otherwise also gone into extinction.

Another benefit of conserving endangered animals is their contribution to the field of medicine. Each living thing contains a unique reservoir of genetic material that cannot be retrieved or duplicated if lost. More than a quarter of all prescriptions written annually in the United States contain chemicals discovered in plants and animals.

Furthermore, many species of animals are benefitting agriculture. Farmers are using insects and other animals that prey on certain crop pests, as well as using plants containing natural-toxins that repel harmful insects. They are a safe, effective, and less expensive alternative to synthetic chemicals. Therefore, each and every species has its own unique value and so should be saved.

On the other hand, in some nations, especially developing countries, human beings are still suffering from poverty, famine, epidemics and natural disasters. If the limited government budget is allocated to animal conservation, many people will face huge difficulty making a living. Therefore, many people believe that protecting basic human rights should be the top priority of these countries.

In conclusion, protecting wildlife is of great significance, as it is a vital cornerstone of the survival and future development of mankind. However, the funds allocated for animal conservation should not come at the cost of basic needs of humans.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of conservation
Para 2: more advantages of conservation
Para 3: more advantages of conservation
Para 4: other view

105. Some people say 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.

People are divided on the issue of rewarding students for academic achievements. Some support the idea of rewarding pupils who are the toppers, whereas others opine that it is better to reward those who show major improvements. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, opine in encouraging both categories of students with rewards.

There are several reasons, why the students with the best academic performance should be granted an incentive. The core of this argument is that rewarding them will motivate all other students to study hard and achieve the best results. Exams are like a competition, and the winners deserve to be recognized.

However, it's undeniable that in the same class, there are various student levels. The toppers are very few, and are in most cases capable of working hard as well as doing smart study. They know how much effort is required in which areas. All students are not so gifted. The mediocre students, despite spending lots of time and effort, are still incapable of competing with those having higher IQ. Therefore, it is imperative to acknowledge their effort also. The policy of rewarding them would encourage a wide range of students who persevere and make improvements in their results.

I believe that encouraging all achievers is a must. The achievement of the toppers, is visible to all, and should be remunerated with reward. However, the onus is on the teachers to identify the students who show the maximum improvements and encourage them by bringing them into the limelight. For example, if a student gets 40% marks in first trimester exams, but manages to reach 60-70% in second trimester, then he should be given due recognition for his hard work. This would be a better motivation for a wider group of students.

To conclude, it is necessary to reward all achievers – the toppers, as well as the ones showing good progress in their study.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: benefits of rewarding toppers
Para 2: benefits of rewarding those who show progress
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

106. Some people believe that studying literature is important for individual character building while others think it is a waste of time. Discuss both points of view and provide your own opinion.

Broadly speaking, "literature" is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. People are divided on the issue of the importance of study of literature. Some say that it is worthwhile to study literature, whereas others are opposed to its study. This essay shall look into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The most important advantage of the study of literature is that it has cultural value. Cultures are built on stories, which may be historical, mythical or religious. Historical stories, allow us to learn about history in an easier way. The stories told in works of literature illustrate how it would feel to live through famous battles, famines, times of prosperity and times of depression. For example, a book 'Pinjar" by Amrita Pritam, can help us understand what women faced when India was going through the freedom struggle.

The second advantage of the study of literature is that it expands our horizons. When we read a piece of literature, we get to read about a life experience through the eyes of someone other than ourselves. We get to walk in the shoes of a character whose life is different than our own. Such reading offers us the opportunity to feel the feelings of the characters described, allowing us to understand things through a fictional world.

Last but not least, literature expands our vocabulary. Having a large and wide-ranging vocabulary is essential for a number of reasons. The larger our vocabulary is, the more in depth and thoughtful discussions we can have on important topics and issues, both in and outside of the classroom. The best way to become exposed to new words, is to read. Due to the descriptive nature of a story, any novel will include plenty of words we have perhaps never seen or heard before. When we see those words in context, we learning their meanings passively and don't have to work hard on learning them. We probably don't even realize we are building our vocabulary.

On the other hand, there is a school of thought that the study of literature has little or no utilitarian value. Those people opine that studying the practical skills such as business and technical education is what is needed in today's era. We belong to a time when there is cut throat competition, and so students should not waste time on the study of literature. They should focus on subjects, which would help them earn a better livelihood today.

To sum up, the study of literature is very essential even in the practical world of today. We need to study literature to understand the world and its people better.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Introduction:
Para 1: Reason for study of literature
Para 2: Another reason
Para 3: Another reason
Para 4: The other view
Conclusion:

107. Some people think that children should obey rules or do what their parents and teachers want them to do, but others think that children controlled too much cannot deal with problems well by themselves. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Young children are beginners. They have lots to learn and one of the biggest lessons they must learn is how to behave or act in an acceptable manner. So, they need rules. When young children have rules, they know what is expected of them. However, the extent to which children have to follow rules is a very sensitive issue. In this essay I shall discuss the benefits of imposing rules on children and the negative consequences of having too much restriction.

Firstly, rules of behaviour create responsible and respectful children who in turn mature into respectful adults. They know the value of respect for elders. They know the importance of relationships. They know about their cultural values as well. This forms a stable society, which is virtually free from vices such as prostitution and drug abuse. It would be wrong to say that having rules mars the problem solving ability of children. They, in fact, face difficulties in a more mature and disciplined way. They are not lured by peer pressure and refrain from acting on impulse.

However, if too strict rules are imposed on children then they may become rebels. They may start doing just the opposite of what is told them to do. What is more, they may show abnormal behaviour. They may fall into bad company or resort to drugs because of frustration. Finally, imposing too strict rules destroys the individuality of children. They may withdraw into a shell. This may suppress their creativity and as a consequence, they may not be able to deal with problems well by themselves.

What is important is that parents and teachers should learn where rules are needed and where it is necessary to give room to the children. Having absolutely no rules and letting children do whatever they wish to do would also be wrong. They are not mature enough to solve all problems and they have to be taught their limits.

To conclude, parents and teachers should impose rules on children but they should know where to draw the line. They should be flexible and modify the rules according to the circumstances.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Importance of having rules
Para 2: if too strict rules are imposed on children then
Para 3: parents and teachers should learn where rules are needed and where it is necessary to give room to the children
Conclusion:

108. Nowadays, older people who need employment have to compete with younger people. What problems does this cause and what are the solutions.

It is undeniable that a growing number of young adults are faced with increasing competition from the elderly in the workplace. This essay will endeavor to explore the negative effects caused by this hot competition between the young and the old job-seekers, and then present some suggestions to alleviate these potential problems.

The most troubling effect would be on the young, unemployed graduates, who may feel unmotivated and frustrated. Senior job candidates have rich experience, and therefore they tend to outshine young adults. Young employees are relatively restricted in terms of work experience and communication skills, because of which employers prefer to recruit older people with higher working efficiency rather than those who have just graduated from the university. Without a decent job and salary, it is extremely difficult for young people to make a living, as a consequence of which, some of them might resort to crime to fulfil their desires.

Another negative implication could be on the senior workers. They might find it daunting to keep up with the latest advancements in technology. In manufacturing industry, for example, the use of advanced machines is quite common. But, how to operate the equipment could be a tough challenge for older workers, whereas it may be simple and easy for their younger counterparts. Therefore, the elderly employees might suffer both physically and psychologically, even if they secure reasonable jobs. Finally, if senior employees constitute the largest proportion of the company's staff, then, it could lead to a decline of productivity and efficiency of the enterprise.

These problems can certainly be solved. Considering the severity of this problem, it is imperative for the government to encourage self-employment for fresh graduates, so that young people still have huge room for employment even though they are eliminated by the job competition. Governments should encourage businesses to create more jobs for less experienced young employees who will then have the opportunity to accumulate experience. Further, the governments should allocate more money to pension system, which can basically guarantee the basic needs of most elders, so that they do not have to look for jobs. At the individual level, the elderly should plan ahead for their retirement and enjoy their retired life, instead of competing for the limited job vacancies. This would be a win-win option both for the aged and the young.

To sum up, competition between both age groups for the jobs will continue to be more intense, but some steps at government and individual level can help to lessen the severity of the situation.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para1: Problems to youth
Para 2: Problems to elderly and companies
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

109. *Some people say the most important thing about being rich is that it gives you the opportunity to give back or help the poor. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

It is indubitable that money is very important for helping others. However, I disagree with the given statement that it is the most essential thing in terms of a chance to help the needy. I believe that there are numerous ways of helping the underprivileged, and monetary aid is certainly not the best forms of aid.

My first argument to support my viewpoint is that giving money to the poor would be a very shortsighted approach. It would satiate their needs for some time, but ultimately they have to be made capable of standing on their own. Providing education and job training is better way of helping them. For example, my friend's mother, teaches children of the slum area every evening. She is herself not very rich, but she is helping in better ways than money can do.

Secondly, it is not always the financial help, which is needed by people. A timely helping hand when a person is suffering is better than helping with money. For instance, in natural calamities, such as earthquakes and floods, the immediate need of people is food and medical care. Many college students volunteered to carry food and medicines to the needy, when there was a flood in some areas of Punjab, a few years ago. Fresh medical graduates also went and stayed there and helped people with immediate medical care. In times of crises, such help outstrips any help that money can provide.

Opponents would argue that only the rich are in a position to help the poor, as people need money for even the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. Even providing education and job training to the destitute, needs money. They have a point, but I still believe that the help in terms of personal effort provided by those who are, themselves, not so affluent is equally good.

To sum up, if one is rich, he is in a better situation to help others who need money and all the things which money can provide. However, I reiterate my view by saying that to help others, one need not be rich as help can be provided in many better ways than with money.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Monetary help is short sighted
Para 2: A timely help in terms of personal effort
Para 3: Opponents view
Conclusion:

110. Some people think that increasing communication usage of computers and mobile phones by young people has had a negative effect on their reading and writing skills. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I agree with the given statement, which says that modern communication technology is leading to the deterioration of reading and writing skills. I believe that both writing and reading skills have suffered a setback, due to computers and smart phones powered by the internet.

To begin with, modern day technology has an overall negative effect on students' writing skills because it encourages cyber slang. Cyber slang is a term used to describe shortcuts, alternative words, or even symbols used to convey thoughts in an electronic document. This is because most digital media limit the number of characters a person can use at a time, students device ways to get the most out of their limited space. However, the problem arises when this slang finds its way into formal writing. For example, abbreviations, such as 'lol', 'C U L8R' and 'bcoz' seem OK when used on Facebook and Whatsapp, but are grossly wrong when used in school essays. Moreover, the autocorrect feature fixes their mistakes, so they don't even realize that they wrote something wrong. In future, this generation will need good, solid reading and writing skills in their jobs and professional lives, but they will find it difficult to get rid of these habits.

Secondly, due to technological development, reading habits are fast vanishing into thin air. Students now spend more hours browsing the net, playing games on their handsets and writing non-stop SMSs to their contacts. Reading a book or any other piece of written material has become an archaic idea for most school children and adults. Students are rarely interested in reading for pleasure and enjoyment instead they read only to pass examination. The declining interest in reading culture among our children, especially those in primary and secondary schools, is a cause for alarm. Unfortunately, reading is not a subject and is just regarded as a tool facilitating many other types of learning. Therefore, lack of reading culture among our youth nowadays, has greatly affected quality of graduates being produced. Consequently, the influence of electronic media on the reading habits of pupils has become an issue of concern.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the communication technology of today is definitely hampering the reading and writing skills. The onus is on the parents and teachers to teach children to teach children of today, the right ways to use this technology so that its negative effects are minimized.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: negative effects on writing
Para 2: negative effects on reading
Conclusion:

111. Some people think history has nothing or little to tell us, but others think that studying the past history can help us better understand the present. Please discuss the two views and give your own opinion.

History refers to all the things that happened in the past, especially the political, social, or economic development of a nation. Literally, everything, including a nation, a city, a town, a subject, a business, and even a product, has its unique history. Some individuals are of the opinion that studying the past history is useless today but others believe it is very essential to know history to better understand the present. I intend to discuss both sides of the argument in this essay. Personally, I side with the latter view.

Undoubtedly, the present is the continuation of the past. Therefore, studying the past history can enable us to better understand what is going on around us. For example, if we are equipped with relevant knowledge of history, it will be easier for us to understand the evolution of mankind. It would also tell us how we progressed and reached where we are today. We would also know how technology developed step by step. History can serve us as a guide because of which we would not repeat the mistakes of yesteryears. We also get inspiration from the great men of the past through history.

Those opposed to the study of history argue that the past was very different from the present, and we cannot apply that knowledge to the present. For example, they say that the French Revolution and the Freedom Struggle of India have no need to be learnt because those situations will never arise again. What they forget is that this knowledge makes us realize the importance of liberty and self-governance.

Opponents of the study of history also claim that history has nothing to do with professionals, such as architects and accountants. However, I believe they would be better in their professions if they know something about the history of architecture or that of accountancy. As a matter of fact, you are supposed to demonstrate some evidence of historical ability if you want to pursue almost any career.

To sum up, studying the past history can not only deepen and widen our knowledge, but also help us develop the power of analysis. Thus, we are able to look at what is happening at present from a historical perspective and better understanding. It has been rightly said by Cicero
"History is the witness of the times
The torch
The teacher of life
The life of memory
The messenger of antiquity"

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Importance of the study of history
Para 2: Views of those who say that history is not important
Para 3: Views of those who say that history is not important
Conclusion: Study of past history is very important

112. *Some people think sports and games are important for society, while others believe they should be taken as leisure activities. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

It was man's desire for a healthy pastime and a method of self evaluation and competition that gave birth to sports. Sports have been part of humanity from the earliest chapters of history. Some individuals are of the opinion that sports and games play a significant role in society whereas others say that they should be just taken as playtime activities. This essay intends to delve into both views. I personally side with the former view.

One important effect of sports on society is the fact that they draw people together. Whether it is members of a team, or fans rooting for a certain team, sports have always bonded people of different backgrounds together with a common goal. Even thousands of years before professional sports, sport events were places where people could gather and socialize with other people from the same city while they watched events. Even though times have changed since then, sports still have the same unifying effect over people.

Secondly, all positive traits for a healthy mind and a healthy persona can be gained from sports. People who do sports remain physically fit. Healthy people make a healthy society. People's work efficiency also increases and so it benefits the society as a whole. Sports also teach us how to handle failures with dignity, while enjoying victories to the maximum. Also, it trains people to handle crunch situations, where stress can try and pull them down. Sports can also be chosen as a career. Sportspersons are heroes of national and regional importance who are looked up to. They are role models for many and are imperative people who do the nation proud throughout the world.

On the other hand, there are people who assert that sports should be only taken as leisure activities. Sports should only play the role of stress-buster. They believe that when and commercialization comes into sports, then a win-at-all-cost attitude also comes up which does more harm than good to the society. Players resort to unethical means to win such as taking steroids or even harming the opponents in any way. Moreover, if sports are taken too seriously, then supporters of the losing team resort to hooliganism. Who can forget the Heysel disaster of 1985, in which Liverpool fans charged at rival Juventus supporters, which caused a wall to collapse, resulting in 39 casualties.

To sum up, sports have a great role to play for societies, but we should not let the ugly claws of commercialism creep into the field of sports.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro:
Para 1: Importance of sports for society
Para 2: More importance
Para 3: Why some people say sports should be taken as recreational activities
Conclusion:

113. *Some people believe famous people's support towards International aid organizations draws the attentions to problems, whereas others think celebrities make the problems less important. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.*

Charity organizations are responsible for aiding the needy and taking care of the victims of natural disasters. Some individuals are of the opinion that if celebrities provide assistance to global charity organisations, people become more attentive towards these issues, whereas others believe that celebs can lessen the severity of the situation. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

It is irrefutable that international charity groups can get publicity through celebrities. Famous singers, movie stars and sports professionals can endorse the activities or campaigns of international charity organisations. If the stars advocate for charitable organizations, these charities attract more people to participate. Stars enhance the reputation and credibility of the charities.

Furthermore, when celebrities are called upon for helping NPOs (Non-Profit Organisations) or Charities, they themselves become aware of these problems, and themselves too come forward in donating for such causes. Their selfless donation could fulfil their social responsibilities towards the have-nots and consequently bring their own self a great sense of satisfaction.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that in some instances, celebrities can cause more harm than good because of their bad reputation. For example, some celebs take part in charity work just to improve their image. This can make the messenger (celeb), more important than the message. For example, if some stars are doing publicity for the anti-drug organization, but they themselves have their own history of drug use or crime, then obviously the public would look at that charity with suspicion. Secondly, sometimes, when the famous people are seen working for some charity then people start thinking that enough is already being done, and that their help is not needed. This can be detrimental in the long run.

To summarise, international aid organizations can attract more citizens' attention on problems if celebrities give the right support and set up good images. I believe that all famous people should do their utmost to fulfill their social obligations, to do some public service activities for those charity organizations, which can be an effective way to serve this purpose.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: How celebs can help
Para 2: How celebs can help
Para 3: How celebs can harm
Conclusion:

114. Some people think that the government should establish free libraries in each town. Others believe that it is a waste of money since people can access the Internet at home to obtain information. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Some individuals opine that the public should be provided free libraries, whereas others say that these days access to the Internet can provide all kinds of information and so we can do without free libraries. This essay shall look at both viewpoints. However, I personally believe that to enhance the quality of life, it is better to make the most of both - modern web-based and traditional library resources.

In today's era of modernization, the advantages of using the Internet are only too obvious. Online resources can be obtained from all over the world 24 hours a day, seven days a week, while a library's publications cannot provide up-to-minute information, the way the web sites can. Some sites feature rare books, documents and special collections that traditionally have been only available in libraries. Almost at no cost and merely a few clicks away, the public can read newspapers, magazines, journals and encyclopedias, no matter when or where. Furthermore, the Internet offers a complete multimedia experience such as texts, video, audio, and graphics, all at once, but such advantages often cannot be expected from town libraries.

On the other hand, money spent on public libraries is certainly worth it. To start with, knowledgeable librarians can be of practical help when it comes to offering professional advice about where to find information on particular topics. Now that anyone can create a web site, reliability of information on the Internet is not guaranteed, and as such there are cases in which the Internet is no substitute for the library. Secondly, libraries can house printed copies that date back many decades, whereas the Internet provides the current information only. In addition, computers in libraries also offer free Internet connection and other electronic resources, which all people may not have in their homes to access the Internet.

Furthermore, libraries are places, which provide the ambience to sit and study; an atmosphere is created where one feels like studying. Such places are needed to increase the reading habits among the youth of today. Additionally, the elderly, who are not so tech-savvy, can come and sit there to satiate their hunger of knowledge. A variety of magazines and newspapers can be provided in a section of the library, so that people can keep abreast of what is happening all around.

To sum up, traditional libraries and virtual or online libraries should complement each other. We cannot do away with libraries just because of the online resources available today.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: Importance of Internet for getting information
Para 2: Importance of traditional libraries
Para 3: More importance
Conclusion:

115. *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 centers provide the best care. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

It is irrefutable that both parents are working nowadays, and as a result children have to be raised by either child-care centres or grandparents. This essay intends to compare both options. I, however, believe that day-care centres are better than grandparents for the pre-school years of children.

To begin with, most parents choose to leave their children with grandparents for 'positive' reasons, such as the 'caring environment' rather than simply because they can't afford formal childcare. Looking after the grandchildren also keeps the grandparents energetic and vibrant. Grandparents bathe, feed and even read books to the child. This leads to a sort of symbiotic relation in which both grandparents and grandchildren are benefited. In other words we can say that it is a win-win situation for both. Grandparents don't suffer from loneliness and depression, which is very common at that age and children are also well looked after.

Day-care centres, on the other hand, have an edge over care given by grandparents in many ways. A study found that grandparents may struggle to provide the educational and social experiences infants need. Children looked after by grandparents at the age of nine months were considered to be less sociable with other children at age three than those who had been in a child-care centre.

Moreover, grandparents can make terrible child-care providers if they're in poor health and feel forced to provide childcare to their grandchildren because their children seem to have few other options. In such cases, the results can be nothing short of disastrous. Early childcare is a challenge, which may be simply too much for some grandparents to cope with, at this point in their lives.

To sum up, although grandparental care is good in many ways for grandchildren, the advantages of day-care centres are more than those brought about by grandparents.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of grandparents looking after grandchildren
Para 2: adv of day care centres over disadvantages of grandparental care
Para 3: Disadvantages of grandparents
Conclusion: Day-care centres are better

116. *As housing is a basic need for people, governments should provide free housing for everyone who can't afford it. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Homelessness is a big problem faced by the developing and under-developed countries. However, I do not agree that the governments have the obligation to provide free homes to everyone, as it would not be a practical and sustainable solution to homelessness and would ire the taxpayers. I would like to support my opinion with my arguments in the following paragraphs.

First of all, if government started providing homes to all the people, it would imbalance the economy. The government has so much on its shoulders. Providing basic education and healthcare and maintaining other infrastructure of the country, is also the onus of the government. Moreover, the taxpayers would not be happy about it as their money, which they pay as taxes, would be helping some people who may be unemployed just to get government benefits. If people knew they would get free housing, they would stop working hard and become complacent. Such a policy would not be good for the economy of any country.

The government should provide free housing only if homelessness is because of its inefficiency. It is a well-known fact that the economy of any country depends on internal and external factors. A government can be held responsible for the internal conflicts that might be causing homelessness. However, no government in the world can effectively control external affairs. For example, a lot of people lost jobs due to the economic crisis in 2008. Consequently, they became homeless. In fact, the US recession caused job loss in countries like India and China. It affected India's booming outsourcing industry. And because it was an external factor, the government in India couldn't be held responsible for this situation. So, it is not possible for any government to provide free housing to one and all.

Undoubtedly, it is the responsibility of the governments to improve the living standards of the poorer sections of the society. In India, for example, the government has launched several schemes to provide housing and employment to people. Although the country still faces these problems, the situation has considerably improved in recent years. This is a clear indication that political willpower and proper governance can improve the economic status of a country and its people.

To sum up, it is difficult for governments to provide free housing to all its citizens. Of course, the governments have a role to play in easing the problem of homelessness, but cannot, and should not provide free housing to all.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I do not agree
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: In which case should the government provide free housing
Para 2: how good governance can help ease the situation
Conclusion:

117. Today, the life expectancy of people is much higher than before. Some people think that older people should continue to be involved in the workforce. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (Agree)

It is irrefutable that average lifespan of human beings has increased with the advancement in medicine, leading to new discoveries and treatments, every day. I agree with the given statement that the elderly people should continue to work till a later age. I shall support my point of view in the upcoming paragraphs.

Firstly, looking at it from a country's economic point of view, increasing the retirement age will help decrease the government's burden on providing benefits for the elderly. For developing countries this is very beneficial, as the workforce will contribute towards the country's economy and the government will need to spend lesser on providing the retirement benefits to the senior citizens, such as senior citizen discounts, healthcare benefits, travel benefits, etc.

Moreover, working till a later age will be very beneficial to the elderly, at an individual level. They will not need to depend on anyone for their needs. Also, they'll be busy and involved in work, which will help tackle the old-age problems of loneliness and depression. These days the family members do not have the time to spend with the old members of the family, which leads the elderly to feel isolated. Increasing the retirement age will, to a great extent, reduce this problem.

The opponents of this view believe that the old are not physically fit for much of the stressful work. Some also say that since they have worked all their lives, it's the time for them to enjoy the later years of life, away from the pressures of work. I, however, believe that to enjoy in the later years too, money is needed. So, even if they work for fewer hours, it is a necessity.

Overall, a increase in the retirement age, will benefit the country, society as well as individuals. Voluntary retirement offers can be set up for those who wish to retire early, due to their health or other circumstances.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Benefit
Para2: Benefit
Para3: Opponents' view
Conclusion

118. Today, the life expectancy of people is much higher than before. Some people think that older people should continue to be involved in the workforce. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (Disagree)

It is true that longevity has led to an increase in the ability of people to work for longer years. On the face of it, increasing the retirement age seems to be a logical outcome of the increase in the lifespan. However, I disagree with the statement that older people should continue to be a part of the workforce. I shall support my point of view in the following paragraphs.

The proponents of this view suggest that if we can live longer, we can work longer. No doubt people are living longer than in the past times, due to the advancement in the discoveries in medicine, however, after a certain age the physical capability of a human reduces. Also, many people suffer from health ailments. That is the time they need to relax and enjoy, after working for decades. They should be utilizing that time in travelling and pursuing their interests and hobbies, which they couldn't because of their hectic work life.

Moreover, those who work throughout their lives in physically demanding and challenging jobs, it might not be possible for them to work in old age. Also, some studies have shown that the increase in life expectancy has a direct relation with the income. Those who earn well are healthier than the low paid workers. This is because the better salaried people normally do not have physically demanding jobs and can afford better treatments.

Another major disadvantage of increasing the retirement age is an increase in the unemployed youth. Unemployment among the younger population leads to bigger problems, like increase in the crime rate, violent behavior, drug addiction, and so on. That is a bigger menace, which needs to be curbed before it goes out of control. Increasing the retirement age will definitely not help with the issue of unemployment of the youth. In fact, it will only worsen it, especially in developing countries, like India and China.

In conclusion, an increase in the retirement age should not be made without careful consideration of what consequences it might have on the future generations and the entire workforce of the nation. Considering that the youth is the future of any nation, an increase in the older workforce is definitely not a good solution to any country's economic and social problems.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Proponents view
Para2: Disadvantage
Para3: Disadvantage
Conclusion

119. *Some countries pay extremely high salaries for people. Some people believe that the country must not do that and make a limit for the salaries. Do you agree or disagree?*

Wealth inequality is a problem faced by many countries across the world. This is because a few people get astronomically high salaries. Therefore, some people say that there should be an upper limit on the salaries. I, however, disagree with this notion. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, I believe that those who are the top have achieved that place with their effort and so they deserve what they are getting. Wealth is not the culprit. There should be no negative associations with the word wealth in the context of people having it. The current President of United Stated, Barack Obama is a typical example of a person who has achieved his dream. He succeeded in transcending his social class, his race etc. and became the president of United States. Thus capitalism provides everyone with a fair chance to reach great achievements in their life if they seize the opportunities.

Secondly, it is the people who decide the high salaries of a select few. For example, let us presume that many people want to see high quality cricket. So, a person like Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has a talent for cricket and has honed his cricket skills, would be much in demand. People would be ready to pay for the service he offers (excellent cricket) and consequently his high wage will be justified. On the other hand a mediocre cricket player would not be paid at all since there is no demand to see mediocre cricket.

Finally, this discrepancy in salaries ultimately benefits the whole society. The strongest motivational force, a human being can feel towards work, is a potential reward for their efforts. Therefore, those who work hard and contribute most to society should justly also gain the most in form of increased wealth. If those who work will benefit equally as the ones who do not, there will be no reason to work and the overall productivity will be lowered, which is bad for society. Incentives are therefore necessary since it increases the overall standard for the whole society in form of material wealth. Even the worst off may benefit more than they would have, if the productivity had been low e.g. through charities etc.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that the extremely high salaries are justified and there should not be a limit on it. A system which, values individuality, rewards ability and risk-taking, ultimately prospers. Poverty and social dysfunction cannot be fixed by taking from the haves to give to the have-nots. To improve the situation, the poor must be motivated to work hard and do something.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First argument
Para 2: second argument
Para 3: Third argument
Conclusion

120. A large amount of advertisements nowadays are now targeted at children. Many people say this has negative effects on children and should therefore be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Advertisements are ubiquitous nowadays and especially advertising targeting children, who are considered vulnerable target by companies. Many people are worried about this phenomenon. However, we cannot ban advertisements because they serve a lot of useful purposes as well.

Admittedly, in sensitive areas such as the toy industry, some censorship should be there to limit children's access to excess advertisement. This is because children under a certain age lack abilities to make wise judgment as to what they really want. They are attracted by colourful pictures on advertisement and swayed by misleading information. So, they pester their parents to buy those things and this can upset the budget of many families. Even the advertisements of fast foods are bad for children. Children cannot understand that the slim-trim models advertising Mac Donalds burgers hardly ever eat such foods themselves. They are attracted to fast foods and these are very detrimental for their health. Finally, children try to copy the stunts, which can be disastrous for them.

On the other hand, advertising provides us with information on new products. If it were not for electronic and print advertising, many products would not be bought. In this way, advertising provides an important service to manufacturers and some consumers. Additionally, it fuels the advertising industry, creating jobs for thousands of people. In this respect it has become the backbone of many economies of the world.

Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, when Amitabh Bachhan tells people to bring their children for pulse polio immunization, people listen. Then there are ads against female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come. This is because through satellite TV we can see ads from all over the world. When we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the traditional clothes of Japan.

To conclude, it is imperative that regulations be imposed on advertisers who target children or who make false claims. However, advertisement is indispensable in this highly competitive market and produces much more positive effects than negative ones to the society as a whole. So, we should not ban advertisements.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro – We cannot ban adverts because they serve a lot of useful purposes as well.
Para 1 – Some people's view – bad ads
Para 2 – Good points
Para 3 – More good points
Conclusion:

121. *The use of mobile phone is as antisocial as smoking. Smoking is banned in certain places and so mobile phones should also be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

Although smoking and the nuisance of mobile phones are both antisocial activities, I disagree with a ban on cell phones. I believe that smoking does not have any good side to it and therefore, its ban is justified, whereas the cell phone has its own set of advantages and so should not be banned.

To begin with, smoking causes harm to the smoker as well as the non-smoker who is in the propinquity of the smoker. Studies have proven that the passive smoker is even more at risk of lung cancer than the active smoker. This is because he inhales the second-hand smoke, emitted by the smoker. Similarly, in public places, the cell phone can distract other people and divert their attention. For instance, in libraries, people can be easily distracted through ringtones of incoming calls or people talking over the phone loudly with their loved ones. Even in public places like hospitals, cell phones can easily interfere with the medical equipment and also irritate the patients waiting to see the doctor. Moreover, its usage in religious places can spoil the peace of those paying obeisance.

However, despite all the abuses of cell phones, one cannot deny the uses of mobiles. They are one's easily available help in case of an emergency. They also keep loved and near ones well connected. No matter where one goes, cell phones are the only hope of keeping families connected without any hassle. The SMS is also a convenient way to keep in touch with your loved ones when no one has the time for writing long letters. Mobiles are also a great source of entertainment. You can listen to songs, play games, get live cricket scores, market-updates and even the headlines. They are convenient, easily accessible and of great use.

Moreover, these modern devices are very important in this commercial and financial society. Therefore, the total banning of pagers and mobile phones in public places is not practical. It will cause inconvenience and the people would not be able to catch up with the modern trend of communication. Cellphones have become vital tools in today's world and blocking them in public places will result in a gross violation of personal freedom.

To sum up, mobiles were invented for our convenience and not to create nuisance. If used judiciously, wisely and with public etiquette, mobiles can be of great use. Comparing the cell phone to smoking and banning the cell phone would not be practical.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: why ban
Para 2: Why not ban
Para 3: Why not ban
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

122. Due to developments in science and technology, lifestyles of people across the world are becoming more and more similar to each other. Do you think this a positive or a negative development?

Science and technology have ushered in an era wherein more and more people are connected to each other. This also means that in many ways people around the world are becoming very similar. This situation is both – a positive as well as a negative development, which I shall discuss in this essay.

There are many benefits of these global similarities. To begin with, people have become aware of other cultures and so are adopting the good points of all cultures, as a result of which, a global culture has arisen, which is being embraced by people around the world. Secondly, there is more efficient trade between different countries around the globe, thereby improving the economies of developing countries.

There are also many reasons why some people think it to be a negative development. They say, that because of this cultural homogenization, national identities are being lost. We eat the same food, watch the same TV programs, listen to the same music and wear the same clothes. People have also started speaking one language, English, in many parts of the world. In fact, English has become the lingua franca today. They opine that the world is beautiful and enchanting because of its diversity. If the diversity is lost, it would become boring.

However, I feel that this is a very narrow definition of national identities and nations are as different as they were ever in the past. Cultural identity is based on far more than just the films we watch or the clothes we wear. For example, take my own culture of India and compare it to the west. We may wear any clothes, but we never take the names of elders and we always call them with respect. In the west, it is quite OK to call anyone by name. In fact, they appreciate it more. I believe that after knowing about other cultures, we learn to respect our culture even more. So, some very deep-rooted national identities will always be there, even if on the face value it is apparent that people are similar.

To conclude, there are more advantages of similarities among nations. People are becoming tolerant of each other and are adopting the best of all cultures. Total loss of national identities can never take place as all cultures have their inherent strengths, which can never fade away.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: This situation has both pros and cons, which I shall discuss in the following paragraphs
Para 1: why similarity is good
Para 2: Why similarity is bad
Para 3: Own view refuting the opponents view
Conclusion:

123. *Some people think we need to give aid to all poor countries. Others, however, argue that we should not give international aid to countries with corruption in their system. Discuss both views and provide your own opinion.*

International aid refers to money, equipment or services that are provided by a country or international organization for countries that need them, known as recipient countries. People are divided on the issue of giving aid to poor countries. Some say that it reflects the goodness of mankind, whereas others tend to believe that the recipient countries, which have venality in their system, can misspend the aid money. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

Aid on humanitarian grounds is extremely imperative. Members of the global community have the responsibility to provide relief to each other, especially to those have-nots and those victims of natural disasters and civil unrest. This aid is essential to the homeless and useful in helping recipient countries return to their normal state after major disturbances. For example, with the humanitarian relief obtained worldwide, victims of natural disasters (such as tsunami, draught, flood) throughout the world can recover rapidly and rebuild their homeland.

Humanitarian relief is also an instrument to promote peace and security. The deep-rooted hostility between some countries can result from the gap in the standard of living between these countries. When aid is given, it opens up the possibility of cultural, economic and social interaction between countries, and thereby easing tension. Recipient countries can thus participate in the global economy, which is a crucial step in warding off poverty.

Admittedly, monetary aid is sometimes misused or miss-spent, but these cons can never overshadow the benefits. Misuse can be tackled by tight regulations and scrutiny. In general, the abuse of international aid is an isolated event, so its effect should not be overstated.

In conclusion, the role of humanitarian relief is not just to deliver prompt assistance to people in need, but also to strengthen ties between countries. Although fraud and corruption occur every now and then, they can be addressed in strict ways.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why aid should be given
Para 2: Another reason for giving aid
Para 3: Why some people are against monetary aid
Conclusion:

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

Some people believe that the ideal way to ensure road safety is to raise the minimum age for getting a driving licence. I believe that this may help, but it is certainly not the best method, and other solutions should be considered as well.

Proponents of the given statement say that an experienced and highly skillful driver usually needs long training and practice. Therefore, drivers who are under the age of 18, in most cases, fail to have sufficient time to perfect their driving techniques. Moreover, teenage drivers are more likely to have collisions on the road, compared to drivers in other age groups because they like to take risks to get the excitement of driving. This is because young drivers, especially those who are in adolescence, tend to overestimate their driving abilities and underestimate the dangers on the road. Nevertheless, apart from controlling the legal age strictly, I believe that other measures must be taken to prevent deaths and serious injuries.

Firstly, the government should set higher standards for testing drivers' ability to drive and prolong the training time since better prepared drivers and riders can reduce the number of mishaps on roads. Besides, eating, drinking or talking on the phone while driving should be strictly prohibited as these activities might distract the driver's attention and cause some untoward consequences. Additionally, for those disqualified drivers, who have caused some accidents, a retest should be mandatory.

Finally, the stricter age limitation for drivers is especially suitable for those senior drivers who have a failing eyesight or problems with night vision. Although senior drivers might be adept at driving a car, their energy, eyesight and reaction time sometimes cannot make them cope with some unexpected traffic conditions.

In conclusion, although raising the lowest legal age can prevent some road mishaps, other considerations are equally important in tackling the issue.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Proponents view
Para 2: Other methods
Para 3: Other methods
Conclusion

125. Most countries do not recycle their waste like paper, glass, and aluminum cans. Why does this happen and what steps can be taken to encourage recycling?

Many people opine that recycling is the most wasteful activity: a waste of time and money, a waste of human and natural resources. However, environmentalists vigorously refute this. This essay intends to look into the reasons why people don't recycle and also suggest ways to encourage them for recycling.

There are many reasons why people don't recycle. Firstly, people don't want to put in the extra effort. Some places have no pick-up and so they find recycling inconvenient. Secondly, the lack of space is an issue for many. People don't want to see garbage and with little storage space for recycling bins, the trash is an eyesore. Thirdly, people think that it does not make a difference, so they don't bother to do it. They also find it too hard to do. Since there are so many facets to recycling glass, plastic and paper. It's hard to decipher which kinds go where.

Furthermore, people feel that recycling consumes energy. They talk about the fuel needed to drive those recycling trucks around carrying old newspapers from place to place. The cost involved in the recycling industry is much more than trash disposal at times. What they don't know is that even taking this into account, there is a net benefit from recycling compared to landfill or incineration. The benefits to society from recycling compensate for any difference in cost. According to a current UK survey, the recycling of paper, glass, plastics, aluminum and steel was estimated to save more than 18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year through avoided primary material production.

People can be encouraged in many ways. To begin with, they should be awared about the benefits of recycling. Integrating recycling into the high school educational system could also help. An economic incentive to recycle should be there. In a study it was seen that offering reward for recycling can clearly contribute to increasing recycling rates, and almost a quarter of adults would be encouraged to recycle more frequently if they received a financial benefit. Moreover, some day could be dedicated to recycling. For example, America Recycles Day (ARD) is a day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and buy, recycled products. ARD is celebrated annually on November 15. Thousands of events are held across the U.S. to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and to encourage Americans to sign personal pledges to recycle and buy products made from recycled materials.

To sum up, recycling is the need of the day, but many people do not recycle for various reasons given above. However, effective steps could be taken to encourage people to recycle.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why people don't recycle
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

126. In many countries, mainly tourists, but not local people, visit museums and historical sites. Why does this happen, and what can be done to attract more local people to visit these places?

Museums and other historical sites seem to be less attractive to local people than to tourists. This essay intends to delve into some reasons why this is occurring, and put forward some solutions to kindle the interest of local people in visiting these places.

The first reason is due to the fact that the local people take these places for granted. They think that these places are not running away anywhere, and so they will see them sooner or later. What happens is, that the time seldom comes, when they take the time out of their hectic schedule to see these places. On the other hand, tourists who come there are on a holiday, and their main motive is visiting these historic places and museums. For instance, recently, I visited Hyderabad as a tourist and went to see Ramoji Film City, which is the biggest Film City in the whole world, spread over 5000 acres of land. My relatives who are staying in Hyderabad have never been there once. When I told them that it is a must-see place, they decided to visit it with their children.

Secondly, nothing new is added to these places over the years and so local people who have been there once, do not wish to frequent these places again and again. These places do not intrigue the locals so they do not feel motivated to visit regularly. In other words, the renewals of existing exhibits, or the organization of new programs and events are few and far between. Furthermore, museums and historical sites are not cheap to visit. In fact, to get admission to these places, visitors are often required to buy expensive tickets.

In order to spur up more interest of local people in coming to museums, a number of ways can be employed. School trips could be organized for children to enjoy these places with their friends. Passes for entry to these museums and historical sites could be arranged for local people so that it doesn't cut a hole in their pocket every time they visit them. A day could be fixed every month when the entry to the museum is made free. For example, on every first Tuesday of the month, the entry to the Houston Museum of Natural Science is free, so there is a great rush of local people on that day

To conclude, many reasons can be given as to why local people lose their enthusiasm for museums and places of historical importance. However, the revival of these places is within our grasp should proper actions be taken.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

127. *Some people think it is important for children to take lessons outside classroom, for example, by visiting places such as local companies or public buildings. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Many individuals believe in providing more innovative learning experiences to children by taking them to local commercial establishments or public buildings where they are exposed to a great deal of practical knowledge. I agree with their perspective. This essay shall discuss, how such practices have an edge over mere classroom learning.

To begin with, classroom learning can sometimes be monotonous, and therefore, such outings can make learning creative, fun-filled and more effective. Museums, galleries, zoos and farms can be of great interest and can provide learning experiences that won't be forgotten fast. There are even some evidences to show that pupils' grades improved if they spent more time learning outside the classroom.

Furthermore, field trips to local businesses can introduce pupils to the practical component of learning, which is not available in schools. This can give students the real hands on experience of the world of work. All students should have the opportunity to participate in internships and programs to enrich their education. This should not be separate from their education at school, but an extension of their academic learning.

Finally, relationships between teachers and students are often transformed by field trips. The absolutely critical aspect of such outdoor learning experiences is the development of the relationship between the young students and the teachers they are with. That can be life-changing, and a bond can form with a particular teacher or all the teachers.

To conclude, most children benefit greatly from such educational tours. Therefore, school authorities should encourage children to visit local businesses or public buildings in order to make education more creative and interesting.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Third reason
Conclusion:

128. *Some people believe that teaching children at home is best for a child's development, while others think that it is important for children to go to school. Discuss the advantages of both methods and give your own opinion.*

From homeschooling statistics, it's clear that homeschooling is becoming a more accepted method of education. However, some people still believe that nothing can be better for children than actually going to school. This essay intends to explore the benefits of both approaches. I, personally, side with the latter view.

The most important benefit of home schooling is individual teacher's attention. When homeschooled, the child has the undivided attention of the teacher. Moreover, lesson plans can be tailored according to the ability of the child. In traditional school environments, classmates often learn at very different speeds. This helps slower learners stay on track with the class, but often leaves bright children bored and distracted. Homeschooling also helps parents incorporate subjects that might not be included in the local school's curriculum, such as foreign language.

Perhaps, one of the best arguments in favor of homeschooling is the guarantee of the child's safety. Bullying, fights and other school violence become a non-issue when the child is educated from home. What is more, sleep is vital to the emotional and physical well-being of kids, especially teens and preteens. As homeschooled children can accomplish in a few hours what takes a typical classroom a week or more to cover, they get more time for their much-needed sleep.

On the other hand, keeping the child out of a traditional school environment greatly inhibits his/her access to other children. Learning to make friends and exist within a group are important life lessons that children could miss out on through homeschooling. Homeschooled children may be less inclined to share, demand personal attention by acting out, or become socially awkward and anxious.

Additionally, school life is filled with plenty of exciting opportunities for children. These extracurricular activities can help children better adjust in society. While these cultural and other opportunities can be provided while homeschooling the child, these are not the same as the child would experience in a group of his or her peers.

Finally, homeschooled children are generally not provided with competitive opportunities. Traditional schooling events such as team sports and spelling bees encourage the child to do his very best. These things give children something to strive for, and to uncover natural aptitudes that might go untapped in homeschooled environments.

To sum up, even though homeschooling has its merits, nothing can be better than sending the child to a traditional school.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: for homeschooling
Para 2: for homeschooling
Para 3: for traditional schooling
Para 4: for traditional schooling
Conclusion

129. *Some people say that too much attention and resources are given to protect wild animals and birds. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

In recent times, there has been a great hue and cry over the money and efforts being spent on conservation of wild animals and birds. However, I disagree with the given statement that 'a lot' is being done for them. I believe that whatever is done for them can never be 'too much'. It has been rightly said that – "Animals gone, Trees gone, Humans gone".

The most important reason for saving wild animals and birds, is that they are part of our ecosystem. Every species of wildlife plays a role to maintain the balance of life on Earth. Thus, the loss of any species can affect us directly or indirectly. For example, there are many bat species that are becoming extinct. Such bats help keep the insect population in control. If these bats die then the insects will increase a lot and destroy our crops. So, we will have nothing to eat. In addition, many animals, like rodents, help in the dispersal of plant seeds and in the pollination of plants. By protecting endangered animals we ensure not only their survival but also the biodiversity that is necessary for the ecological health of the planet.

Secondly, wild animals provide many valuable substances such as medicine and fur. The horn of the rhinoceros has medicinal value, and the fur of the mink is very valuable. Moreover, the recreational viewing of animals at zoos is also a source of revenue. Thus, the financial value of wild species is important to the economies of many nations.

Furthermore, wild animals have aesthetic appeal. They are beautiful creatures of nature and are a part of our bio-diversity. Their beautiful and mysterious life has enchanted mankind since the dawn of evolution. Scientists have been awed, by observing their behavior. Such study has helped scientists understand how the human body functions and why people behave as they do. Scientists have also gained medical knowledge by studying the effect of many drugs on these animals.

Finally, it is undeniable that animal species have been vanishing at a much faster rate for about a century now due to human factors such as pollution, commercial overexploitation, poaching and deforestation. Knowingly or unknowingly, we humans are doing so much damage to plants and animals that spending an exorbitant amount on saving them has become a necessity.

To sum up, the resources spent on these animals and plants, are well justified. Wildlife is Mother Nature's greatest treasure. To protect it, we must take every measure.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Part of ecological chain – interconnected
Para 2: Provide us many things *Para 3: Aesthetic appeal*
Para 4: We humans responsible for the damage to them
Conclusion:

130. The use of mobile phones should be banned in public spaces such as libraries, transportations, and shops. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Mobile phone etiquette has become an important issue, with mobiles ringing at funerals, weddings, movies and plays. Therefore, some people advocate their prohibition in public places. I, however, disagree with a ban on cell phones in all public places. I would like to suggest that in some places where "silence" is necessary, such as in concerts, meetings, and cinemas, the use of pagers and mobile phones should be banned. However, in public places such as restaurants or buses and public transports, where "silence" is not so strictly needed, the use of pagers and mobile phones can still be allowed.

Undoubtedly, using mobile phones in public places can distract other people and divert their attention. For instance, in libraries, people can be easily distracted through ringtones of incoming calls or people talking over the phone loudly with their loved ones. Even in public places like hospitals, cell phones can easily interfere with the medical equipment and also irritate the patients waiting to see the doctor. Moreover, its usage in religious places can spoil the peace of those paying obeisance.

However, despite all the abuses of cell phones, one cannot deny the usefulness of mobiles. They are very helpful in case of an emergency. They also keep loved and near ones well connected. No matter where one goes, cell phones are the only hope of keeping families connected without any hassle. The SMS is also a convenient way to keep in touch with your loved ones, when no one has the time for writing long letters. Mobiles are also a great source of entertainment. You can listen to songs, play games, get live cricket scores, market-updates and even the headlines. They are convenient, easily accessible and of great use.

Moreover, these modern devices are very important in this commercial and financial society. Therefore, the total banning of pagers and mobile phones in public places is not at all practical. It will cause inconvenience and the people would not be able to catch up with the modern trend of communication. Cellphones have become vital tools in today's world and blocking them in public places will result in a gross violation of personal freedom.

To sum up, mobiles were invented for our convenience and not to create nuisance. If used judiciously, wisely and with public etiquette, mobiles can be of great use. Banning the cell phone would not be practical.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: why ban
Para 2: Why not ban
Para 3: Why not ban
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

131. *It is now possible for scientists and tourists to travel to remote natural environments such as the South Pole. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?*

Remote tourism, or the name given to visiting undiscovered habitats, is becoming very fascinating for both scientists and tourists. While the exploration of such areas has its positives, I believe the associated drawbacks are far more severe.

One the one hand, the idea of more people travelling to remote locations is perceived favorably for a number of reasons. First, some people regard such remote voyages to pristine areas as exquisite adventures. On top of that, new jobs can be created and economic benefits can be derived. Furthermore, geologists may now tap these previously inaccessible sites as resources of fossil fuels. For example, in Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains, oil has been found and is now being drilled out. This is increasingly significant to human kind, as the majority of the current fossil fuel sources have been overexploited and there can be a global energy scarcity in the near future.

On the other hand, substantial disadvantages can be there because the burgeoning of tourism and geological research may heavily disturb the flora and fauna of the remotely located places. This is due to the callous attitude of the tourists and the authorities both. It is highly unlikely that tourists bring waste back to the departure point. Secondly, the journey to these inaccessible places is also perilous and tourists may suffer from any medical emergencies.

Furthermore, the work of geologists involves the analysis of ice-shelves hundreds of meters thick, and the drilling for and the hauling of oil and gas afterwards. These activities may also consequently have a disastrous effect on the natural habitats. As a result, what used to be a pristine land can eventually be polluted.

In conclusion, travelling to secluded places can definitely be advantageous for not only researchers but also normal travellers. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the drawbacks to the ecosystem are of greater concern.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of remote tourism
Para2: Disadvantages
Para 3: More disadvantages
Conclusion

132. *Some people believe that courses of performing arts (e.g. dance, music, drama etc.), should be funded by government. Others believe that these should be funded through other ways (e.g. businesses or student's family). Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

People are divided on the source of funding for courses of performing arts. Some opine that government should provide financial support to talented students who intend to pursue a career in performing arts such as dance, music or theatre. However, many people believe that taxpayers' money should not be wasted for this purpose, and students should look for sponsorship from other sources like corporates or their own families. This essay intends to examine both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The major reason for state funding for students of performing arts is that this education contributes to making a well-rounded student. Arts education has been proven to help students increase cognitive development, inspire motivation and discipline, develop confidence and inventiveness, and hone communication and problem-solving skills. So, children do well in other subjects also. For example, in a study it was seen that students who study the arts continued to outperform non-arts students on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Another big advantage is that it encourages the pursuit of extra-curricular activities. Children get a chance to show their creative expression. When such hidden abilities are exposed in school time, then those with exceptional talent can be encouraged to adopt it as a profession later-on in life. Secondly, these subjects are excellent stress-busters. Performing arts break the monotony of tough academic studies. Last but not least, such performing arts help to keep our culture and tradition alive. For the reasons given above, it is believed that government funding on such subjects is justified.

On the other hand, those who are opposed to state funding contend that since it is mostly students themselves who benefit from art education, they should seek aid from other sources such as corporate funding and their own parents. For instance, like any other professionals musicians, dancers and actors also earn large sums of money from stage shows and other public performances. They also believe that since enormous amounts of money is required to fund art education, it would become an unnecessary liability for government, as it has more important priorities to deal with.

To sum up, funding of performing arts courses, should be done by government, as these courses keep our culture and tradition alive, complement academic study, bring out hidden talent and break the ennui of tough academic studies.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why government funding
Para 2: More reasons for government funding
Para 3: Opponents view
Conclusion

133. Nowadays, people get information through news and papers, but meanwhile are uncertain about the truth of these news. Should we believe the journalists? What qualities should a good journalist or correspondent have?

News and newspapers are an indispensable part of our everyday life, because they keep us connected with the outside world. This essay shall discuss whether or not we should believe the journalists, and also explain the characteristics of a good journalist.

We have to believe the journalists because they are our only source of information. But, we should take it all with a pinch of salt. Sometimes they may spread ill-founded news just to sell their papers. On the whole, they are doing great service to us. They are a link between the government and the people. They shape our opinions. They make us feel part of this global village by keeping us in touch with it, and at times they even provide justice. For example, in the Jessica murder case, it was because of the efforts of these journalists that a politician's son got punishment and Jessica's family got justice.

A good journalist should have many qualities. First of all, he should promote the truth, and not rumours of ill-founded news. Only authenticated news should be given. Secondly, he should be unbiased and not favour any group or political party. He should not hurt the sentiments of any particular community. This is very important in a pluralistic (multicultural and multi-religious) society like India. He should also have excellent communication skills.

Furthermore, a good journalist should be versatile – he has to cover varied fields such as sports, business, entertainment and politics. He should always be on his toes, because you never know when the sky is going to fall. Finally, he should be bold and brave because he has to handle tough situations. For instance, during the 26th November terrorist attack at Mumbai, it was these journalists who brought us the first-hand news.

Summing up, we have to believe the journalists because they bring us the latest news, and a good journalist should be a multifaceted personality.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: This essay shall discuss whether or not we should believe the journalists and also explain the characteristics of a good journalist
Para 1: Why we should believe the journalists
Para 2: Qualities of a good journalist
Para 3: More qualities
Conclusion:

134. *Some people think that the amount of noise people make has to be controlled strictly. Others, however, say that people are free to make as much noise as they wish. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

Noise pollution is a matter of great concern nowadays. Knowingly or unknowingly, every one of us contributes to noise pollution, because most of our day-to-day activities generate some noise. Some people are of the opinion that there should be some restriction on the level of noise from human activities. Others do not believe in such regulations. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The most important argument in favour of noise control is that loud noise may adversely affect people in many ways. Noise above a certain level can cause hearing loss. Occupational noise exposure, is the most common cause of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). For example, repeated exposure to noise pollution at a construction site can cause NIHL to construction workers, an effect that cannot be reversed.

Furthermore, there are the emotional or psychological effects such as irritability, anxiety and stress. Lack of concentration and mental fatigue are significant health effects of noise. It has been observed that the performance of school children is poor in comprehension tasks when schools are situated in busy areas of a city and suffer from noise pollution disturbance. Therefore it is imperative that some check should be there on noise production.

There are some people who oppose such laws against noise generation. They assert that some amount of noise is inevitable. The sources may be domestic, natural, commercial or industrial. People believe that making noise at times is their basic right to express their emotions. They want to cheer and shout for their favourite team and dance to the beat of loud music when happy. They take any regulation on noise, as infringement of their basic rights.

To sum up, suitable action has to be taken to attenuate the noise levels and control noise pollution. It is high time we all realize that noise pollution is a slow poison.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why it should be controlled
Para 2: Why it should be controlled
Para 3: Why some people say it should not be controlled
Conclusion:

135. Health experts believe that walking is a good exercise for health. However, people are walking less nowadays. Why is this happening? How can people be encouraged to walk more?

Regular physical exercise is a vital part of maintaining our health and wellbeing. Yet, we are walking much lesser per day than our parents and grandparents used to do. This essay intends to look into the causes behind this phenomenon, and suggest some ways to motivate people to walk more.

There are many reasons why people shun walking. Firstly, everyone is very busy nowadays. There are too many pressures and people have become workaholics. Another reason is that everything is spread out. We live far from the places we need to go. We have to drive to work. We have to drive to the grocery store. We have to drive our children to school. More time spent driving, means less time spent on other activities, including walking. On top of that, we don't walk because the car is right there. In short, we drive because we no longer have to walk. Finally, most people who want to walk but don't, is because it is not safe to walk. Modern cities are not built with the pedestrian in mind.

To encourage people to walk, it has to be made safer. People need to feel that walking is a safe, pleasant and convenient way for short journeys. If walking feels like a dangerous hassle, no one would like to walk. Why would somebody choose to walk the half-mile to the shops, if they have to wait at three or four separate 'red man' lights to cross one road, while their neighbor who took the car gets to cross the same junction in one go? The onus is on the governments to redesign the cities and have pavements on sides of the roads for people who wish to walk.

Furthermore, people have to be made aware of the potential health benefits associated with regular walking. Walking is good for our brain, our fitness, our memory, our longevity, our blood pressure, and our general health. This can be done through the media such as the TV and the Internet. Parks can be made and maintained by the authorities to encourage people to go for morning and evening walks.

To sum up, there are many reasons why people don't walk, but effective measures can be taken to motivate people to do so.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why people don't walk
Para 2: Steps to encourage them
Para 3: More steps
Conclusion

136. *The leaders or directors of organizations are often older people. But some people say that young people can also be a leader. Do you agree or disagree?*

When a company has to select someone for an executive position, mostly the senior employees are considered. Most youngsters are not usually thought of as leaders. However, I believe that in today's world, the young are better equipped to handle the top managerial posts. Therefore, I agree with the latter statement, which says that young people can also be leaders.

On the one hand, the senior leaders have practical experience, which is equal to the age of the young leaders. This experience gives them an edge. They can prove their viewpoint with case studies and practical examples of their previous professional life. Therefore, the young leaders can't counter their edge in this area.

On the other hand, the younger lot of today has flair in digital technology, because of which they are fast learners. They take no time to learn the things, which their seniors have learnt in quite a long time. There is no doubt that given the right opportunity, they can rise to the occasion. Secondly, because of the Internet, the young leaders can reach out farther in the global arena. Here, I would like to cite an example of my uncle, who had been running his business of readymade garments for the last 20 years. His business was doing fairly well, but has grown exponentially ever since he handed the reins to his son two years ago. Today, they are the biggest exporters of readymade garments from the whole of Punjab. His son used his digital network to spread his business.

Secondly, an organization's success today depends on a variety of talents and skills. There are technological issues, global issues, financial issues, human resource issues, legal issues, and more. Nobody is born with all such talents. The young are willing learners and dare to bear hardships. They are also not afraid of taking risks. The older workers, in contrast, like to play it safe. In the competitive era of today, it is impossible to survive without the ability of taking calculated risks.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion saying that it is imperative to assign top-level managerial tasks to younger people, as they own infinite potential and can benefit the company in the long run.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para1: in favour of senior leaders
Para 2: For young leaders
Para 3: For young leaders
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

137. In many countries, more and more people are competing for a place to study in universities. Why does this happen? Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

More high school students than ever are competing for seats in the freshman classes of universities. This essay shall analyze the reasons for this phenomenon. I believe this is largely a positive occurrence.

The first explanation for why it is harder to get into four-year colleges now than ever before seems to be supply and demand. The number of students graduating from high school is rising steadily each year. For example, in 1997 there were 2.6 million high school graduates in USA, but today, the number has grown to 3.3 million.

Secondly, a university education is increasingly seen as key to economic success in our society, as a result of which more students are seeking to attend four-year colleges, including students from under-represented minority groups whose college participation rate used to be low.

Another major reason is the marketing efforts made by the universities. Colleges want to attract talented, and diverse groups of applicants from which to select their freshman class, and they often go to great lengths to do it. This, coupled with the ease of application process through the Internet, enables more students to apply.

This is a positive development because students plan well in advance for getting into the university of their choice. They focus on doing well in school to get good grades. Secondly, more students going for higher education can never be a negative development. The universities also make efforts to better their standard so as to lure the top cream of students. More and more universities are coming up which are hiring the best faculty. For instance, in my small hometown, Lovely Professional University opened about a decade ago, and today it has about 30,000 students from across the globe. It is also true that it is hard for students to get into colleges because they only want to get into colleges that are hard to get into. As word spreads about the competition for college admission, students respond by applying to even more colleges to increase their chances of acceptance. In doing so, they end up contributing to the very problem they are trying to solve for themselves.

To sum up, there are many reasons for the increasing competition for university entrance, and it is advantageous for students in the long run.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: 1st reason
Para 2: 2nd reason
Para 3: 3rd reason
Para 4: why it is a positive development
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

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

History is the witness of the times, and acts as a torch for the present and the future. It is very important to study history, whether it is local or world history. However, I agree that priority should be given to local history.

There are profound advantages of teaching local history to the students. The study of local history provides the student with increased interest in the larger subject of history. This information is relevant to the students' own surroundings. Once they study their local history, they would be even more enthusiastic to learn the world history and compare it with their own. Therefore, the syllabus of today's schools should include local history, and teach it before going on to teach world history.

Secondly, the knowledge of local history may encourage preservation. As it is, today we are living in a global village, where social and geographical mobility is more than ever in the past. As people move away, all the roots, which bind them to their local area, are forgotten. The people tend to tear away the familiar buildings and the local communities. If they study local history, they might wish to preserve the local areas. It would make them aware of their own links to their past.

On the other hand, the study of world history cannot be undermined in today's era of globalization. World history helps prepare young people for college studies, international experience, and active participation in civic life. It helps get them become global citizens, who know and care about the world issues and problems. World history is a shared knowledge that citizens, whatever their country, need, to function on our planet in the twenty-first century.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the study of history is important in toto, but local history must be taught before teaching the history of the world.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Importance of local history
Para 2: More importance
Para 3: World history importance
Conclusion

139. *Holding International games such as the Olympic Games is an exciting event. Some people think it has positive effects while others argue it is a waste of money. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.*

People are divided on the issue of hosting Olympic Games. Some individuals opine that it is advantageous to host such events, where as others believe that this could be detrimental for the host country. This essay shall look into both arguments. I, however, side with the former view.

There are many advantages that can ensue from hosting such events. To begin with, such events would mean a lot of international tourists, which in turn would mean a lot of tourist dollars. For example, during the Olympics many athletes, spectators, officials, sponsors and broadcasters come to the host country and spend money on hotels and restaurants. What is more, the country also earns by selling tickets and selling souvenirs. Additionally, many people get employment because of the jobs related to hosting such events. For instance, there are many new jobs in construction projects of stadia and hotels and also in advertising related to such events. All this improves the overall economy of the people and the country.

Furthermore, the host country gets recognition in the whole world because of media exposure. It is also an opportunity for the host country and its people to know about the culture of other countries. This broadens the outlook of people and helps to make them true citizens of the global village of today. Last but not least, the infrastructure of the host country develops at an accelerated pace. For example, when New Delhi hosted the Commonwealth Games, many flyovers and stadia were built which changed the overall look of Delhi and now, all these new facilities are being enjoyed by the local people of Delhi.

On the other hand, it is also easy to see why some people are opposed to hosting such events. The main reason is that the development of that part of the country is at the expense of other parts. This is because the government of the host country usually allocates resources from other parts of the country to that part. Another reason why people are against such events is because of the Olympic drain associated with such events. In other words, the tourism in the neighbouring area suffers, as all visitors are attracted towards the host city. Finally, crime is another factor why people don't like such events. When many people get together at the same place then there are chances of petty crime and the host city needs to hire more police officers.

Looking at both arguments, it is clear that there are both – advantages as well as disadvantages of hosting such events, but on the whole the pros far outweigh the cons.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: - advantages
Para 2: advantage
Para 3: disadvantages
Conclusion: pros outweigh cons

140. Some people think that the government should invest more money in teaching science than other subjects to make progress. Do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that scientific knowledge is increasingly important in our technological world and in the practical world of jobs and careers. Therefore, some individuals opine that government should spend more resources on imparting science education. However, I disagree with this view. I firmly believe that in a technological age the study of arts and humanities is probably more important than ever and so these subjects should be given as much importance as is given to science.

Undoubtedly, the study of science is essential. Science is the study of the world around us - by learning science we learn all about the world that we live in - how things work, what living things there are, how things happen, etc. Science helps us to become less gullible - there is a lot of wrong information on the television, the internet, and in rumors - if we learn the truth by learning science, we won't fall for all those hoaxes and superstitions.

On the other hand, studying the arts and humanities can help students become better scientists. For example, recent studies of cognitive development show that studying music at an early age can strengthen a child's later grasp of science. What is more, understanding philosophical concepts has helped scientists recognize their scientific research areas more accurately.

Secondly, we all need some spark and beauty in our lives that only the study of arts can bring in. Studying the creative and intellectual achievement of others helps inspire our own creativity and intellectual questioning. This is particularly important in an era dominated by science and technology, where we run a serious risk of becoming automatons.

Finally, we need the study of arts to help us select what is worthwhile and ethical. Technology is valuable as an efficient means to our important goals. But neither technology, nor the science on which it is founded, decides which goals are best, or judges the moral value of the means we choose for their attainment.

In conclusion, I reiterate my opinion that governments should not devote lesser funds to the arts and humanities. These areas of study augment and enhance learning in science, as well as help to preserve the richness of our entire human legacy while inspiring us to further it. Moreover, disciplines within the humanities provide methods and contexts for evaluating the morality of our technology and for determining its proper direction.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: advantages of studying science
Para 2: advantages of studying arts and humanities
Para 3: More advantages
Para 4: More advantages
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

141. Some people think music plays an important role in society. Others think it is simply a form of entertainment. Discuss both sides of this argument and give your own opinion.

Music is a unique language, which is understood by everyone on this planet. It is the soul of the universe. There are different views as to the importance of music. Some say it is purely for entertainment. Others opine that it has many other functions. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, personally, side with the latter view.

There is no doubt that music is a good source of entertainment. Music helps to cheer everyone up. When people come home after a hectic days work and they need some entertainment, they play music and it calms them and they feel relaxed. Music is also played in parties and ceremonies to entertain everyone. Young people dance to the beat of music and release their pent up energy.

Music also links us to our culture and tradition. The folk songs sung by our great artists like Gurdas Mann are on everyone's lips. His lyrics contain many things of our culture, which are alive today because of these folk songs. Otherwise, under the influence of western culture people are forgetting their roots. Moreover, music is a lucrative profession these days. Our famous singers and musicians like Lata Mangeshkar and A.R.Rehman have earned millions from music and are famous in the whole world because of their musical talent.

Another role that music plays is of connecting people. When people go to a musical concert, they are with those people who share their musical tastes. Together, they feel the emotions that the music evokes. Music has always been a part of ceremonies because it has the ability to make people feel connected. To add to it, music improves concentration. Students can concentrate better if light music is played in the background because it kills the other disturbing noises.

To sum up, music is not just for entertainment. It has many roles in society such as connecting people to each other and to their culture, making them rich and famous and also relaxing them. Music is all around us. Right from the first lullaby that the mother sings to the cradle, to the dirge of the funeral pyre, music accompanies everything of life.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I shall put forth both sides of the argument
Para 1: How music entertains us
Para 2: Music also links us to our culture and tradition
Para 3: Another role that music plays is of connecting people. Music improves concentration.
Conclusion:

142. Leisure is a growing industry, but people no longer entertain themselves as much as they used to because the use of modern technology has made them less creative. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the statement that people do not entertain themselves as much as they used to because of modern technology. I believe that modern technology has not made people less artistic. In fact it has changed the definition of leisure and the lifestyle of people, and has also given people more options for creativity.

Modern technology has changed our definition of leisure. Earlier, leisure meant going out and meeting people, playing outdoor games, going to cinema to watch movies and so on. However, today, leisure time is full of choices. We have so many things to do within the four walls of our house. We can watch countless programs on national and international channels; we can play online games; we can chat with friends and relatives in any corner of the world; we can do arm-chair tourism by which we can visit any historical place or museum sitting in our arm-chair. That is why perhaps it looks as if we people do not entertain ourselves as much as we used to in yesteryears.

Another reason why people don't entertain as much as before, is also not because of technology. Technology has, in fact, given us more time to enjoy but we can't strike a balance between work and leisure. We have become workaholics. Life in the past was simpler. People worked for basic needs. Now work is not just a way of life. It is for personal fulfillment. We set goals for ourselves such as a house or a car. We choose this way of life. Now we have improved standard of living but this has come at a very high cost.

Finally, I would like to state that the given statement is flawed, because nowadays people specially take out time to entertain themselves. This can be evident from the mushroom growth of leisure centres such as hotels, restaurants, fun parks and spas. Tourist places are full of people, and train and air reservations have to be done well in advance.

To sum up, technology has not made us less creative. We entertain ourselves more than earlier times but the ways of entertainment are different and technology has given us more choices than before.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree.
Para 1: How modern technology has changed our definition of leisure.
Para 2: Another reason why people don't entertain as much as before is also not because of technology.
Para 3: the given statement is flawed because nowadays people specially take out time to entertain themselves.
Conclusion:

143. *A recent newspaper article reported that a 14 year-old boy who seriously destroyed his school got the punishment to clean the streets, instead of being sent to prison. Do you think this is right, or do you think that such criminals should be sent to prison?*

Juvenile delinquency is a problem with a difference; not only does it need to be handled urgently but also delicately. There are two questions that need to be answered while tackling the problem – should juveniles be treated differently compared to adults and secondly, should the severity of the crime be considered while making this decision. I believe that such criminals should be treated differently, but only if the crime is not heinous in nature.

There are many reasons behind not sending juvenile offenders to prisons like adults. One main reason is that at such young ages, children and teenagers do not know any better. They are not psychologically developed to register the import of their actions. Age, not only brings physical development, but also mental maturity. Therefore, treating them similar to adults would not be fair.

Secondly, juvenile delinquency is a phenomenon of dysfunctional families. Most delinquents have unhappy home lives and feel discontented with their lives' circumstances. They indulge in delinquency to get their parents attention or attention at school. They need love and affection, and jails and prisons are the last places where they can find the love they need. What is required is treating the causes for such behavior, like talking to family members.

Finally, these ages from 10-18 are the career building ages. Punishing individuals at such ages would make them lose precious years of their life and leave little scope for them to rebuild them. This would destroy their chances at good jobs in the future and also make it impossible for them to become fruitful members of the society. The only future path left open to them would be becoming criminals and carrying on with such activities.

However, if the crime is very severe, age cannot become an excuse to avoid punishment. If we treat crimes like rape, murder lightly just because of young age, we are doing a disservice to the society.

To sum up, youth are the future of a country and adolescence requires enough light to see the steps directly in front. Imprisonment is not the light but a permanent darkness, which destroys all chances of re-entry into society. We have to treat juveniles differently but not for brutal and heinous crimes.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: First reason for not sending them to prisons
Para 2: Second reason *Para 3: Third reason*
Para 4: Exceptions
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

144. Although nowadays people are reading news through Internet, newspapers still remain of value. Do you agree or disagree?

Much has changed for the news industry since the rise of the Internet. However, I agree with the given statement that newspapers are still of great importance. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main advantage of the printed newspaper is that it does not require any sophisticated, cumbersome technical equipment to read. This offers the reader a high level of flexibility. The printed newspaper can basically be read in any place at any time. For instance, a person may read the paper while commuting to and from work. He may just have enough time to go through the headlines in the morning, and then he may go through the news, which interests him later on. Secondly, the reader can absorb the information offered at his own pace. What is more, the level of importance of each news story is made more obvious by use of different sized headline fonts.

Furthermore, local information such as local news, listing of movies and entertainment in the local area, news of local sporting events and other events in the local area are best assessed through the printed newspaper. Readers will always want to know about things closest to home, and no news organization is better equipped or staffed to supply this information than a newspaper. To add to it, the newspapers also have coupons and advertisements for stores having sales. Finally, in many parts of the world that day is still very far when each and every person will have a computer and an Internet connection.

Undoubtedly, the appetite for news from the Internet is growing, but it's just one part of a varied diet. The average person gets news from a variety of sources--some online, some from TV or radio and some from newspapers and magazines. It is irrefutable that the technical potential of the Internet greatly surpasses that of the printed newspapers in a number of ways. Through the Internet there is the possibility of regular updates, access to archives, rapid access to a large number of newspapers, and being paperless it is very eco-friendly. However, I still believe that the printed newspaper is the king of all news media.

Summing up, the online newspaper and the printed newspaper are not mutually exclusive. One can use both and many people do. Online news has not lead to any decline in the circulation of newspapers.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I agree
Para 1: main advantage of the printed newspaper
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Advantages of the Internet but still newspaper is the king
Conclusion:

145. Many people believe that healthy eating and the importance of healthy food should be taught in schools. Others say that parents should teach their kids about healthy food and diet. Discuss both views, and give your opinion with relevant examples.

The importance of a healthy diet has grown ever since we have stepped into a sedentary lifestyle, topped up with a mushroom growth of affordable fast-food outlets. Some people opine that parents should apprise children about a healthy diet, whereas others say that it should be on the teachers to teach students about healthy eating. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I believe that in today's scenario, both teachers and parents have to share this task pro-actively.

It is easy to see why teaching children about healthy eating should be parents job. Parents are the people children look upon as role models. Children imitate their parents almost immediately, smiling when they smile, repeating what they say and imitating their mannerisms. Eating is no different, and the way parents talk about food, cook meals and eat are the most important influence of developing healthy eating habits in a child. As role models, parents need to make sure they're demonstrating a healthy attitude toward food, so that their children do the same. Researches have shown that children who ate with their families had healthier overall diets than those who did not. As a result, these kids also tended to have a lower prevalence of obesity.

On the other hand, some people contend that teachers are in a better position than parents to act as positive role models for students, as far as healthy eating is concerned. Students watch what the teacher says and does, very carefully. A teacher who makes healthy choices – including healthy eating and regular physical activity – can have a good influence on the health of students. Students spend only about 6-8 hours in a school every day, but that time is the most impressionable time. Moreover, some parents themselves are not much aware of healthy eating. Teachers can in fact teach them too through their children.

I believe, neither teachers nor parents can shrug their shoulders and say it is not their job to teach children about healthy eating. It has to be a combined effort to ward off the menace of childhood obesity. Obesity is the root of several other diseases, which can afflict children. If both parents and teachers accept this responsibility and strive to be good role models for children, the whole community would be benefited.

To sum up, talking about wholesome diet to children is very essential in today's times and both teachers and parents must do it together to leave an imprint on the minds of children.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Parents role
Para 2: Teachers role
Para 3: My opinion
Conclusion:

146. More and more people are using the Internet to do their tasks rather than doing in person. (e.g. banking, shopping, hotel booking etc.). Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?

It is impossible today to imagine a world without the Internet. It enables us to do things that only a few years ago would have been unthinkable, and reaches every facet of our lives. As a result, daily tasks and business transactions can be performed without meeting other people, in person. This practice certainly has more positive effects on the individual and the society as a whole.

The availability and application of modern devices and tools of communications like Fax machines, telephone, interactive TV and computer have brought tremendous convenience and efficiency to both life and work. Thanks to telecommunications, undoubtedly, e-shopping and e-banking have made life more convenient than ever before. People can stay home comfortably, looking on the Internet where a vast sea of information is available to find what they need. They log on to the relevant websites and look for detailed information on the products and services that they are interested in. They read the descriptions, examine the pictures, and check the prices. Eventually, they make a decision and send an e-mail to order and pay for it by e-banking. All can be done at home, without scanning newspaper advertisements, reading reference print materials, going around downtown as they had to do before. As a result, they have more time to take part in social activities, pursue hobbies and interests and communicate with families, which are all indispensable parts of quality life.

The trend of doing business by telecommunications equally benefits the whole society because business can be done more efficiently and effectively at a much lower cost. An extra benefit is that more natural resources can be saved. Moreover, small businesses have almost the same opportunities to advertise and promote their products and services on line to compete with those large ones, which makes the whole society fairer.

On the downside, there is an increasing concern about the loss of direct human contact as a result of which there is impoverishment of people's emotional lives, as well as the loss of social cohesion. Moreover, the privacy of the individual can suffer. So, proper steps have to be taken to protect the public against cybercrime and cyber terrorism.

To sum up, performing everyday tasks and business transactions by means of telecommunications benefits the individual and the society enormously. There is simply no going back.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Advantages are more
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: Advantages
Para 3: disadvantages
Conclusion:

147. 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.

There are many different opinions on the best way to reduce crime. The traditional solution is to punish the criminals by putting them in prison. Some hold the view that education and job training are the long-term solutions to cut crime. In my opinion, prison is the only answer in a few situations, but in most cases education, vocational training and rehabilitation are better.

Prison is the only answer in case of criminals who are a risk to the society, such as murderers. They cannot be made to mix with society. Some people also say that people would not be afraid of doing crime if fear of imprisonment is not there. But I still feel that in majority of cases, we can do without prisons.

In traditional prisons, people learn a lot about crime and so when they leave prison they will commit even more crime. In other words, prisons act as universities of crime. So petty offenders like shop-lifters and pick-pockets should be given some vocational training and education. It is a well known fact that the basic causes of crime are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. So, if we provide education and job training then we would be removing the causes of crime. If criminals are rehabilitated by some form of employment, then they would certainly not re-offend.

Furthermore, the prisons are expensive to maintain. The government can spend that money on other important matters such as education and healthcare. This would ease some burden from the government's shoulders. The petty and minor criminals can also be employed in some community service projects after providing education and vocational training.

Summing up, we should hate the crime and not the criminal. To fight crime we should focus on the causes of crime. Education and job training help to rehabilitate the criminals. So, people who commit less serious crimes should not be sent to prison. Focus should be on reforming them.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: partially agree

Para 1: Enumerate those crimes for which prison is the only answer - Society needs to be protected from them

Para 2: Why prison is not the answer -

Para 3: Maintaining prisons is a burden on the govt.

Conclusion:

148. In some cities, the government has tried to reduce traffic. For instance, they imposed a congestion tax during rush hours. Do you think this development is positive or negative?

The transportation system of any nation is an indicator of its progress. With the increasing number of vehicles on the roads, the traffic problems have also increased. In certain cities, these traffic-related problems, like congestion, are addressed by implementing taxes and other traffic rules strictly. I think such taxes have more benefits than disadvantages.

The first major advantage of imposing traffic rules and taxes is that more and more people are discouraged form using their private vehicles. It has been noticed in cities where the road taxes are high, most of the people prefer using the public transport, thus leading to less congestion on the roads. For example, in London, when the congestion tax was implemented, it reduced the traffic in the central parts of the city by around 15%. People start looking at other options of transport, like car pooling, walking short distances and using the public transport more often. The added advantage is the reduced pollution, which has also become the need of the hour.

Moreover, the government can use the money collected from such taxes and use it for improving the public transport infrastructure. Government can invest in building new transport systems, like the metros and the subways, building more freeways, widening the existing roads, etc. For instance, in New Delhi, many people now prefer to travel by Metros rather than their private vehicles because of the comforts and the quality. The government has constantly maintained and improved the quality of this system over the years and more and more routes have been added. This has been a major factor in reducing the use of private vehicles.

Some people argue that there are already very high charges for buying a private vehicle, starting from getting it registered, paying road taxes and then further maintenance, when needed. They feel that such rules are inequitable and are not the answer to the congestion issues. Yet, we pay for all the other resources, like water, electricity, etc. according to their use. So, I believe that even for traffic there should be use-based charges, as it is also a service.

To sum up, the pros of implementing more road and traffic related taxes are definitely more than the cons. These benefit both the individuals and the nation.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Pros more than cons
Para 1: Advantages of such taxes
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: The other view with refutation
Conclusion:

149. In some cities, there are few controls on the design, construction of homes, office buildings, and the owners can decide on the styles of their houses. Do the advantages of this outweigh its drawbacks?

In some parts of the world, there are no regulations and rules to be followed for building design and construction. Although the supporters of this freedom have their arguments to justify it, I believe that there are more disadvantages of there being no laws and rules for building design and construction, than its merits.

To begin with, having no control on the design of offices and homes may lead to compromising the safety of the residents of the respective building. For example, if there are no fire safety regulations followed in a building, it may lead to destruction of property and loss of lives in case of a fire. Also, some regions are prone to natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, etc. In such regions, the buildings need to be designed keeping in mind these situations, so that the loss of life and property is minimized.

To add to it, the design of residential buildings, offices, educational facilities, hospitals etc. should be made keeping in mind the special needs of the disabled people. This can be regulated if there are rules made by the government, making it compulsory for all such buildings to have proper ramps, lifts etc. to cater to the needs of the old people and those with some disabilities or those who are handicapped.

Furthermore, if there is only a certain type of design allowed for buildings, it leads to a better-planned city. There would be no encroachments onto another person's property or on public property. Proper utilization of space can be done and also it gives a more aesthetic appeal to the city. For example, in Chandigarh there are limitations to the height of buildings and there are no random constructions allowed. Areas for constructing offices and other businesses have also been segregated. Proper approval is required before any new building is to be constructed. This has helped make the city more beautiful and appealing for the visitors.

Another very important reason for having design restrictions is that it may affect the neighbouring houses. Everyone has a right to solar access and proper ventilation. The new constructors may obstruct the light and air of the older houses, which may lead to bitterness among societies. For example, in Punjab, the PUDA (Punjab Urban Design Association) has made it mandatory to leave a certain amount of space in the front and back of each house. So, such rules are in the interest of everyone.

Some people argue that it restricts the creativity of the architects if they have to conform to the rules of the design. It hinders the creativity and stops them from creating beautiful and unique buildings. There are many famous buildings all over the world that are known because of their unique design. For instance, the Marina Bay Sands hotel in Singapore, the Opera house in Sydney, the Guggenheim museum, etc., which have become great tourist attractions because of the building design. They have given an identity to the cities they are in.

To summarize, it is true that there are a few benefits of giving people independence to design their homes and other buildings, but the drawbacks are much more. Normal residential areas should conform to certain rules and regulations. Unique buildings should need special approval, and should not be many in number. Normal residential areas should conform to certain rules and regulations.

Plan followed
Intro: Disadvantages are more
Para 1 – 4 : Disadvantages Para 5: Advantages
Conclusion:

150. *Some people think that schools should teach students according to their academic abilities, while others believe that it is better to have students with different abilities study together. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

It is a matter of intense debate whether children should be segregated according to their intelligence level in schools. It is obvious that all children are not of the same intellect, and sometimes it becomes difficult for educators to teach them in the same class. Therefore, some people feel that there should be separate teaching for intelligent students and weak students. However, others believe that it would be better to teach all children together. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives before forming an opinion.

There are many arguments in favour of teaching intelligent students and weak students in separate sections. The intelligent students can be taught at their pace and the sessions can be made more interesting for them, and the same thing applies to the weak students. Thus, both the categories of students would enjoy learning. Moreover, different teaching tactics can be adopted in each group to give students the maximum benefits. In a mixed group, many times weak students cannot cope up with the pace of studies and so come under high pressure and get de-motivated. When they are separated, teachers can handle them tactfully and bring them back their lost confidence.

Furthermore, it has been seen that sometimes the more intelligent students show disruptive behaviour. They can grasp things very soon and then can be disturbing elements in the class. It can become very difficult for the teacher to maintain discipline in the classroom.

On the other hand, weak students would automatically develop an inferiority complex if they were made to realise that they are weak in studies, by separating them. In addition to that, the other group might not treat them well, which can have a direct effect on their psyche. On the contrary, when the students study in a mixed group, a sense of competition develops and weak students are motivated to study. Even intelligent students can help weak students in studies and the bond can be strengthened. This way, even weak students would not feel belittled.

In my opinion, children should not be separated, as only academic abilities are not enough to judge the intelligence of the students. I would rather suggest what I had in my school, and that is extra coaching to weak students. It serves the purpose best as teachers save their time and energy and yet maintain the effectiveness.

To sum up, although there are merits of both approaches to teach students of different abilities, it would be better to teach them in a mixed class.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Benefits of teaching intelligent and weak students separately.
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Disadvantages of teaching separately and advantages of teaching together.
Para 4: Own opinion
Conclusion: Children of all abilities should be taught together.

151. *Human activities have negative effects on plant and animal species. Some people think it is too late to do anything about this problem. Others believe that effective measures can be taken to improve this situation. Discuss both views and give our opinion.*

Human activities, such as deforestation and urbanization, have narrowed the space for other species on the Earth or even threatened their existence. Some believe that the damage is irreversible and so we can do nothing, whereas others persist in carrying out effective measures to alleviate the current situation. This essay intends to examine both perspectives. However, I personally side with the latter view.

Throughout history, there are many examples, which support the pessimistic view. The South Andean toad became extinct in 1968, and the Sri Lanka legume tree died out completely in the 1980s. They even point out that even if we bring them back, there is no room for them to survive today. The dinosaurs are a good example in this context. If, by some miracle, we are able to bring them back, from where do we get the space for them to move about and proliferate? Finally, they claim that it is futile to save the weak species, unless these species themselves are able to continue their life.

On the other hand, we cannot leave things like that to go on, otherwise we are heading for doom. Firstly, overexploitation of natural resources should be reduced. Hunting and smuggling of wild animals should be banned. Overgrazing and over cultivation should be stopped so that we can have a sustainable development. Afforestation should be encouraged, which means planting trees where there were none before. Just imagine, in a country like India with a population of 120 crores, if we adopt the motto of 'each one plant one', then the results would be stupendous.

There are many examples of successful steps taken by the government and the NGOs to prove that if we try, we can achieve. For instance, the 'Royal Bengal Tiger', our national animal, was once on the verge of extinction, but with the efforts of our government and some NGOs we have succeeded in bringing up their numbers. People also donated a lot for the 'Save the tiger' project, which was advertised through the media. Many other steps, such as using pre-fabricated materials for doors and windows, has reduced the cutting of trees for wood.

To sum up, although human activities have done a lot of harm to the animal and plant species, it is still not late to make a beginning. Although we cannot reverse the damage, we can stop a lot of further damage, which is otherwise imminent.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: First perspective – why it is too late
Para 2: Second perspective – we can still do a lot
Para 3: Examples of what has been done
Conclusion: There is still time and it is never too late to begin.

152. More and more people are using computers and other electronic devices to access information. So, printing of books, magazines and newspapers should not be done. Do you agree or disagree with this?

It is irrefutable that technology has become a part of many aspects of life, including the information available through e-books, e-magazines and online newspapers. However, I disagree with the view that there is no need to print books, magazines and newspapers because of these e-reading materials. There are many arguments that surround my opinion, which I shall discuss in the forthcoming paragraphs.

The first and foremost reason for continuing to print magazines and books is that there are still many people all over the world, who either do not have access to such technology, or who are not comfortable with the use of computers and other such electronic devices. This populace depends on printed information, rather than on the electronic form of that information. For example, newspapers are still the most popular and the most affordable source of information among the masses in India. There are many parts of India where there is no access to technology. In such remote areas, books are still the best source of information.

In addition, all the information available on the Internet may not be reliable, as there are a lot of fake news and articles posted online. Everyone who has access to this resource can post anything online and sometimes the information posted is discrepant. So, at times it becomes impossible to rely solely on the Internet and we need to turn to the printed material. The printed material is always authenticated and published after careful consideration of facts and is reviewed several times. So, information that is printed is always more reliable and authentic than the information available online.

The opponents of this view say that there are more benefits of the electronic medium, as it leads to an ease of storage, is more portable and is cheaper and more environmentally friendly than the printed form. There is no denying the fact that in this progressive era of technology, the popularity of printed material has been affected. However, it can never be completely done away with. The charm of holding a newspaper and the aroma of the printed books can never be replaced by reading something on the screen of a computer or a smart phone.

To summarize, it can be reiterated that the electronic information can never completely eradicate the need and the use of printed material, like books and periodicals. They will still remain an integral part of our education system, and for the news.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of traditional reading materials
Para 2: More importance
Para 3: Opponents' views with refutation
Conclusion

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

It is indubitable that traffic congestion is a growing anxiety in many parts of the world. In order to mitigate this problem, some suggest that roads should be fabricated. Others, however, believe that public transportation, such as trains and subway lines should be constructed. Both of these methods will be analysed below. I, personally side with the latter view.

On the one hand, expanding the road network could naturally ease traffic jams. Obviously, more and more private vehicles would be accommodated and commute time would reduce. This strategy would also be good from the economic perspective. The cost of road construction would be much lower than that of subway lines. The money thus saved can be used for other key sectors, such as healthcare and education.

On the other hand, construction of mega rail systems is a more effective method to improve traffic condition. There are compelling evidences to support the investment in such public transportation. In countries where subway systems have been made up to standard, the number of private vehicles has come down. Trains can carry a much larger number of passengers than any other form of transport. Additionally, city dwellers can save time and also money on traveling expenses. For instance, in New Delhi, many people now prefer to travel by Metros rather than their private vehicles because of the comfort and the quality.

I personally believe that in places where the budget of the governments is constrained, a combination of both approaches is needed. For example, in India, the road networks are being expanded in almost all places, but subway lines are also being added slowly and steadily in many cities. In the foreseeable future, the expanded road networks are also going to prove inadequate, and so subway lines would remain the only solution.

To conclude, both methods discussed above can provide relief on our traffic congestion. However, it is my opinion that the method to build trains and subways, makes more sense in the long run.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: Advantages of road network
Para 2: Advantages of subways and train network
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

154. In many countries, women are allowed to take maternity leave during the first month after the birth of the new born. Do you think the advantages of maternity leave outweigh the disadvantages?

I definitely agree that the pros of maternity leave outweigh the cons. A number of arguments support my opinion.

First, maternity leave is very advantageous for the newborns. We all know that the future of the world rests largely in the hands of the generation we are rearing. Once a child is born, it becomes national property. Mothers are the front line childcare providers and therefore, if they are given maternity leave, they can do their job better. In most Indian homes the mother's salary is necessary to support the family. So, if the mother does not get a paid maternity leave, then she has to go back to job earlier and this affects the childcare. Nurseries fail to provide the one-to-one interaction children need.

Secondly, maternity leave is beneficial for the mother herself. It is an undeniable fact that a woman has to go through a very stressful time physically, emotionally, and financially, during pregnancy. Therefore, if women are allowed maternity leave, they can look after their health.

Another important advantage of the maternity leave is that, the job is secure. Where maternity leave is not allowed, the woman has to leave her job, and the vacancy may get filled when it is time for her to get back to work. The fear of losing the job altogether makes many women apprehensive and so they get back to work at the cost of their health and their child's health.

There are a few disadvantages of the maternity leave. A long maternity leave may be an obstacle for career progression. Secondly, in cases of unpaid maternity leave, there may be financial strain on the households.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion saying that the disadvantages of maternity leave are negligible as compared to the advantages. That is why some countries have taken a step forward and allowed maternity leave to women after child-birth.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Advantages to the child
Para 2: Advantages to woman herself
Para 3: Job is secure
Para 4: Disadvantage
Conclusion: I reiterate my opinion saying that the disadvantages of maternity leave are negligible as compared to the advantages

155. More and more children from wealthy countries are doing unpaid work in poor countries, such as teaching, building houses etcetera. Why are they doing this? Who gets more benefit, the community or the young people?

In the last few years, volunteer tourism has become very popular among the youth from the developed countries. They travel to the developing and under-developed nations to contribute towards the development of the infrastructure or to educate and aware people. There are many reasons, which have led to this tendency, and in my opinion, both the youth and the communities they are serving, benefit from it equally.

There are several factors, which have led to the popularity of the volunteer work in the underprivileged sections of some nations. The main reason is the spread of awareness and information by the digital and other forms of media, which connects us to the events all over the world. There is news about natural calamities and other emergency situations from all over the world, which makes the youth, want to help the needy and lend a helping hand to the local authorities. Also, in most developed countries, it is a part of the education to sensitize the students towards the importance of sharing and helping others, as this helps them to become better citizens.

This development has benefits for both the youth volunteers and the people they are serving. For the youth, volunteer work adds to their work experience, and gives them an opportunity to put to work the skills they have learned at school and college. These days even the employers look for employees who have a volunteer work experience. So, the youth can get better jobs if they have a good background of some social work. To add to it, they get more exposure because of the travel to other countries and coming in contact with people from different cultures and social strata. It broadens their horizons.

The communities these youth volunteers work in are definitely benefitted, as their standards of living are improved, with the development of the homes and other infrastructure. In times of calamities and other natural disasters, the volunteer workers help rebuild their homes and other facilities. The education provided to them helps them to gain knowledge and makes their future brighter. It improves their chances of getting a better job, which in turn improves their quality of life.

To conclude, it can be said that the volunteer work done by the youth is a positive trend, which is advantageous for them, as well as the communities they work with.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Benefits to young volunteers
Para 3: Benefits to communities
Conclusion:

156. Towns and cities are attractive places. Some people suggest that the government should spend money putting in more works of art like paintings and statues to make them better to live in. Do you agree or disagree?

It has long been an issue of debate whether some part of the national budget should be spent on the beautification of towns and cities through works of art, like statues and paintings. I believe that it should be done, and in the following essay I will put forth my arguments in support of my views.

Art has always been an inseparable part of our lives, as it helps us express ourselves and instills happy feelings in us. Putting up statues or sculptures in open areas, gives an opportunity to people to enjoy it and acts as a distraction from the monotony of everyday activities. Research has proved that appreciating art helps people relieve stress. In addition, during tough times, people need some form of art to release tension. It could be through music, dance, painting, etc. Having sculptures, statues or murals in public places, gives an access to people from all strata's of society to enjoy art and refresh their mind.

Moreover, installing statues in public places is not only a way to commemorate a famous historical figure, but also is an interesting way for children to learn about the history or the accomplishments of that person. India has a rich culture and history and in most of the towns and cities there are statues of famous persons or those depicting historical events. For example, in my hometown, there is a statue of Dr. B.R Ambedkar. Everyone who passes by that statue reads about him and children are fascinated by it and know all about Dr. Ambedkar.

Another added advantage is that statues become a tourist attraction and people like to visit places, which have a rich history, art and culture. This helps the local business and thus, helps make the economy of the place better. For example, the Rock Garden in Chandigarh has modern sculptures made of trash, which attract a lot of tourists from all over the world.

No doubt, the government should focus more on other more important issues, like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, etc. However, art should also not take a backseat and should be focused on to make the cities and the country more beautiful and attractive, for the residents and for those who visit.

In conclusion, I would reiterate that art cannot be separated from our lives and importance should be given to making a place more appealing, by installing works of art, like sculptures, statues and paintings in public places.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2 & 3: More reasons
Para 4: Opponents view with refutation
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

157. Some people think the main purpose of schools is to turn the children into good citizens and workers, rather than to benefit them as individuals. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

I definitely agree with the statement that the primary aim of schools is to turn the pupils into good inhabitants and personnel rather than benefit them personally. I feel that schools have to fulfil both things but the primary aim is towards the welfare of the society, and the benefit to the individual automatically ensues.

Schooling can do a lot for shaping children. Firstly, school is a system with so many possibilities for a child to grow into what he or she actually is. For example, teachers are able to mould children by identifying their hidden strengths, and the same strength may later make the child what he actually is in this world for.

Secondly, since children spend a sizeable amount of their time with teachers and a community of boys and girls from different faiths, statuses and family values, therefore, there is great possibility for a child to undergo a transformation into a good human being. Teachers are a great force to influence children.

Of course, learning academic subjects is the main aim for what students go to schools. Definitely, the job market requires professional knowledge the most. But it is also true that if students become good citizens and workers, they are themselves equally benefited too.

To conclude, raising children into real human beings involves several factors. Among them, the prominent one is good schooling. Schools' main function is to make students good and responsible workers and the personal benefit to students also takes place simultaneously.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree.
Para 1: Teachers can bring out the hidden strengths of the child by which he can become a good citizen
Para 2: As children spend quality time with teachers and other children they learn to become good citizens because of that influence.
Para 3: Schools give academic education, which helps them to get good jobs and hence they become good citizens and workers.
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion.

158. *In recent years the family has changed as well as family roles. Why is this happening and is this situation positive or negative?*

Change is the law of nature and with the changing times the family's inner construction, along with the positions of its members, has also changed. This essay intends to analyse the reasons of this trend. I believe that this situation has advantages as well as disadvantages.

The main factor contributing to this trend is the social change brought about by globalisation. The exposure to foreign cultures has changed people's mindset, and has also redefined the role of women in the family. Women are no longer limited to household chores, and are working shoulder to shoulder with men. The reins of the households are no longer in the hands of the man, the bread-earner, of the family.

The second major reason for this change in the fabric of the family is the economic condition. Since it is challenging to maintain a family with many members and to make ends meet, it is more feasible to keep the size of the family small. Thus, according to a recent study, the nuclear family has risen in popularity in the last one or two decades.

This modification in the family structure and family roles has brought about many benefits. Firstly, it has led to an egalitarian society, where gender differences are disappearing, and women can also fulfill their ambitions. The society has also benefited from a greater labour force.

On the other hand, the bonds between family members are being weakened. Since most parents have to spend time working, their children are left unattended or sent to childcare centers or boarding schools. The shrinkage in family size also results in more elders being sent to old-age home instead of staying with their children and grandchildren.

To sum up, due to the changes in culture and economy, the family structure and responsibilities among family members have been modified. While this trend positively contributes to gender equality and strengthens the labour force, it also has many adverse effects on family relationships.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Reasons
Para 3: Advantages
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

159. In the modern world, it is no longer necessary to use animals for food or use animal products, for instance, clothing and medicines. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Trying to live without exploiting animals for food, clothing or medicine can certainly be done nowadays, and people in the modern world seem to agree that it is not at all justified to eat meat, clothe in leather, or use animals as medical research subjects. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that we can do without animal products.

To begin with, a vegetarian diet has proven to be a healthy choice. The earlier beliefs that vegetarian diet is deficient in proteins and other micronutrients, such as vitamins and minerals, have been challenged successfully. On top of that, a vegetarian diet, is rich in fiber, prevents cancer of the colon, which is the most prevalent cancers in the West, where people mostly eat non-vegetarian food. Even the vegans, the very strict vegetarians, who don't even use animal products such as milk and eggs, have not been seen to be suffering from any malnutrition. So we can safely spare the animals from becoming our source of such nutrition.

Talking about clothes, today pure leather shoes and garments can be easily replaced by faux leather, which is just like pure leather and only a true connoisseur can tell the difference. Such products have the added advantage of being easier on the pocket, as their initial cost is also less and the maintenance cost is also lesser that that of pure leather products. So, even for clothing, animals can be left alone.

It is true that animals have been used for experimenting new drugs and are also the source of many medicines, but for that too today we have computer-simulated experiments, which give better results than those done on animals. Therefore, animals are not needed anymore in this field also. It is beyond argument that for this Earth to go the distance, we must respect nature and its elements. We mustn't abuse or exploit the animal kingdom because preserving those results in long term and ultimate good for mankind.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that it is definitely possible to lead a good life without depending on animal products, and so we have no right to exploit animals.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Agree
Para 1: no need to use them for food
Para 2: no need to use them for clothes
Para 3: no need to use them for medicines
Conclusion:

160. Some people think health care should be free for everyone. Others think that people should pay for their medical costs themselves. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Nowadays, health care has become the focus of the people's concern. It is a highly debated issue as to who should pay for this service. There are those who argue that the government should pay for it, while others think individuals should shoulder the costs. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. Personally, I think that basic health care should be on the government, but advanced health care should be borne by the individual.

It is irrefutable that it is the government's responsibility to make basic health care accessible to everyone. The reason is that a nation's prosperity very much depends on the contribution made by its citizens who are in good health. After all we all pay taxes and so we are entitled to get something back in return. Private hospitals can be available for those who want and can afford it, but the free government hospitals should always be there.

On the other hand, individuals should be responsible for their advanced health care. Actually, the advanced medical and surgical treatments are very expensive. So, instead of depending on government we should take some health insurance or save in any other way with the tomorrow in mind. If the government pays for the advanced health care, then it would be a big burden on its shoulders and many other essential areas, such as primary education would be ignored.

There are, of course, some sections of society who cannot afford their own healthcare. The government should have some system of knowing their financial status and provide free healthcare so that nobody dies for want of treatment.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that basic healthcare should be borne by the government, but advanced health care should be paid for by the individual from his pocket.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: I think that basic health care should be on the government, but advanced health care should be borne by the individual.
Para 1: Why govt. should spend on basic healthcare
Para 2: Why individuals should themselves pay for advanced healthcare
Para 3: How government can help the poorer sections of society for advanced healthcare
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

161. Nowadays, people live in the society where consumer goods are cheaper to buy. Do you think its advantages outweigh disadvantages?

Globalization has ushered in an era of consumerism and we are flooded with choices. Certainly, this phenomenon has both pros and cons. However, I believe that the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages. I shall present arguments to support my views in the following paragraphs.

On the positive side, cheap consumer goods means they can be afforded by the majority and this in turn means mass production, which is something good for the employment sector. This is definitely beneficial for the overall economy of the country. Furthermore, it reduces the gap between the rich and the poor to some extent because everyone can afford the things. For example, the market is flooded with cheap mobile phones from China, which can be seen in the hands of every Tom, Dick and Harry.

On the downside, cheap consumer goods means there is a compromise with the quality and more often than not, we bring home things, which become useless after one or two uses. This promotes a use-and-throw culture because the repair is sometimes costlier than the actual cost of the product. These products also do not carry any guarantee with them. So, in the long run the consumer suffers.

Another big disadvantage of cheap consumer goods is to the environment. There is a lot of rubbish generated because of excessive consumerism. Unnecessary packaging is also done to make these cheap goods appealing to the eye. Often, this rubbish is not decomposed and ends up in rivers and waterways. This is definitely detrimental to the environment.

To conclude, cheap consumer goods do have their advantages but these advantages come at a heavy price to the consumer and the environment.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I believe that the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: Disadvantages
Para 3: Disadvantage to environment
Conclusion:

162. *Many countries construct modern buildings to give good view of towns and cities. Some people say that countries should make new buildings with traditional style to preserve their culture as part of their identity. Do you agree or disagree.*

Architecture plays an astronomical role in our lives. Modern buildings have their own aesthetic appeal, because of which planners are constructing such buildings. Although traditional buildings give an identity to a place and preserve the culture, I disagree that modern buildings should be built in traditional styles. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, in most large cities, land is scarce and consequently it is very valuable. This has led to the construction of tall buildings, which occupy only a small area of land while providing lots of floor space where people can live or work. We also have to meet the needs of the growing population for which tall buildings are the answer. Moreover, there would be no need for deforestation to provide more land.

Secondly, modern materials are more practical. Now we use concrete and steel instead of stone, timber or brick. Because of these things buildings can be built comparatively quickly using prefabricated materials. They do not use local materials, such as stone, timber or brick, which used to give character to those buildings. Finally, changes are taking place in climate and energy sources are depleting fast. So we need energy efficient houses. Modern buildings use double glass front walls and POP (Plaster of Paris) ceilings, which lessen the energy requirements. Moreover, now we need smaller houses as family structure is changing.

However, I believe that every city should preserve the already existing historic buildings, which give character and identity to the city. The various forts and palaces in Rajasthan, India have been preserved and are being used to attract tourism. I agree with this kind of initiative taken by the government.

To conclude, it is the need of the day that modern buildings should be built in today's contemporary styles. However, to give identity to a place one or two historic buildings may be preserved in every city.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Land is scarce – population growing – tall modern buildings are the answer

Para 2: Secondly, modern materials are more practical Finally, changes are taking place in climate and energy sources are depleting fast.

Para 3: importance of traditional buildings, which are already there

Conclusion:

163. Today, many children spend a lot of time playing computer games and less time on sports. Why? Is it a positive or a negative development?

Today's children are different from the children of previous generations. They are more interested in playing video games or sitting hours on the play stations than in playing outdoor games. This essay intends to analyze the reasons of this phenomenon. I believe that this is a negative development.

The main reason why children spend more time on electronic games is that today's children are technology oriented. No matter how young the child is, he knows everything about the features of computer and mobile phones. To add to it, parents also prefer their children playing indoor games under the air-conditioner, instead of going out and getting dirty.

There are definite advantages of playing video games in moderation. But, the problem is that these games are addicting, and when children play these games for hours at a stretch at the cost of outdoor activities, the negative effects overshadow the positive ones. The major disadvantage is that these games are isolating, as these are usually played alone. In contrast, outdoor games teach children to socialize and make friends.

Another disadvantage of playing less outdoor games is that the children of today are suffering from obesity, which in turn leads to many other problems. Children today, lack in the strength and stamina, which develops by outdoor play. Furthermore researchers have found a new disorder, known as 'Nature Deficit Disorder', which is seen in children who play indoors. They found out that children who were in contact with nature, were less stressed out with life. So basically when kids don't play outside in the natural world, they miss the great benefits that nature provides.

To sum up, there are many reasons why children of the modern world play more video games, and it is indubitably a negative development.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Disadvantages
Para 3: More disadvantages
Conclusion:

166. Nowadays the football supporters behave violently. What is the cause? How we can solve it?

Football hooliganism is not a new phenomenon. It dates back to 14th century England, when this sport was banned by the king of that time. In the modern form of football, such violence has also been reported many times. This essay intends to analyse the causes of this phenomenon, and suggest ways to mitigate the problem.

The main reason of violence by football supporters is that football is a competitive, physical sport, which is played by and attracts an audience, which is youthful and aggressive. The supporters of the teams form gangs, and these gangs want to assert themselves over their rivals. They have strong emotional ties with their teams. The Heysel stadium disaster is an example of such hooliganism, in which Liverpool supporters and Juventis supporters had a fight, because of which a wall collapsed and there were 39 casualties.

Secondly, the influence of alcohol is there on football violence. There were clear evidences that most of those involved in football hooliganism were drunk. Finally, the media is also considered a culprit in contributing to football violence. Studies have suggested that the language of war and combat employed by the media in covering football, incited the young supporters to indulge in violence. For instance, the Daily Mirror's headlines "Achtung! Surrender" before the match between England and Germany in 1996, was very provocative for the young supporters.

Many solutions have been proposed and tried, which has resulted in a significant decrease in football hooliganism. Such measures should be implemented more stringently to completely eradicate the menace of football violence. First of all, sophisticated policing measures should be employed. Spotting and barring the hooligans to attend further matches would be very helpful. Alcohol consumption during the matches should be banned. Finally, the media should be wise enough to play its role in such a way that it does not give air to hooliganism.

To sum up, football violence is a problem, but many effective steps can be taken to address the issue and prevent further mishaps.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: reason
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion

167. Some people think that to be successful, you need to get in a university education, whereas others say it is not true. Discuss both ideas and give your own opinion.

Success is a very subjective term. It is very difficult to define a successful life. All too often we equate a successful life with material possessions. Yet, there are millions of people out there who lead successful, fulfilled lives and are not financially sound. They may not be rich in the financial sense, but they are rich in life and values. Therefore, I partially agree with the statement that university education is not necessary for success in today's time.

Undoubtedly, a university education is essential if you want to have a career in a profession such as law, engineering, teaching, or medicine. What is more, it opens more doors than you would have if you didn't get one. A university education is a great platform in learning more and gaining valuable knowledge in the field we are passionate about. Also, the university is a great place to network for friends and business associates or partners. So, definitely, in this respect, university education can help you get success.

However, there are other types of people who make it big without going to college. For instance, there are examples of people who started their own business and took risks to pursue a dream. And, for them, it was a very profitable decision. Take for example, Michael Dell, the founder and CEO of Dell who dropped out of college at 19. He first started his computer company in his college dorm room, later using company's earnings and family loans to expand. Henry Ford never graduated high school, but went on to start one of the largest automobile manufacturing companies in the world, Ford Motor Company.

Furthermore, in today's scenario, people with some talent, for example, in the entertainment or sports field can achieve name and fame very soon. The reality shows have made it possible for the girl or boy next door with some talent to achieve success overnight. Finally, a university education does not generally enable you to achieve successful relationships with family and friends.

To conclude, it can be said that the attributes needed to become successful in today's world do not necessarily depend on a university degree. However, in some situations such as professional courses, it is needed to get success.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Partially agree
Para 1: How university education can get success
Para 2: Examples of people who got success without college.
Para 3: success through some talent
Conclusion:

168. Multi-cultural societies, in which there is a mixture of different ethnic peoples, bring more benefits than drawbacks to a country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In a multicultural society, people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds live alongside each other. Multiculturalism can bring a great deal of richness to a society, but a multicultural society is not always plain sailing. However, the advantages of a multicultural society far outweigh its disadvantages.

On the positive side, a multi-cultural society can bring a wide variety of benefits to a nation in terms of economic, cultural and social development. To begin with, the majority of immigrants from different cultural backgrounds are high achievers, including experts, scholars, engineers, business people and other well-trained people. Their arrival means an inflow of expertise, experience, investments as well as a dynamic labour force, which are all key factors to the increase of competitiveness, efficiency and productivity of a nation's economy.

What is more, the new arrivals know very well the importance of respecting the local traditions and customs. Therefore, they co-operate and collaborate well with the natives. They work very harmoniously side by side in offices, factories and schools. In addition, with a rich blend of peoples, cultures and lifestyles, people in multi-cultural societies tend to be more open-minded and tolerant of other people's customs and religions.

On the other hand, multi-societies also have some problems. Sometimes, people from overseas try to maintain their unique ethnic cultures with their own distinctive characteristics. These differences may seem trivial, but they can cause some conflicts that make it difficult for immigrants to become assimilated into the mainstream of the local social life. But multi-cultural societies are usually based on equality and diversity, so these problems can eventually be dealt with successfully.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the multicultural societies definitely have more plusses, because of which many countries like Australia and Canada are making great efforts to attract more immigrants from abroad.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: agree
Para 1: Advantages of multicultural societies
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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

Global warming is occurring at an unprecedented speed, and if the present trends continue, it will become increasingly difficult to sustain life on Earth. I agree that it is vital to tackle this problem, but I disagree that we should waste our resources in finding a new planet to live. I firmly believe that some other more practical solutions should be researched upon.

To begin with, 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, which has affected life adversely 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 has spoiled the air quality and hastened climate change. If things go on like this the future scenario is apparently going to be bleak.

However, spending money on finding another home in space for all people on Earth would not be an effective measure. First, there is little hope of seeking a planet that has favourable conditions for life. In addition, the cost of researching such a planet would be exorbitant. At a time when millions of people are suffering from poverty, homelessness and illiteracy, it would be worthwhile to spend on the present problems and leave the future in the bucket list.

I believe that instead of spending on research on space, a much better solution would be to 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 replace our dependence on fossil fuels. People should also 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.

To conclude, I reiterate that although global warming is making Earth uninhabitable, researching outer planets for scope of life is not the plausible solution. It would be more worthwhile to spend those resources on improving life on Earth.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why life on Earth is worsening
Para 2: Why spending money on other planets is not the right solution
Para 3: What can be done instead
Conclusion:

170. *There are more new towns being built nowadays. It is more important to include public parks and sports facilities than shopping centres for individuals to spend their free time. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Building healthy, functional, and productive cities is perhaps the greatest challenge facing humanity today. A key part of these cities is the public spaces. I disagree with the given statement, which says that parks and sports facilities are better than shopping centres as public spaces. I firmly believe that shopping centres are as important as parks and sports facilities, so when designing new towns, all these public spaces should be given equal importance.

To begin with, public parks if developed as "places" and planned around major public destinations, build social connection and human happiness — both precious commodities in an increasingly congested urban landscape. A great urban park is a safety valve for the city, where people living in high density can find breathing room. Public parks are places where all people feel safe to play and relax, and can relieve stress. Another benefit is that crime rates and gang activities go down when more people are out on the street and know their neighbors. These places also have substantial environmental benefits. Trees reduce air and water pollution and thus they help to keep cities cooler.

Furthermore, sports facilities need to be designed and constructed so as to be functional as well as attractive in a way that encourages people to do sports and boost their feeling of wellbeing. Modern lifestyle is very sedentary, and such public spaces such as stadia and playgrounds would definitely promote active living and provide important physical, psychological and social health benefits for individuals and the community.

Visiting a shopping centre is one of most desirable activities of people everywhere in the world. Today, it is observed that shopping centers are used as public spaces by many urban inhabitants. Shopping centers have become places where social life is experienced and leisure time is spent through a wide range of activities offered besides shopping. For example, some shopping malls have skating rinks, where parents and children can spend good time together and have fun. The elderly come there for sitting and relaxing on the sofas and couches placed at regular intervals.

To sum up, public parks, sports facilities and shopping centres are all equally important public spaces. They are different, but have a common role of improving the life of urban residents in their own specific way.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of parks
Para 2: Importance of sporting facilities
Para 3: Importance of shopping complexes
Conclusion:

171. *Some people say that no one should do the same job forever, while others believe that doing the same job is beneficial for the individual, company and society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Job-hopping is a relatively new trend. A few decades ago, it was a term, which was highly frowned upon. It was a norm to stick to one job for life, grab a pension and retire. This essay intends to analyse the merits and demerits of both approaches.

To begin with, there are some strong benefits that can come from a career change. One of the major benefits of changing careers is that the person can get a ton of experience, and a fresh look on things. The employers and the company also benefit because such employees can overcome challenges sooner and better. Secondly, the person who has worked in many places, develops a huge network, which is an asset for employees and employers alike. Finally, by working at various organisations, a person gets opportunities to figure out which type of employers and company culture suits him/her the best. Then that person can finally stick to that job for the rest of his/her work life.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people like sticking to one job. Firstly, the chances of promotion are much more because of longevity of service. Furthermore, they find greater depth of satisfaction from their working relationships. There is also much better work-life balance if a person's job is stable and secure. Employers are also hesitant to hire a person who has a history of many job hops. They don't want to waste resources on training such employees. To add to it, in times of recession, the last hired is first fired. So, sticking to one job is advantageous for the employers and employees both.

In my opinion, very frequent job-hopping is certainly not good. Job-hopping is acceptable if done for the right reasons, such as learning new work patterns. If it is done for money alone, it may prove to be detrimental in the long run. Job hoppers are usually not liked by employers, because they see them as directionless and disloyal.

To sum up, an occasional job change is understandable, but hopping from one job to the other every year or two, is surely not good for the employees and employers both.

Plan followed
Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: Advantages of job-hopping
Para 2: Advantages of sticking to one job
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

172. Some businesses find that their new employees lack in basic interpersonal skills such as lack of ability to work with colleagues as a team. What are the causes and suggest possible solutions. Also provide relevant examples from your experience.

While recruiting new employees, businesses generally look for the 'hard skills', which are the job-specific skills, such as a good qualification or degree. Obviously, job-related expertise is essential in any profession, and in many other careers. But, it has been seen that when these new workers join the workforce, they sometimes cannot get along well with their colleagues. So, the importance of soft skills, which means how you relate to other people and to work, has come up. This essay shall analyze, why new recruits lack such soft skills, and suggest ways to mitigate the problem.

The main reason for the new employees being deficient in such soft skills is that when it comes to recruiting strategies, hiring decisions often focus largely on candidates' technical skills and expertise, with relatively little attention to soft skills. Actually, unlike hard skills, there are no exams to prove that any person has these soft skills. Secondly, while major organisations train their employees in these skills, most firms do not spare the time and effort to do so. Moreover, some senior workers have ego problems and make it difficult for the new employees to settle down in the new work atmosphere.

The solutions are not all that difficult. While hiring, employers should give importance to these traits. Ignoring a person's experiences and skills is not good. Personal skills and life experiences are also as important as good qualifications while recruiting new employees. There are several methods for assessing job candidates' personal skills. An interview is one good method. Other ways are group discussions or luncheons that require candidates to display social skills. Social skills can also be assessed using standardized questionnaires such as personality tests. Many of these measures are relatively straightforward to use, fairly inexpensive and can be highly valid.

Companies can develop these skills in their employees in many ways. One way is to organise meetings to practice public speaking, in an environment where they can feel safe to fail. They should encourage all employees to share personal successes as well as failures so others can learn from these victories and shortcomings. The other key way to improve employee's soft skills is leading by example. The employees will do, what those sitting at the top chairs will do. Soft skills are something you learn by doing, and you have to live them to learn them. It's like parenting — your children don't do what you say, they do what you do. If you are a good example and live by the culture you want to establish, your workers will follow.

Summing up, it is irrefutable that many new employees face the problem of lack of interpersonal skills. Nonetheless, this can be handled successfully by elaborate interviews and training after recruiting.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: This essay shall delve into the causes of this phenomenon and suggest some ways forward
Para 1: Reasons for this phenomenon
Para 2: Solutions *Para 3: more solutions*
Conclusion:

173. *It is more important for a building to serve a purpose than to look beautiful. Architects shouldn't worry about producing a building as a work of art. Do you agree or disagree?*

It is understandable that the utility of buildings is more important than beauty. However, I disagree that architects should not make efforts about making artistic buildings. I believe that today's architects have the expertise and the resources to design buildings, which are both – beautiful and useful.

A good building should satisfy the three principles of durability, utility and beauty. It should stand up robustly and remain in good condition. It should be useful and function well for the people using it. It should delight people and raise their spirits. A good architect should strive to fulfil each of these three attributes as much as possible.

To begin with, the burgeoning population and the scarcity of land today have raised the debate whether the buildings of today should only be useful and not beautiful. However, the skyscrapers of today are the answers to both these problems. They accommodate a lot of people in the least amount of space and these skyscrapers are architectural marvels in terms of beauty.

Secondly, the natural resources are limited and it is the need of the hour to make energy efficient buildings. For example, using solar panels and other energy saving measures are the need of the day. Today's architects have been successful in designing aesthetically appealing solar panels, which need less space. The climate changes that are taking place because of global warming, need buildings that need less air conditioning and yet remain cool.

To summarise, it is imperative for architects to understand function, and aesthetics both. It is a big responsibility to have buildings, which are both useful and beautiful and architects of today have the capability, to do so.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: Disagree.
Para 1: What should a good building have
Para 2: The modern skyscrapers are both – beautiful and utilitarian
Para 3: Need of the hour is to make energy efficient buildings –
Conclusion: It is a big responsibility to have buildings, which are both useful and beautiful and architects of today have the capability to do so

174. Certain people believe that the only way to reduce crime is sentencing criminals for longer time periods, while others believe alternative methods should be used to lower crimes. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

There are many different opinions on the best way to reduce crime. Some people say that long term prison is the only way to curb crime, whereas others say that education, vocational training and rehabilitation are better. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives.

There are many arguments given by those who advocate longer terms in prison to combat crime. They say that there are criminals who are a risk to the society, such as murderers. They cannot be made to mix with society. There are also mentally insane people such as serial killers who should be kept away from the people. If such criminals are set free soon, they will reoffend and so should be in penitentiaries for longer terms.

On the other hand, there are many convincing arguments given by those against long term imprisonment. Firstly, in traditional prisons, petty criminals learn a lot about crime, and so when they leave prison they commit even more crime. In other words prisons act as universities of crime. So petty offenders like shoplifters and pickpockets should be given some vocational training and education. It is a well-known fact that the basic causes of crime are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. So, if we provide education and job training, then we would be removing the causes of crime. If criminals are rehabilitated by some form of employment, then they would certainly not re-offend.

Furthermore, the prisons are expensive to maintain. The government can spend that money on other important matters such as education and healthcare. This would ease some burden off the government's shoulders. The petty and minor criminals can also be employed in some community service projects after providing education and vocational training.

Summing up, we should hate the crime and not the criminal. To fight crime we should focus on the causes of crime. Education and job training help to rehabilitate the criminals. Longer terms in prison are not the answer to fight crime. Focus should be on reforming the criminals.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Enumerate those crimes for which long term prison is the only answer
Para 2: Why prison is not the answer -
Para 3: Maintaining prisons, is a burden on the govt.
Conclusion:

175. In some countries, university students live away from home and in another city while studying. Do you think the disadvantages outweigh the advantages of living in another city?

It is a highly debated issue, whether it is better for university students to live far away from home than to live at home with their parents. There are pros and cons of both approaches. However, I believe that the advantages overweigh the disadvantages.

There are definite benefits of staying at home. To begin with, it is much more economical to stay at home than to stay near the university. If you choose to stay at the university, then you either stay at the university dormitory or rent your own apartment. Both university options are more expensive as compared to home. Then, you have to do your own cooking and cleaning, which is not the case if you stay at home where your mother looks after all these things. You do spend some time commuting to and from the university, but then you save your time on cooking and cleaning. The disadvantage of staying at home is that you may be disturbed by siblings, and you may have to help in household chores.

There are many advantages of staying near the university. University education is a time for you to mix with people of different backgrounds and cultures. This culture exchange usually occurs after class hours. If you have to return home then you miss out on this golden opportunity. Secondly, there are good study facilities such as libraries, computer labs etc., if you are on or near the campus. You also get to experience some independence. The downside is that it is expensive, and to cut the cost you may have to share your apartment with someone you don't like.

In my opinion, it is definitely worthwhile to live at the university than with your parents even if you have to shell out some extra money for that, because it is a golden opportunity to interact with people of different parts of the world, and you get to enjoy the benefits of facilities like the library and sports stadiums and gyms.

To sum up, it can be said that there are benefits and drawbacks of both approaches, and the decision is purely subjective. However, in my opinion staying near the university has more benefits than drawbacks.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Advantages of living near the university are more
Para1: advantages of staying at home
Para 2: disadvantages of staying at home
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: decision is purely subjective. Staying at university has more advantages

176. People's shopping habits depend more on the age group they belong to than other factors. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the given statement, which says that the age of a person is the main determinant of consumer behaviour. I believe that apart from age, there are numerous other factors, which have equal impact on how and why people buy things.

Undoubtedly, age is an important factor affecting people's shopping. A consumer does not buy the same products or services at 20 years and at 50 years. His lifestyle, activities, hobbies and habits evolve throughout his life. Accordingly, his shopping needs also change. For example, during his life, a consumer could change his diet from unhealthy products, such as fast foods, to a healthier diet to avoid health problems. His clothing preferences also would change with age. Therefore, age does affect the shopping habits.

Another factor, which is as important as age, is the gender. In general, men have a different attitude about shopping than women do. In fact, women are responsible for two-thirds of all household product purchases, whereas men buy about three-quarters of all alcoholic beverages. Their personal needs are also different. The clothes, toiletries, accessories etcetera, all requirements are different.

Furthermore, the socioeconomic status of the person also determines buying choices. The upper strata of society, is very brand conscious. The middle and lower income groups have to see their pocket. Brands are like sour grapes for them. Peer pressure is another important element, which controls purchasing choices. If one friend has an I-phone, the other also buys the same. Advertisements, which keep bombarding people with info about any product, also affect consumerism.

Finally, there are individual differences. Two consumers can be similar in age, personality, gender, and so on but still purchase very different products. On top of that biological and chronological age are very different. A 60 year old may be young at heart and buy clothes, which a 20 year old may find too flamboyant.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that shopping habits depend on age, gender, financial status, family, friends and many other factors equally. To label any one of these factors, as the most important would be wrong.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: influence of age
Para 2: Gender
Para 3: Other factors
Para 4: Individual differences
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

177. Money offered for postgraduate research is limited; as a consequence, some people argue that financial support from the government should only be provided for scientific research rather than research for less useful subjects. Do you agree or disagree?

With limited public funding, many countries tend to give priorities to research for "hard sciences" rather than "soft sciences." Research on both can benefit the society as a whole in different ways. Therefore, I disagree with the given statement that government aid should only be for scientific research.

Government funding for postgraduate research is limited, so clearly decisions need to be made with regard to the research that receives priority. Our modern global system relies a lot on science and technology. So I think that this is where the majority of funding should go. Countries that are in the lead as far as scientific development is concerned are the ones most likely to be successful. If we rank countries by their level of scientific development and then by their economic success, the two lists will look very similar. Scientific developments will most probably result in work opportunities, including chances for those without science backgrounds.

The role of science and technology in promoting the development of a country is widely acknowledged. One prominent example is the prevalent use of computer technology, which has significantly improved the efficiency of our work and changed our lifestyle. Technological achievements are attributed to the advancement of scientific theories and their application. The government ought to provide financial support for the teaching of science, such as building new laboratories, purchasing advanced equipment and awarding outstanding scientists. If the government gives priority to scientific subjects, it would encourage more students to devote themselves to science, which would benefit the country and the world as a whole.

However, I do not think that all of the government money should go towards scientific research at postgraduate level. Science is important, but it is not everything. Other subjects, for example, arts, also deserve the attention and support of the public and the government. Philosophy and literature prompt students to reflect on the significance of life and develop a positive attitude towards the world. History and geography help to broaden the horizon of students and make them wise and open-minded. Therefore, we should not ignore the status of other subjects in our education system.

For these reasons, I think that government funding of postgraduate research should focus on science, but include some share of funding for non-scientific research too.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of spending on scientific research
Para 2: Importance of scientific research
Para 3: Advantage of spending on other research
Conclusion:

178. *In many countries women are able to join the armed forces just as men. Some people say that only men should be members of the army, navy or air force. Do you agree or disagree?*

The army sector has seen an increasing number of women enrollments in the past two or three decades. Women have showed their mettle in this field. Some individuals are skeptical about women being fit for such jobs. They believe that only men should pursue such careers. However, I tend to disagree and would put my arguments to support my views in the upcoming paragraphs.

My first argument is that nowadays we are heading towards an egalitarian society, in which all should have equal rights. Therefore, women should have the same right as men to choose their profession. People should be chosen for jobs based on their skills, qualification and character. So if a woman has enough ability to join the forces, she should be welcome to become a soldier in the army, or join other defense services. Gender should not come in the way of the selection process.

There is a group of people who claim that women lack physical strength, and therefore they are not fit to be in the army, navy or the air force, as these jobs require physical strength. I would however, argue that it would be wrong to say that women are less able than men in certain jobs. In fact, women may be better at controlling a situation by communicating more effectively. Many areas in the defense require more than just physical strength. Teamwork, leadership and communication may be just as important.

Finally, it could be argued that even physical strength can be increased by effective workouts and muscle training. Women who join such jobs do undergo rigorous training and are no less than men when they are on the job. Choosing a career is also a matter of personal choice. More and more men are now entering fields such as nursing and teaching, which were earlier thought to be a woman's domain. So, it should come as no surprise if women choose to enter the defense jobs.

Summing up, women should have the same role as men in the armed forces. It is the need of the times.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: women should have the same right as men to choose their profession
Para 2: Opposing views and refute this point
Para 3: Physical strength can be increased by effective workouts
Conclusion: Reiteration

179. *It has been observed that in many countries not enough students are choosing to study science subjects at university. What do you think are the causes of the problem? What are the effects on society?*

It has been seen that very few students select science stream for their tertiary education. This essay intends to delve into the reasons of this trend, and also discuss what effects this development has on societies.

There are many reasons for the lack of interest in science subjects. The first reason is that in most schools the sciences that are taught, have outdated and irrelevant curricula. Most of the education is theoretical and leaves little room for enjoyment. On top of that, most primary school teachers are themselves not very interested in science, and so are not good teachers, who can stimulate children's interest in science. So, the base of students in science stream is weak, and therefore they do not opt for science in higher classes. Learning science often requires hard work and considerable intellectual effort, which is not present in the contemporary youth culture. What is more, students who choose to study science are perceived as boring and somewhat crazy.

Furthermore, a white-coated, hardworking and not very well paid scientist in a laboratory, is not a role model for many of today's young people. Football players, film stars and pop artists receive global publicity and earn fortunes. The lives of journalists and others working in the media seem interesting and challenging. Young people also know that lawyers, and some of those trading in the financial markets earn ten or a hundred times more money than the physicist in the laboratory. The social climate, especially in developed countries, is not one, which it is easy to convince young people that they should concentrate on learning science at school or beyond.

A shortage of scientists and technologists can be very detrimental for the societies. Our societies are dominated by ideas and products from science and technology, and the influence of science and technology on our lives will continue to increase in the years to come. Scientific and technological knowledge and skills are crucial for most of our actions and decisions, as workers, as voters, as consumers, etc. In short, modern societies need people with scientific and technological qualifications at the highest level. If there will be less of these scientists, then societies will stagnate and further progress will stop altogether.

To sum up, there are many reasons for students not taking up science subjects at university and this phenomenon shall definitely be detrimental for society.

Plan followed:
Intro:
Para 1: reasons for not opting to study science
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Effects on societies
Conclusion:

180. In developing countries, rural children have less access to education. Some people say that the problem can be solved by providing schools and teachers. Others say that computers and internet should be provided. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Education and technology are instruments for accelerating development in the developing countries. The issue of debate is whether new technology should be provided in developing countries, or education should be offered. I believe that a combination of education and technology has to be given.

Those in favour of providing free education say that these countries need schools and teachers before anything else. For the majority of underdeveloped countries, the quality of life is deteriorating despite several decades of development efforts. It is very imperative that swift steps be taken to bridge this knowledge gap without which the economic and social disparity will widen even more rapidly. A good educational system should focus on laying the best foundation of knowledge and skill that are laid during the first years of education. What these countries need is good education and training that can match today's times.

Supporters of technology say that if these poor countries were provided access to technology they would catch up with the rich and this would definitely bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. They also opine that it would be almost impossible for these countries to setup efficient educational systems without the availability of multimedia and information technology.

What is more, students can use technologies to access courses not available at their school; rural students can complete their studies without leaving their communities, and adults can take advantage of a more flexible study schedule. Cultural development will also benefit as knowledge bases of art, culture and history can be easily created, made widely accessible and easily updated.

To conclude, the best possible thing to do would be to provide both education and technology simultaneously. Education without technology and technology without education would be futile.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I believe that a combination of education and technology has to be given.
Para 1: Views of supporters of providing free education
Para 2: Views of supporters of providing technology
Para 3: How students would benefit from technology
Conclusion: Both together would be much better

181. *Caring for children is an important thing of the society. It is suggested that all mothers and fathers should be required to take childcare training courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

In recent years, childcare has gained as much importance as any other subject of academic studies. Current research has shown that the early years (ages 0-5) are the most sensitive for brain development. Over 90% of brain growth occurs during this period. The people who care for the child are also those who shape the child's mind. I firmly believe that all parents should get childcare training, even if they have to hire professional nannies for this purpose.

Childcare courses are important for many reasons. Firstly, traditional childcare skills, which are passed on from one generation to another, through oral and informal instruction, are not sufficient in today's era of nuclear families. So parents should undergo childcare training. It is also a misconceived idea that childcare is a simple process of feeding children, changing diapers and making them sleep regularly. Contemporary childcare is not limited to this. Childcare is a complex science that goes beyond nutrition. It involves the physical and emotional wellbeing of children. Therefore, with the changing times and changing family structure, childcare training courses should be the norm for all would be parents.

Secondly, childcare training teaches parents how to take a holistic approach to care for their children. Many people might wrongly think that childcare is all about love. Parents have to learn when to be firm, and when to give some room to children. For example, children eat a lot of candy, without knowledge that candy can cause obesity and tooth damage. Parents should not respond to children's needs for candy permanently.

Furthermore, quality childcare has many other far-reaching benefits. Studies show that children who get good care, enter school with better math, language and social skills. Parents, who have themselves done such course, can monitor the childcare being given by a professional nanny, better. Thanks to the surveillance cameras, parents can keep an eye on what is happening at home from their cell phone, even during work hours.

To summarise, successful childcare does not lie only in love but also in other skills. Children's healthy development is measured not only by physical wellbeing but also by growth in other dimensions. With these borne in mind, parents should now be compelled to join childcare training.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Parents' participation in care training is advisable.
Para 1: Childcare is much more than changing diapers and feeding children
Para 2: Childcare training teaches parents for a holistic approach of childcare.
Para 3: Far reaching benefits of quality childcare
Conclusion:

182. *Media and newspaper show vulgar crimes on news, which cause fear and provoke culprits. Some people think that crime news on TV should not be broadcasted. To what extent do you agree or disagree.*

It is irrefutable that the films and TV programmes today are filled with violence and as a result violence is increasing in our societies. I agree that by censoring such programmes and films, some amount of violence can be decreased. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

Reducing the amount of violence on TV and in the cinema would certainly be a good start to decrease the fear and violence among people. It is a well-known fact that the media possesses a lot of power to influence people. So, those in the media must be judicious about delivering news in a balanced manner that brings the story to the consumer without showing too much violence. Journalism is a profession like any other, and certain standards of quality and professionalism need to be maintained.

There are many harmful effects of such programmes on the individuals and society. The most disturbing effect is on the children and youth. Media violence can stimulate fear in some children, and frighten them. As children see such programs more and more, the effects can become long lasting. Children are in a growing phase and their personality, values and beliefs are being shaped. They can withdraw into a shell, and not bloom properly because of this fear deep down in their minds.

Moreover, young people imitate what they see, and it is logical that they see glamour in what they do when they commit violence. Consequently, the society suffers, as the streets are full of violence. Finally, too much portrayal of these also leads to immunity among the people and they are not affected by the disasters any more. Disasters like Tsunami and earthquakes don't make people shed a tear any more.

Summing up, having a check on the violence in TV programmes and films, would certainly be a good start to decrease the fear among people and also lessen the violence and crime in society.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I agree
Para 1: media must be judicious about delivering news in a balanced manner
Para 2: Media violence can stimulate fear in some children
Para 3: Young people imitate what they see. People become violent or immune to bad happenings around them
Conclusion: Reiteration

183. *Nowadays young people are admiring media and sports stars, even though they do not set a good example. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?*

Celebrities are increasingly becoming role models for the youth as their images and lifestyles are splashed across television, movies, magazines and the Internet, in today's era of technology. I strongly believe that this is largely a negative development. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, celebrities are often portrayed drinking heavily or in excess in movies, magazines and on TV. This can be harmful to teens, who pick up on these behaviors, and think it is glamorous to drink excessively like their favorite celebrity. Almost every other day, a celebrity is in trouble with the law in terms of drug abuse or addiction. The youth see their favorite movie stars or singers doing drugs and they think they should also do the same to be like them.

Furthermore, some celebrities create impossible standards of beauty, as a result of which more and more young adults feel less confident and more dissatisfied with their looks. Teenagers are at a phase of their life where they undergo massive changes physically, mentally, and emotionally. As celebrities are becoming thinner and thinner, self-confidence of their fans is lost and they suffer from body displeasure. This causes young fans to strive to be unhealthily thin. As a result they stop eating altogether, which may prove fatal at times.

Another major issue of concern is that these celebs are endorsing too many products in the market. Youngsters normally like to have a role model they can turn to for how to dress, look and act. Some teenagers spend so much money on celebrity endorsed goods that they are forced to spend all their time working for it. The more obsessed, even demand or steal money from their parents or others.

In conclusion, it could be reiterated that, celebrities influence fans in many ways, most of which are negative. Celebrities need to change the way they behave in public. Their actions have more effect on the youth than many people believe they have. Thin, addicted celebrities are changing the way many young fans think and act. Celebrities need to change these habits now, and realize that they need to be more responsible with their portrayal in the media.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I strongly believe that this is largely a negative development
Para 1: How celebs are setting some bad standards
Para 2: More ways in which celebs are negatively affecting their fans
Para 3: The youth are mad after celeb endorsed products.
Conclusion: Reiterate view

184. There are an increasing number of people who do not know their neighbours. What causes this situation? How to solve it?

It is undeniable that in today's contemporary society, more and more people are leading self-centered lives, unaware of who their neighbours are. This essay intends to look into the causes of this situation and suggest some ways to ameliorate the situation.

The first reason is workaholism, which may be by choice or due to the pressures of the highly competitive era of today. People work late hours and so whatever time is left is hardly sufficient for one's own family. Therefore, socializing with neighbours is out of question. People work more because they want more and more materialistic things. The consumerist society lures people with glittering things, which need money to buy, because of which people are becoming workaholics and this ultimately becomes a way of life. A vicious cycle is created and people find it difficult to come out of it.

Secondly, people do not meet their neighbours because they don't need to do so these days. They have become self-dependent and their entertainment sources are also within the four walls of the house. Earlier, neighbours used to meet after work hours and chat and play with each other, but now all the recreational activities are at home only such as watching TV and surfing the net. Earlier, people did shopping from local small shops where one could accidentally bump into neighbours, but now the mall-culture has even deprived people of such accidental collisions.

The solutions are not simple but the onus is largely on people themselves. Neighbourhood associations should be set up and neighbourhood parks should be maintained. People should take time off on festivals and celebrate them together. As all are busy, potluck lunches and dinners could be organized which would be welcomed by all. Children should be encouraged to play outdoor games with other children of the neighbourhood.

To summarise, we are forgetting the community spirit and do not interact with their neighbours. Whatever the reasons, steps should be taken to spend more time and know our neighbours. After all, neighbours are our family apart from our family in today's time of nuclear families and neighbours are the people with whom we share our walls.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro:
Para 1: Reason one
Para 2: Reason two
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

185. It has been suggested that everyone in the world wants to own a car, a TV and a fridge. Do you think the disadvantages of such a development outweigh advantages?

Today we belong to an era of materialism and everyone wants to have more and more in life. Things like a fridge, TV and car were the luxuries of yesteryears and have become the necessities of today. There are many advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon but the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, the quest for material possessions is what keeps the society going. People work hard to fulfil their needs and achieve their goals. It is everyone's right to own the comforts of life. Secondly, because of the demand for such things, the national economy is boosted. Manufacturing units provide round-the-clock employment to thousands of people to produce things in bulk. Mignon McLaughlin has rightly said that, "Be glad that you're greedy; the national economy would collapse if you weren't." What is more, when demand is more and mass production is done, then the cost of the things is cut down and the consumer is ultimately benefitted.

On the downside, this is leading to stress and strain in the lives of people. People have become workaholics and are missing out on the joys of family and social life. Sometimes, people even adopt unethical means to get these things and this leads to crime and violence. There is no harm in owning things such as a car, TV or fridge, but things turn bad when this simple materialism turns into over-materialism and people start wanting a TV in each and every room of the house and a car per person of the family. Our neighbours have a triple storey house and there is a refrigerator on every floor just for their comfort. People fail to draw the line between necessity and indulgence and this creates all problems. They fail to realize that - "If you live for having it all, what you have is never enough."

The most significant disadvantage of excessive materialism is on the environment. Manufacturers promote their products through ads and people are lured into buying new things even without need. It is a bitter truth that a society in which consumption is artificially stimulated in order to keep production going is a society founded on trash and waste, and such a society is a house built upon sand. For example, new models of TVs and refrigerators are introduced every other day and people just go and buy them even if they do not need those things. The disposal of old ones is adding to global litter and is destroying our environment.

To sum up, there is no harm if everyone wants to own a fridge, a TV and a car but it would be much better if we give importance to the word 'a' and instead of everyone the word should be every family.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages
Para 1: Advantages of materialism
Para 2: Disadvantages of materialism
Para 3: Disadvantages of materialism
Conclusion:

186. Children are taught to push themselves to try and be better than their classmates, rather than work together for everyone's profit. Do you think the advantages outweigh its disadvantages?

The relative importance of competition and cooperation is a frequent topic of discussion, when people try to explore the primary aim of education. These days, competitiveness is encouraged more than cooperation. My stand, however, is that both competition and cooperation are equally important to be instilled in children. Therefore the disadvantages of teaching children how to compete at the expense of cooperation are more.

There are many reasons why competition is important for children's growth. When children are pushed to compete, their unlimited potential can be tapped. This also helps them to develop confidence. Pressure and competition is all around us nowadays. In achieving academic excellence as well as doing well in one's career, every person has to compete. There are many examples of people around us who have become successful in their lives by competing in sports events or music contests.

At the same time, many educators attach great importance to cultivating cooperation abilities in children. Children who do not learn to cooperate are usually isolated, introverted and consequently they are socially inadequate. Cooperation is a contributing factor to the success of a community. Only with cooperation can children learn to live in harmony with each other.

I personally believe that children should be taught both, how to compete, as well as how to cooperate. It is more important to teach children the situations where they need to compete and where they need to cooperate. Both these virtues are needed in adult life. For instance, in solo sports and for sitting in an exam, children need to compete, whereas in team sports and in group-assignments children have to cooperate. Similarly, in adult life, no business house can rise to the pinnacles of success with the efforts of a single man. To compete with other businesses, members of one business house have to cooperate with each other. No single scientist can find the cure for cancers or AIDS. Scientists all over the world have to join hands to fight these deadly diseases.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that forcing children only to compete rather than cooperate has more disadvantages than advantages, as both competition and cooperation are equally important in our lives.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disadvantages are more
Para 1: Importance of competition
Para 2: Importance of cooperation
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

187. In some countries, schools arrange work for students without any payment, so that students get experience. To what extent is it beneficial for the student as well as the company or institution?

Unpaid internships are a part of many degree programs nowadays. I believe this trend has many advantages, along with a few disadvantages for the student as well as the places they work in.

The main advantage of working in companies for free as part of course is to the students themselves. Students gain valuable experience, which can help them in deciding the career of their choice. An internship can also give them the possibility of securing a job upon graduation or shortly thereafter. Former interns have a competitive advantage over other job seekers since the company knows them.

These internships also benefit the employers in several ways. They get services at no cost. They can screen trainees and get acquainted with their quality of work. They can always hire employees who show good progress when performing duties assigned by them. In this way employers can convert interns to full-time employees seamlessly, which reduces or eliminates any training-related costs.

There are benefits to the educational institutes also. Their student interns tend to bring their real-world experience back to the classroom, which helps keep courses relevant and curriculum up-to-date with the current trends. This results in a richer learning experience for everyone.

On the other hand, unpaid internships also have a downside. Those who do unpaid internships can be exploited and made to work longer hours, which may affect the current employees. They may find these younger counterparts a threat. Secondly, many students can't afford to take an internship if it doesn't pay anything, which can contribute to social inequality. Finally, it has been seen that doing a free internship does not actually increase employability. Employers start thinking that such unpaid interns may also be willing to work for lesser money than their regular employees.

To sum up, unpaid internships have advantages to interns, employers and educational institutes. There are a few disadvantages, but the advantages overpower them.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Advantages to students
Para 2: Advantages to employers
Para 3: Advantages to educational institutes
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

188. These days the number of companies operating at multinational level has increased. To what extent are they responsible for the local communities in which they are located?

The advent of globalisation has brought about dramatic changes in the business world. Multi National Companies have opened across the globe. These corporate houses are having environmental, social and economic impact on the host countries. Therefore, I firmly believe that they should give back something to the local communities in which they operate. I believe that only if they will do so, they will sustain in the long run.

To begin with, these MNCs should shoulder social responsibilities. All MNCs should abide by the law, and never make profit by unethical means. In times of natural disasters, business houses are supposed to make generous donations and set an example. This would be a win-win situation for the business houses and local communities. When any business house donates for charity, the media spreads a word about their efforts and they get advertisement for free. These business houses do not need to spend extra for their adverts.

Secondly, these businesses should also fulfil economic responsibilities. These can provide a number of job opportunities, which can greatly reduce the pressure of social unemployment. These corporate giants can also spend on the beautification of local areas. For example, in my hometown, many parks and roundabouts are maintained by the textile, sugar and starch mill in my hometown. Providing scholarships to poor, meritorious students is another way these enterprises can take social and economic responsibility.

Furthermore, MNCs should also bear environmental responsibility by doing waste minimization and pollution prevention. Indeed, it is argued that these corporate houses should go beyond this and embrace tomorrow's clean technology. For instance biofuels can be used in place of conventional fossil fuels.

To sum up, MNCs are thriving on the local communities. Therefore, these should bear the responsibilities of these communities.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro
Para 1: Social responsibilities
Para 2: economic responsibilities
Para 3: Environmental responsibilities
Conclusion:

189. Some people think the government should pay for health care and education, but other people claim that it is the individual's responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

Nowadays, health care and education have become the focus of people's concern. It is a highly debated issue as to who should pay for these services. There are those who argue that the government should pay for them, while others think individuals should shoulder the costs. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. Personally, I think that basic health care and primary education should be on the government, but advanced health care and higher education should be borne by the individual.

It is irrefutable that it is the government's responsibility to make basic health care and primary education accessible to everyone. The reason is that a nation's prosperity very much depends on the contribution made by its well-educated citizens who are in good health. After all we all pay taxes and are entitled to get something back in return. Private schools and private hospitals can be available for those who want and can afford it, but the free schools and free government hospitals should always be there.

On the other hand, individuals should be responsible for their advanced health care. Actually, the advanced medical and surgical treatments are very expensive. So, instead of depending on government we should take some health insurance or save in any other way with the tomorrow in mind. Even the higher education benefits the individual more than the nation. So, it is quite reasonable to pay for it from one's pocket.

There are, of course, some sections of society who cannot afford their own healthcare. The government should have some system of knowing their financial status and provide free healthcare so that nobody dies for want of treatment. As far as higher education is concerned, the government can have some system of interest free loans for the needy and meritorious students, who cannot afford their own education.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that basic health care and primary education, should be paid for by the government, but advanced health care and education should be paid by the individual from his pocket.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: I think that basic health care and primary education should be on the government but advanced health care and higher education should be borne by the individual.
Para 1: Why govt. should spend on basic healthcare and education
Para 2: Why individuals should themselves pay for advanced healthcare and education
Para 3: How government can help the poorer sections of society for advanced healthcare and higher education
Conclusion: Reiterated opinion

190. The best way to remove poverty in developing countries is to provide 6 years of free education to all children so that they can read, write and use numbers. Do you agree or disagree?

Education plays a key role in alleviating poverty. That is why, providing six years of free education to children seems to be a good solution to reduce poverty. However, I disagree that it is the best solution. I believe that primary education alone is not enough, and steps also need to be taken to maintain the quality of free education provided.

Admittedly, the basic skills of reading and writing, throws open many doors. Building a skilled workforce can lift many households out of poverty. Many economists around the globe have proposed that if all students of low-income countries left school with basic reading and writing skills, it could eradicate 12% of the world poverty. It has been seen that the direct cost of sending a child to school, as well as the indirect cost of losing a source of labour, deters the poor from sending their children to school. Therefore, providing 6 years of free education seems a viable solution to eradicate poverty.

However, delivering six years free access to education alone is not enough. All children need the chance to complete not only primary school, but also secondary school. For instance, in a survey in El Salvador it was seen that 5% of working adults had only primary education, compared with 47 % who had secondary education.

Furthermore, just providing six years free education would not be enough, if steps were not taken to ensure the quality of such education. It should be ensured that children actually learn. The quality of this education should be equitable to that of other premium educational institutes. Faculty recruitment, infrastructural maintenance and pro-learning programs should be effectively monitored by the authorities. Otherwise, all the government funding can prove futile.

To sum up, six years of free education can go a long way in eradicating poverty, but I reiterate that six years education is not the best solution, as it is not enough, and also steps need to be taken to ensure the quality of this education.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why 6 years free education can help to decrease poverty
Para 2: Why six years is not enough
Para 3: Other steps, which are needed
Conclusion

191. There are some motives for people to work. Some people think money is the most important. Do you agree or disagree?

Some people work for love; others work for personal fulfillment. Motivation for work is individual and diverse. I agree with the perspective that money in the most important reason to work, but only in the early stages of ones career. After the basic needs of a person have been fulfilled, other factors become more important. .

Admittedly, money is necessary in order for people to meet their basic needs. For example, we all need money to pay for housing, food, bills, health care, and education. Most people consider it a priority to at least earn a salary that allows them to cover these needs and have a reasonable quality of life.

However, after a certain period, money starts losing its importance. Most high paid jobs tend to be stressful and involve long working hours. This can lead to many problems in life. People fail to maintain a work-life balance and may suffer a nervous breakdown. That is perhaps why, a very popular trend of 'downshifting' has sprung up in the developed countries. People are giving up promotions and settling for less, so that their family life is not disturbed, and they can give quality time to their spouse and children. This clearly shows that money loses its importance after a particular stage is reached.

Another factor, which deserve merit over a fat pay package, is job satisfaction. Having a job one loves can make a huge difference to workers' levels of happiness and general quality of life. No wonder, many people give up a job with a fat pay package, for a job they want to do, even if it means less salary. They find job satisfaction more valuable than the money they earn. By doing a job they love, they enjoy their life as well as contribute positively to the society. Some people also work for personal fulfillment. They work to give a meaning to their life. They believe that God has sent them to Earth for a purpose, and they want to give their bit back to the society.

In conclusion, I reiterate my opinion that although money certainly affects people's choice of profession, but it is the most important factor only in the early stages of ones career. Once the basic needs have been met with, other factors, such as job satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment become more important.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Money is the most important only in the early stages of ones career
Para 1: Importance of money
Para 2: Why it would be wrong to put too much emphasis on money
Para 3: Other factors
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

192. *Some people say that the public funds should be spent on promoting healthy living than on the treatment of people who are ill. Do you agree or disagree?*

A healthy lifestyle is a valuable resource for reducing the incidence and impact of health problems. That is why, in recent years, there has been a growing body of opinion in favour of putting more resources into promoting a healthy lifestyle. I agree that by promoting a healthy lifestyle, there will be fewer people requiring treatment, and thus the amount spent on curing ill health could be reduced substantially.

My first argument in support of diverting public funds on promotion of healthy lifestyle, is that many modern diseases are a consequence of our lifestyles. If people were educated about the demerits of a sedentary lifestyle, many expensive health problems such as diabetes or heart disease could be prevented. Unfortunately, most medical doctors today do not have the time to, nor are they paid to, teach patients how to make these changes to their lifestyle through diet or exercise. The government can take the help of pervasive media such as TV and radio to educate people.

Furthermore, there are many diseases, which if diagnosed early through proper screening tests can be treated very easily. For example, cancer of the cervix can be diagnosed with a very simple, inexpensive test called the Pap Smear. If the government spends a little amount to provide such screening tests free of cost, then a lot of money needed for expensive treatments could be saved later on.

It is understandable that some budget has to be reserved for treatment also. There are some diseases, which are not dependent on lifestyles, such as some cancers. Then people also suffer from accidents. When people are sick they want the best medical treatment possible, with access to the latest diagnostic equipment and expensive MRI scans. I still maintain that if funds were allocated for promoting healthy lifestyle, then many people would not require those expensive treatments and at the same time would enjoy a quality life.

To conclude, it would be definitely worthwhile to divert the health budget towards prevention of diseases. By doing so the nation would be healthier and automatically the cost of treatment would be cut down.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Agree.
Para 1: First argument
Para 2: more arguments
Para 3: Some areas, which would still require funds
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

193. *It is known to all that the technological and scientific advances have made great changes to the range and quality of our food. Some people regard it as an improvement while others believe that the change is harmful. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

Science and technology have touched all spheres of life and the range and quality of food is no exception. Today, we have a lot of foods to pick from and the quality is also unsurpassed. It is a highly debated issue as to whether these advances are a blessing or a curse. This essay shall analyze the merits and demerits of these developments.

Those in favour of genetic modification, claim that because of these advances in food technology, we have such species of crops, which need little or no insecticides and fertilizers. GM crops do not require spraying with toxic insecticides, and as a consequence environmental damage such as the indiscriminate killing of insects and the contamination of soils and rivers is avoided. Moreover, since age-old times, farming methods have always involved selective breeding and methods of cross-pollination. In that sense, genetic modification is nothing new.

What is more, the quality of food has also improved. For example, fish gene has been added to tomato to make it frost resistant. A nut protein has been added to soya bean to increase the protein content. Finally, technology has saved people from tedious work and in the mean time increased the production markedly. All this is needed to meet the demands of the burgeoning population.

The opponents of genetic modification say that GM crops are unnatural, and that by creating them we are altering the natural world. A more worrying argument raised by objectors to GM foods is that they could constitute a health risk, for example by causing allergies or even by being toxic. The final objection is strictly environmental. It is argued that crops, which are genetically modified to kill the pests which attack them, may also kill harmless insects. This, it is claimed will have a disastrous effect on the wider environment beyond the crop themselves.

To conclude, GM crops offer increased agricultural productivity and foods of higher nutritional value, both of which are essential if the growing world population of the twenty-first century is to be fed. Indeed, these crops have the potential to improve the health of millions throughout the world while causing less environmental damage than standard farming methods used today. I think it is essential that GM foods should be encouraged.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: advantages
Para 2: More positive effects
Para 3: Disadvantages
Conclusion: GM foods should be encouraged

194. *There is an increasing amount of advertising directed at children, which encourages them to buy goods such as toys and snacks. Many parents are worried that these advertisements put too much pressure on children, while some advertisers claim that they provide useful information to children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Advertisements are all around us, especially advertising targeting children, who are considered vulnerable targets by companies. As a result, many parents are worried that their children are being wrongly influenced by ads. However, some advertisers claim that they provide beneficial information to children. In the following paragraphs I intend to discuss both perspectives.

It is not difficult to see why parents' worry is justified. Children, under a certain age, lack abilities to make wise judgments as to what they really want. They are attracted by colourful pictures on advertisement, and swayed by misleading information. So, they pester their parents to buy those things, and this can upset the budget of many families. Even the advertisements of fast foods are bad for children. Children cannot understand that the slim-trim models advertising Mac Donalds burgers hardly ever eat such foods themselves. They are attracted to fast foods and these are very detrimental for their health.

What is more, some ads show some stunts, and although it is written that children should not copy these stunts, children hardly ever read that part and in their ignorance try to perform those stunts and get hurt. For example, in my neighbourhood, one child tried to jump from one rooftop to the other after seeing the ad of Thumbs Up and ended up with a plaster on his leg. Therefore, parents are rightly worried.

On the other hand, advertisements also provide beneficial information to the children. For example, the advert of Colgate toothpaste, which tells that we should brush our teeth twice daily, is good for children. Then there are ads about health drinks such as Complan and Bournvita, which are good for children. Furthermore, advertisements also touch important issues, such as ads against wastage of water, ads for tree plantation, ads against wastage of electricity and ads for keeping the surroundings clean. Children are motivated by these ads and try to follow the good things they learn.

To conclude, it is true that some adverts have a detrimental effect on children and should have some regulations, but at the same time this fact can also be not be denied that adverts enlighten children in many ways by providing a lot of useful information.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro – Discuss essay intro
Para 1 – Parents view
Para 2 – Parents view
Para 3 – advertisers view
Conclusion: ads have both – good as well as bad effects

195. Studies suggest that children spend more time watching TV than they did in the past and spend less on doing active or creative things. Why do you think it is the case? What measures and methods can be used to tackle it?

Laurence J. Peter has rightly said that 'Television has changed the child from an irresistible force to an immovable object.' After coming home from school, children spend a lot of time in watching TV instead of playing outdoor games and pursuing other artistic hobbies like in the olden days. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss the causes of this phenomenon and also suggest some ways to encourage children to do more productive things instead of watching too much TV.

The first and foremost cause of this is that due to the satellite TV, this medium is available all the time. So much so, that some channels are exclusively dedicated to children. This has made it very easy for the parents who use TVs as baby sitters. Secondly, parents are busy to cope with the demands of the fast paced life of today and after coming home after a hectic days work do not have the energy to spend time with their children. In earlier times, there were very few programmes for children and because of slower life, even parents spent time with children.

Furthermore, earlier there were joint families and grandparents were there to look after children and encourage them to play in parks. Nowadays, there are nuclear families and children are left alone, which makes them spend time by watching TV. Finally, the cities have become concrete jungles and there is no place for children to play outdoor games. On top of that, the climate changes brought about by global warming make it difficult to pursue outdoor games.

The solutions are simple but the onus is largely on the parents. They should give quality time to their children and ration their TV viewing hours. Even the time to play video games should be set properly. Outdoor activities should be encouraged and neighbourhood societies should be formed where children can play outdoor games with each other. Parks should be maintained properly so that children have a safe place to play outdoors.

To summarise, television and video games, in moderation, can be a good thing. However, excess of everything is bad and therefore I believe parents should set viewing limits to ensure their children do not spend too much time watching TV and pursue other creative activities like they did in the earlier times.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I shall discuss the causes of this phenomenon and also suggest some ways forward.
Para 1: First cause – satellite TV available all the time – parents busy – use TV as baby sitter
Para 2: More causes – nuclear families – changing climate
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

196. *Many people regard films as less important form of art than literature and painting. Do you agree or disagree?*

Art, in any of its forms, has been an indispensible part of the human life, since the beginning of civilization. Art is a way of expressing one's thoughts, opinions, experience, emotions through various media like paintings, literature, poetry, dance, photography etc. Some individuals regard arts forms like writings and paintings, as more significant than the movies. I disagree with this line of thought and will put forth my supporting arguments in the forthcoming paragraphs.

The first argument in support of my view is that films are an amalgamation of various different art forms. These include different forms of arts, like the performing arts of dancing, acting, music etc., and of literature, like the script writing, poetry in the form of songs, etc. There are other creative branches of art that have developed as a result of filmmaking, like choreography, cinematography, sound effects, special visual effects and so on. Art is inextricably linked with creativity and movies involve creativity in various different forms, such as script writing, direction of the scenes, dialogue writing, lyrics of songs, music direction, special effects and many more.

In addition to this, films are popularly categorized as entertainment art. These act as a source of entertainment, and at the same time enhance knowledge. These are an effective way of not just expressing an emotion, a culture or a story, but also an excellent method of learning and education. It has been proven that watching a movie leaves a lasting impression on our minds than visiting a museum and looking at artifacts, pictures, paintings etc. Being an audiovisual form of art, it becomes easy for people to comprehend, which painting or literature may not be able to do. Even someone who is not literate can understand and learn from films. For this reason, movies have also become a very popular method of spreading social messages and teaching.

It is undeniable that art forms like painting, poetry, literature, etc. play a vital role in our lives. However, films as a form of art have become more powerful because of their easy comprehension and their reach and influence on the masses.

To sum up, it can be said that different forms of art will continue to entertain us and provide us more insight into different emotions, perspectives and cultures. However, the films as an entertaining art, will continue to remain more pervasive than others.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First argument
Para 2: More arguments
Para 3: Other art forms
Conclusion:

197. The responsibility to prevent global environmental damage is on politicians rather than individuals. Do you agree or disagree?

The extent of the damage to the environment has become an international issue, and needs to be tackled soon and effectively. Some people consider it as the sole responsibility of the governments to take steps towards solving this pressing issue. However, I disagree with this perspective. I believe that although this issue needs to be handled at the national and international levels, every inhabitant of Earth also needs to do his/her bit and take small steps to contribute towards a cleaner environment.

To begin with, the major cause of the deteriorating condition of the environment is pollution caused by the use of vehicles. This can be easily dealt with in a better way at the individual level, than at the state level. If each person takes it upon himself or herself to use public transport more, to walk to short distances rather than using a vehicle or to use eco-friendly modes of transport, like bicycles, then this issue can be easily solved. The government should facilitate this by providing better public transport, good roads and separate walking and cycling lanes. However, ultimately it will work only if each citizen contributes.

To add to it, globalization and advancement in technology has led to a consumerist society, where the consumption of material goods has increased manifold. An adverse effect of such a society is the "throw-away culture", where people have stopped recycling and simply throw away things and buy new ones. If people start recycling things, the land and soil pollution will decrease greatly.

Also, people should be conscious about buying products with less packaging material used. Another important step that every citizen can take is to say no to plastic and use more eco-friendly materials. It's an easy step that needs to be taken at an individual level. The government can definitely help by making laws against the use of plastic bags and other environment damaging materials.

To sum up, I reiterate that even though the problem of environmental damage has escalated to a level that needs to be handled globally, by the politicians and environmentalists, every person also needs to make contributions to alleviate this situation. Only then will we be able to ensure a good quality life for the future generations.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Steps at individual action
Para 2: More steps
Para 3: More steps
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

198. *Some people say that parents should organise free time activities for their children. Others say children should be free to choose what they do in their free time. Discuss both sides and opine.*

For the holistic development of children, leisure time activities play a very important role. Some people are of the opinion that such activities should be decided and organized by the parents, whereas others opine that children should have the freedom to decide how they want to utilize that free time. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

It is easy to see why some people opine that planning free time activities should be in the hands of parents. They say that children are not mature enough to understand the value of time, and may end up wasting their free time through unproductive extra-curricular activities. So, parents should plan the available free time for their children, as they want the best for their children. Parents know their children well, in terms of their likes and dislikes, and also their interests. They can organize activities that will help their children's holistic development. For example, they can have them play outdoor games, learn music or dance, develop their creative skills like drawing and painting and so on. Parents also need to ensure that the time spent on unproductive activities, like watching TV, playing video games, etc. should be minimized, and they should set a time limit for such activities.

However, I firmly believe that children should have the liberty of deciding how they want to spend their leisure time. Research has proven that the children, who perform unstructured free-time activities, are more creative, and become more successful when they grow up. If children are always told what to do and follow a set of rules, it hinders their cognitive, emotional and creative development. Such children may not be very good at decision making, planning and setting goals. The children, who are in-charge of choosing how they spend their free time, are more likely to have better concentration levels and become more successful in their studies and later, in their professional lives.

Furthermore, if children have the independence to choose the activities for their free time, it may bring to light some hidden talent of the child, which may otherwise go unnoticed if they do only what is planned for them. For example, a child may be good at dance, and maybe parents notice him practicing steps after seeing some programme on TV. They may not have planned dance classes in his/her free time on their own. But, on noticing that talent, they may then help their child exploit his/her talent. So, even if the free time planning is left on the children, the role played by the parents cannot be undermined. They should definitely supervise their children to notice some hidden ability, and also to ensure that they do not harm themselves.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate that children and youngsters should be given the independence to decide their free-time activities for the complete development of their mind, body and skills, but at the same time their parents' watchful eye should be there over them.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Opinion of those who say parents should organise free time activities
Para 2: Why children should plan activities themselves
Para 3: More reasons why children should plan activities themselves
Conclusion:

199. Some people say that instead of preventing climate change we should find a way to live with it. Do you agree or disagree?

I completely disagree with the given statement that we should not do anything for the prevention of the change in the global climate and that we should come to terms with it and live with it. I believe that prevention and adaptation have to go on simultaneously. There are a number of arguments to support my view, which I will discuss in the forthcoming paragraphs.

The main reason why steps are needed to find ways to alleviate the problem of global warming is that the rate at which the climate is warming and changing, is alarming. Undeniably, global warming and the subsequent changes in climate are natural processes and are bound to happen. However, if this rate is not controlled soon, we may be looking at the doom of our planet. If we do not take measures soon to stop further changes in our environment and the global climate, there might be drastic changes in our ecosystem, leading to the extinction of many plants and animal species, including the human beings.

Secondly, the ways we may adopt to fight the climate change, may further hasten the process of global warming and we may complicate things beyond repair. For example, if we use more air-conditioners to fight the longer summers, then these luxuries may cause even more pollution and global warming, and the rise in temperature may go up exponentially. This may lead to even more extreme climatic changes than ever before. Only over the last decade, we have had the highest and the lowest ever recorded temperatures, the worst ever floods, the most devastating storms, hurricanes and tsunamis, and many other natural disasters, which are the direct result of the climate change. If these disasters continue at this rate, then that day is not far, when there will be little or no life on earth.

Unarguably, we have to do both, prevention and adaptation side by side. We have to adapt to these changes in the climate, which have already taken place, as these are irreversible. New building material is required to deal with these changes in the temperatures. For example, insulated materials can be used to make buildings in places where the temperatures have risen in the recent years. The design and architecture needs to be looked at and changed to deal with the extreme climatic conditions. We need to see that the methods we are using to adapt are environment friendly. We also need to change our lifestyle so that we can prevent further damage as much as possible.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the rate at with the changes in the climate are occurring needs to be controlled, but at the same time we have to adapt to these changes also. If we just focus on adapting ourselves and not do anything for preventing further damage, then it will not be enough.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: disagree
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Why adapting is also needed
Conclusion

200. In many countries, government spends a large amount of money on improving Internet access. Why is it happening? Do you think it is the most appropriate use of government money?

The Internet has become the sine qua non (prerequisite) of promoting national economies. No wonder, many governments are investing a lot on making Internet available freely to their citizens. This essay intends to analyse the reasons behind this phenomenon. I believe that the governments are being wise in doing this expenditure.

The main reason why some governments are spending on Internet access is that they realise that it is not expenditure but an investment, which eventually will come back to them in the form of taxes. With increased and efficient Internet access, the businesses will be able to expand their business globally. The Internet plays an indispensable role in communicating with clients, importing products and getting to know international information. This will ultimately boost the countries' economy.

Secondly, the Internet acts as a social leveler. By giving Internet access to the poor and depressed sections of the society, the government can bring them to the mainstream and ensure their participation in growth and development. The Internet empowers people. By giving them access to vital information, it makes them aware of their rights. It provides opportunities to people living in remote areas or villages. The Internet has created countless jobs directly and indirectly, and allows people to work freelance. Perhaps, no other invention has had such a tremendous impact on our lives during the last twenty years.

I believe that the governments, which are spending on Internet access, have a foresight that this is an imperative spending. The Internet is a whole universe in its own. It can be used in any way. Developed countries and intelligent public use its services in many ways to provide healthcare, education and common knowledge to remote places. Free and fast Internet would give every single person more opportunities to share and gain knowledge and make their opinions, which will help governments and corporations to make better choices. Hence a free and fast Internet for everyone should be an absolute must for better democracy and economy

To conclude, there are many reasons why some governments are spending on providing Internet access to its people, and I consider it a judicious expenditure with far reaching positive consequences.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: cause effect intro
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Why it is a good thing
Conclusion:

201. Some people believe that women should play an equal role as men in a country's police force or military force, such as the army, while others think women are not suitable for these kinds of jobs. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

An increasing number of women are choosing to work in the police and armed forces nowadays and have showed their mettle in these fields. Some individuals opine that women should be able to work shoulder to shoulder with men in these fields. Others disagree and say that women are not suited for such jobs. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

Nowadays, we are heading towards an egalitarian society in which all should have equal rights. Therefore, women should have the same right as men to choose their profession. People should be chosen for jobs based on their skills, qualification and character. So, if a woman has enough ability to join armed forces, she should be welcome to become a soldier or a police officer. Gender should not come in the way of the selection process.

On the other hand, some people say that women lack physical strength and therefore they are not fit to be in the army or police as these jobs require physical strength. I would however, argue that it would be wrong to say that women are less able than men in certain jobs. In fact, women may be better at controlling a situation by communicating more effectively. Police and military jobs require more than just physical strength. Teamwork, leadership and communication may be just as important.

It could be argued, that even physical strength can be increased by effective workouts and muscle training. Women who join such jobs do undergo rigorous training and are no less than men when they are on the job. It is also a matter of personal choice. More and more men are now entering fields such as nursing and teaching, which were earlier thought to be a woman's domain. So, it should come as no surprise if women choose to enter the police and armed forces.

Summing up, women should have the same role as men in police and armed forces. It is the need of the times.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Gender should not come in the way of the selection process.
Para 2: Opposing views
Para 3: physical strength can be increased
It is also a matter of personal choice
Conclusion: Women should have the same role as men in police and armed forces.

202. *The gap between the rich and the poor is becoming wider, the rich are getting richer, the poor even more poorer. What problems can the situation cause and suggest solutions.*

In this day and age, the gap between the affluent and the needy has increasingly widened. Such situation can be found not only between the developed and developing countries, but also among people of the same country. This essay intends to analyse the problems caused by this phenomenon, and suggest ways to mitigate the problem.

The most significant problem is that a vicious cycle emerges from which the poor find it difficult to come out. In order to make both ends meet, both parents have to work for supplementary income and the children are left in the house, unattended. Their future becomes blurred, as they don't get quality education. This deprivation of the children is very high in ultra-poor families.

Furthermore, poverty and conditions resulting from poverty, such as lack of education leads people to lawlessness and violence (e.g. robbery, theft, kidnapping, rape, murder, gang war, and drug addiction). Their pent-up desires for the finer things in life find a common outlet in the commission of crimes. The underdeveloped economies of Asia and even America are full of high crime rates due to poverty. Finally, the rich-poor gap alienates the poor in a discriminated manner. This invites the onset of revolution or terrorism. The political history of the global community such as Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Indonesia, and Philippines is abundant in poverty-related evolution of these events.

The solutions are not simple and steps should be taken on a war footing. The governments' effort could improve this situation. To begin with, luxuries should be taxed heavily. A balanced taxation should be there and the taxation administration should be improved to ward off fraud and evasion of taxes. Penalties against tax fraud and evasion should be more severe. Policymakers also need to focus on pushing up the bottom rather than dragging down the top. Free or highly subsidized education should be provided to the needy. The problem of youth unemployment should be dealt with by creating job opportunities. Self-employment should be encouraged by promoting small-scale industry. At the global level, international aid for poor countries is crucial for mitigating this phenomenon. International organizations, such as United Nations and World Bank, should provide support to developing countries in both technical and financial fields enabling them to improve infrastructure and strengthen industries.

Summing up, the increasing gap between the rich and the poor should not be ignored as it causes political and social instability in the country and effective steps should be taken to close this gap. It has been rightly said that – 'Inequality is not just bad for social justice, it is also bad for economic efficiency'.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: The most significant problem
Para 2: lawlessness and violence
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

203. *Some people think that the government should decide which subjects, students should study at the university, while others think that students should be allowed to apply for the subject they prefer. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.*

University education is very much needed nowadays to compete in the global village of today. Some people are of the opinion that government should choose the disciplines that students have to study at university. Others opine that the choice of subjects should be given to the students. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

If the government chooses the subjects it would naturally be taking into account the job sector. There would be lesser unemployment, as the government knows which sector has job vacancies, and would suggest only those subjects. It has been seen that there are many job vacancies without qualified people, and many qualified people without jobs. Therefore, the number of people working in various job sectors will be balanced and it would be more efficient for students to find jobs after graduating from the university. Secondly, it would help those students who find it difficult to decide what career to pursue.

On the other hand, if students choose the subject then they do well in it because it would be of their interest. They would excel in their field and when they enter the job market they would do well in their field. Moreover, there are lesser drop-outs of universities, which is common if students are forced to study what they don't like. This also instills a sense of responsibility in the students when they make a decision about their subject because they know that their whole future rests on that decision.

Taking everything into account, I believe that it is more preferable for pupils to select their subjects in the university themselves. The government can play a role in promoting some subjects by providing funding to those who take up those subjects.

To conclude, there are merits of both situations, but on the whole it would be better to leave the choice to students to select their subjects as there would be lesser drop-outs and they would excel in their field.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages if the government chooses the subjects
Para 2: Advantages if students choose the subject
Para 3: Own view – students should choose subjects
Conclusion:

204. Nowadays in many countries household waste e.g. food packaging is increasing day by day. What are the causes for that? How can this problem be solved?

The statistics about the household waste being produced today are alarming. Roughly 50 tonnes of household waste is being produced every second, and this number is projected to double by 2030. This essay intends to analyze the reasons of this phenomenon and suggest steps to mitigate the problem.

To begin with, modern lifestyle has contributed greatly to the increasing amount of waste and garbage we produce every day. In other words, we have turned into a materialistic and mass-consumption society, where we use more and throw away more than ever before. Once new things are acquired, we dispose-off these "unwanted" things to second hand shops, or just in the trash cans.

Secondly, the markets today are flooded with cheap, single-use-only things that are more in demand than high priced quality items. Our houses and closets seem to be overflowing with goods that are more in quantity and less in value. Then, there is too much packaging done by the companies in a bid to make their things more attractive. Mostly this packaging is made from non-biodegradable products, such as plastic.

The solution lies in changing our attitude. We should get old things repaired and try to use them as long as possible. We should not buy things with excessive packaging. This will deter companies from doing too much packaging. We can also bring our own personal shopping bags instead of using plastic bags provided by stores and shops. Besides, the government can enforce stricter laws on companies to use biodegradable packaging. Furthermore, plastics, metal, glass can be recycled. Companies can also contribute by developing new raw material, which is recyclable and will ultimately lead to less garbage.

To sum up, there are many reasons for the increase in household waste being generated. However, some simple steps can be taken to ameliorate the problem. If we do not take steps to tackle this problem on a war footing, our Earth will become un-inhabitable very soon.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

205. New research has shown that overeating has become a bigger problem in the world than hunger. What are the reasons of this problem? How can you solve it?

In today's world, we are enjoying the best of the facilities and consequently, a change in our lifestyle and eating habits. An adverse effect of these changes is the increasing health problems associated with the over-consumption of food, which are much more than those arising from under-nutrition. This essay intends to analyse the causes of this phenomenon and suggest solutions to mitigate the problem.

One of the main reasons why over-eating has become a global health crisis, is the change in our diet due to the adoption of the western culture and lifestyle, in almost all parts of the world, barring a few under-developed countries. People are consuming unhealthy fast foods in high amounts, due to a change in their routines. They have become too busy to be able to cook healthy and nutritious food at home. This has led to a trend of having food on the go. As a result, we are seeing international fast food chains, like McDonald's, KFC, Burger King, etc. mushrooming in the developing economies, like India and China. Consequently, the number of health problems arising from such unhealthy eating problems is increasing at an alarming rate.

In addition, low-priced fast food outlets are opening at every street corner, and these are within the reach of the common man's pocket. For example, one can get a burger from a street vendor at just Rs20/-, whereas the same at some international food chain would be 10 times more costly. To satiate their taste buds, even the poor income group is consuming these things, which are overloaded with low quality fats and excess oils. So, the body is getting an overdose of the wrong type of calories.

The solutions must be taken on a war footing, else the obesity pandemic will cost the people and the governments heavily. Obesity is a major cause of the chronic diseases, like diabetes, hypertension, cardiac diseases, strokes, etc. The solutions at individual level could be to avoid ready made unhealthy and fast food. It has become increasingly important that we take good care of health, by eating healthy, home cooked, nutritious food and having a good exercise routine. The government can impose fat tax on the fast food outlets. This would increase the prices of such foods and people will be discouraged to buy and eat such foods. Also, awareness should be spread through advertising or by conducting activities like marathons. This will motivate people to be prepared for such events, and they would exercise regularly.

To sum up, it can be said that it is not too late to get a hold on the problem of over-eating becoming a health crisis, and we can take simple measures, both at the individual and state level to solve this problem.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

206. *People can eat a wide variety of food of other regions. As a result they are eating a lot of foreign food instead of locally produced food. Do you think the advantages of eating foreign food are more than its harms?*

Nowadays, supermarkets are stocked with food products from around the world. As a result, people are being lured towards the foreign food, and are not consuming the local produce. I believe, the disadvantages of imported food outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, ready availability of food from across the globe gives us a lot of choices. We can taste a variety of fruits and vegetables from all parts of the world. For example, about ten years ago, we hardly saw kiwi fruit, which is from New Zealand. But, now it has a place on every fruit stand. Secondly, many people get employment in this field. Small farmers have a chance to expand globally, and consequently it increases the overall economy of the country. Finally, it helps in developing good relations between countries, which helps in international cooperation and peace. If countries were dependent upon one another's economic success, then armed conflict would be less likely.

On the other hand, importing food can have a negative effect on local farmer. Locally produced food would not be able to compete with international produce. So, the local economy would suffer and people would go for other better sources of livelihood than agriculture. The local culture would also be threatened. This can be seen in countries such as India where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. Earlier, people in India sat together to eat their traditional meals, but the fast food is generally eaten alone sitting in front of the TV. Although some would claim that this is a natural part of economic development, in an increasingly global world. I feel strongly that any loss of regional culture would be detrimental.

Another major effect of imported food is the environmental cost. Currently, many food imports such as fruit, are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, making the produce more expensive to buy, and increasing pollution from exhaust fumes. Despite the fact that trade in food exports has existed for many years, I am convinced that a reduction would bring significant financial and environmental gains.

In conclusion, I am certain that if people ate locally produced food it would have environmental benefits. It would also benefit the local economy because, in time, people would prosper commercially as the demand for local and regional produce would remain high resisting the competition from overseas.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: Certainly, the disadvantages of imported food outweigh the advantages
Para 1: Advantages of transporting goods
Para 2: Negative effects on local culture
Para 3: Negative effect on environment
Conclusion:

207. *In some cities people are choosing cars instead of bicycles, while in other cities riding bikes is replacing cars. Why is this the case? Which development do you think is better?*

Advancements in technology have brought many changes to various parts of the world. In the fast paced life and ever-changing world of today, in some cities, people are switching to cars from bicycles as a popular means of transport, whereas in some other cities the reverse of this trend is seen, with bicycles gaining more popularity than cars, among the masses. There are many reasons why such trends are being observed. In my opinion, in the present scenario, the shift towards more eco-friendly modes, as bicycles is a better development.

There are many reasons why people prefer motorized means of transport, like cars, to bicycles. This is mostly observed in developing cities and towns, which are experiencing a progress in technology, more job opportunities and thus new facilities, like in transport, education and in healthcare. So, in these places people are adopting modern means of transport, like private cars. It is a sign of progress in such places. Moreover, people have moved their residences from crowded urban areas to the quieter suburbs, because of which cars have become a necessity to commute daily for work to the cities. They are more comfortable, faster, safer and more convenient than bikes. Cars are also better for the elderly, the handicapped and the sick people.

On the other hand, as we are becoming more aware of the damage being caused to the environment, many developed nations and cities are moving towards more eco-friendly modes of transport, like bicycles. The major cause of the degradation of the environment is the pollution caused by the vehicles. People have started realizing this fact and to prevent further damage, switching to bicycles has become a solution. Governments in many parts of the world are working towards promoting this trend by making special lanes for cyclists, so that they can ride safely. It would be worthwhile to cite the example of Denmark, where the government has provided 19000 km of bicycle tracks, which has encouraged many people to switch from cars to bicycles.

Another very important reason for investing in the cycling industry is the potential of this industry to provide jobs. Every cycle lane, which is made, and every cyclist, who is created contributes to job growth. For example, in Europe alone, more than 6 lac people are employed in the cycling industry - more jobs than even the automobile industry. The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Switzerland and many more countries have started investing in a big way and have seen many positive effects. The overall economy of these countries has been boosted.

To sum up, I would reiterate my view that even though the car has some advantages over the bicycle, the use of bicycles is better, as it is not only a step towards saving our environment; it is also an economical way to remain fit and healthy.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para 1: Reasons of choosing cars over bicycles
Para 2: Reasons of choosing bicycles over cars
Para 3: More reason in favour of bicycles
Conclusion:

208. Nowadays, people are consuming more and more sugar-based drinks. Why do they do so? Suggest measures to solve the problem.

Modernization and advancement in technology has also brought about changes in the food and beverage industry. Sugar based drinks are one such development and these have become increasingly popular in the last few decades, and this has led to many health related problems. There are many reasons why the consumption of such drinks has increased, which I shall discuss in the forthcoming paragraphs. I would also suggest some steps that can be taken to ameliorate this problem.

There are a number of reasons for the popularity of such sugar-based drinks. The main reason is the advertising of such products. The companies that manufacture these drinks have very big promotional campaigns, spend billions of dollars on marketing and use the pervasive forms of media, like newspapers and television. They mostly target children and youngsters, who are easily swayed by these ads. They have famous stars as the brand ambassadors, and when people see their role models endorsing these drinks, they don't think twice before consuming such drinks, irrespective of their harmful effects.

Another reason is that some of these drinks contain certain substances that act as stimulants and are addictive, such as caffeine and other chemical stimulants. When people start consuming them, they get some kick out of them, and then there is no going back.

It has become increasingly important to deal with this issue at the earliest possible, because the increased consumption of such sugar based drinks have led to a plethora of health problems, like obesity, diabetes, increase in cholesterol levels, dental problems, and many other diseases. The first step needs to be taken by the parents. Children follow what they observe and parents need to act as role models. They also need to get their children into the habit of having healthier drinks, like fresh fruit juices, milk, coconut water, and so on. They should encourage their children to have natural sugars rather than artificial ones.

The government can also help by imposing more taxes on such drinks, so that people are discouraged from buying them. Awareness can be spread about the harmful effects of such drinks, through social messages on the TV, the Internet and through newspaper ads. Instead of having sugar-based drinks at theaters, restaurants, cinemas, etc., such places can promote healthier drinks, containing natural sugars and no additives.

To sum up, there are several reasons why the sugary drinks have gained popularity among the masses. However, many steps can be taken to mitigate the health problems that have arisen due to these drinks.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Problem solution essay intro
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: Reasons
Para 3: Solutions at personal level
Para 4: Solutions at government level
Conclusion:

209. *Some people think that nowadays children have too much freedom. Do you agree or disagree?*

The world is changing fast and so are the rules and the norms of society. I agree with the statement that today's children enjoy much more independence than children of the past. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main reason why children today are enjoying more freedom is that their parents realise that children today are capable of deciding things on their own. Today's children have the power of the Internet and the satellite TV in their hands. Today's young generation is the most well informed generation than ever in the history of mankind. Because of the IT boom, today's children grow up quicker than their parents did. They know what their parents and grandparents do not know. So, parents give their children the freedom to make decisions on their own. In the past, children were not exposed to so much information, and so meekly did what their parents told them to do.

Another important reason behind the freedom given to today's children is that parents don't have time to monitor their children's activities. In the fast paced world of today, both parents are working longer hours to meet the demands of the consumerist society of today. They are not working just to fulfil their basic necessities, but also to live a lifestyle of luxury and comfort. As a consequence, children are left unattended to enjoy their freedom. Earlier, only one parent worked and mothers were there to supervise their children. Workaholic culture was also not there and people worked limited hours.

Furthermore, the change in family structure from joint to nuclear families is responsible for the freedom showered on today's children. Earlier, grandparents were there to keep a watchful eye on their grandchildren, but today's children do not have such supervision on them, as a result of which they get a lot of freedom.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the freedom enjoyed by today's children is, by and large, inevitable. The onus is on the parents to see to it that this excess freedom does not go against their children.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: Third reason
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

210. Consumers are faced with increasing numbers of advertisements from competing companies. To what extent do you think are consumers influenced by advertisements? What measures can be taken to protect them?

Advertising is the heart of trade. To survive in the competitive market of today, every product has to be advertised. There is a huge impact of these ads on the people, which is both positive, as well as negative. This essay shall analyse these effects on the common man, and suggest ways to protect people from the negative effects of adverts.

There are many ways in which these ads are helpful. First, ads tell us about the new products that are launched in the market. They also tell us about the working of these products. After seeing the ads, consumers can go to the market and select things of their choice. What is more, the advertising industry provides jobs to many. Many models and other people make a living through this industry. Ads also touch social issues. For example, there are ads which aware people that they can stand up against domestic violence and female foeticide. We also have ads, which warn people about the harmful effects of smoking. Another big positive influence of the ads of today is the entertainment they provide. They are made so hilarious that you feel like watching them again and again.

On the other hand, advertisements promote consumerism. These ads can cause people to be dissatisfied with what they already have and make them want more. Not all parents are in the position to afford the goods, which the children see advertised and want to possess. This often leads to feelings of inadequacy among them. In addition to this, this materialism leads to workaholism. People are prepared to work long hours, or even turn to crime to get these goods. Finally, ads can be very irksome at times. This is especially true of Internet ads. The increasing number of advertisements and the never-ending list of ad-networks are making the Internet users' experience worse than ever. The ads, which have audio are very troubling and some ads are flash based. Telephone ads are also very irritating. When you are driving or in an important meeting, the bell rings and disturbs everyone.

The solutions are not simple, as advertising is a very persuasive medium. It would be unwise to ban ads, as this would cause more problems than it would solve. However, advertisements, which make false claims, should be banned. Advertisements for liquor and those ads, which show stunts, should also be banned. Then there should be consumer awareness programmes. Consumers should be warned against too much consumerism. Our celebs have a big role in selecting what products they should endorse. People, who follow these celebs would buy anything they say even without needing it.

To conclude, today we are influenced a lot by adverts, both in positive and negative ways. Without adverts we would lose a valuable source of revenue, which is used for the benefit of majority. However, many steps can be taken to mitigate the negative influence of ads.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro –
Para 1 – positive effects
Para 2 – advertisements have negative points
Para 3 – solutions are not simple
Conclusion:

211. *Intelligence is the most important quality for a leader. Do you agree or disagree?*

A leader is a person who leads and inspires a group of people, an organization or a country. There are several qualities a good leader must have, and intelligence is just one of those virtues. I disagree that the most essential quality to be a good leader is for him/her to have intellect. There are myriad reasons that support my view.

The first and foremost reason why I believe that intelligence is not the most important quality needed by a good leader is because any single trait is not enough to be a good leader. It has to be a blend of many traits. Of course, intelligence is needed to be good at any work, in any field. We need to have good knowledge and awareness for any work we specialize in. But, intelligence alone cannot make any person a good leader. For instance, an analyst in any field has an immense knowledge about his field of work and can work very well with data to improve processes. However, all the analysts cannot become leaders.

To further add to it, there are many other characteristics that make someone a front-runner, whom others follow and respect. Some abilities like good interpersonal skills, communication and oratorical skills are essential, as it is only through these abilities that a leader can inspire, motivate and encourage his/her team or followers on the path of success or progress. In addition, it is often said that integrity and optimism are the foundation of a good leader. People seek honesty, integrity and positivity in leaders, be it a politician, a team manager or a project leader. If any of these attributes are missing in a person, he/she cannot be an effective leader. A very good example of such a leader is Late Dr. Abdul Kalam, who was not only a genius in his field of work, but also a very good orator, he was honest and inspires the youth of India, even after his demise.

There are many more skills that make a leader lead effectively. One more important skill is to be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the team members. By doing this very good results can be achieved by the appropriate assignment of work to the team members, as per their caliber. So, even if a person is not very intelligent himself, but has the ability to recognise the intelligence of others, he can be a good leader. Another important characteristic of a good leader is that he/she should be a visionary. A leader should be able to envision the best way to achieve the goal and how to make it work effectively for many years to come.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that intelligence alone cannot be deemed as the most important attribute of a good leader. It is an amalgamation of several characteristics that make and define a virtuous and respectable leader.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro – Disagree
Para 1 – Any single trait is not enough. A blend of many traits is
Para 2 – Other traits required
Para 3 – A person who can recognise the abilities of others can be a good leader.
Conclusion:

212. Many employees may work at home with the modern technology. Some people claim that it can benefit only the workers, not the employers. Do you agree or disagree?

Telecommuting, which implies working from home with the help of telephone lines, has become very popular, especially where the Internet connections are fast and reliable. I, disagree with the given statement that it can benefit only the employees, and not the employers. I believe, that telecommuting is advantageous for both - employers and employees.

There are many advantages of telecommuting to employees. To begin with, it saves time as no time is wasted commuting to and from the office. Teleworkers don't even have to spend time getting ready for work. Secondly, it also saves money, as no spending on private or public transport has to be done. Furthermore, the worker can look after minor family commitments like dropping the child to school etc. Although most of the work done by tele-workers is monitored, still a few minutes can be snatched at times. All this helps a lot in maintaining a work-life balance.

On the other hand, there are many advantages to employers also. Firstly, less office space is needed as the workers are working from home. It is a fact that land prices are exorbitant, and it is very expensive to build large offices. Not only constructing buildings for offices, but maintaining them is also very costly. Another benefit, which has been observed after telecommuting became common, is that employees take less sick leave and other leaves. They do not have to take a whole day off for a minor family commitment, such as looking after a sick family member. This is also beneficial for employers.

It would be worthwhile to consider why some people opine that telecommuting is not beneficial for employers. They argue that supervising tele-workers is difficult. However, statistics have proved that telecommuters make extra efforts to work well from home, as they realize the benefits it has for them.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that telecommuting is beneficial for both employees as well as employers. It would be wrong to say that employers are not benefited at all.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: disagree
Para 1: advantages of telecommuting to employees
Para 2: advantages to employers
Para 3: Why some people opine that it is not beneficial for employers
Conclusion: telecommuting benefits both workers as well as employers

213. *Students in school should learn academic subjects and pass exams. Other skills such as cookery, dressmaking and woodwork can be learnt well from family and friends. Do you agree or disagree?*

I disagree with the given statement, which says that domestic sciences such as cooking, sewing and woodworking should not be included in the school curricula. There are countless advantages of having craft education classes in schools, which I shall discuss in the upcoming paragraphs.

First, craft education helps mold and develop children as strategic and logical thinkers. It can only be gained from the practical application of doing something, building something and creating something. It cannot be learnt from memorizing facts from a book and regurgitating them in the exam.

Secondly, craft education improves the intelligence level of students. Recent researches in neuroscience claim that there is a direct correlation between fine motor skills, hand eye coordination and the development of the brain. So, students do better in other subjects also. It also teaches students to concentrate and focus. This helps students who have problems with sitting still and listening in class.

Another very good advantage of craft education is that it takes away gender stereotypes. Both boys and girls learn how to knit and sew and cook. Both boys and girls learn how to woodwork and hammer and use power tools. They are seen as equally important skills, and not just for one gender or the other.

Furthermore, through craft education students can learn maths through real life applications. They would need a lot of math when they are measuring, designing and planning their projects. Craft education allows them to see how mathematics is used and applied in the real world, instead of just telling them that math is important and applicable to their lives.

Finally, such classes teach students patience and perseverance. Making something, especially something worthwhile, is often a slow and tedious process. Delayed gratification and the ability to stick with a project until the very end is an important life lesson to teach students.

Advocates of having purely academic curricula in schools, say that the number of subjects in schools is already too high. They believe that parents should teach these things at home. What they fail to see is that the young parents of today are lacking these skills themselves. So, how can they teach their children what they themselves do not know? Also, if both parents are working, they don't have the time and patience to sit with the child and do these things.

To sum up, cooking, woodworking dressmaking etc. are important subjects, which need to be incorporated at a younger age. Children need to see the practical applications of their education.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: disagree
Para 1-5: advantages of craft classes
Para 6: Other view with refutation
Conclusion: Reiterate view

214. Some people say that it's better to teach language students in small classes, whereas others think the number of people does not matter. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Extensive research has been done to show the best conditions to learn languages. Class size is one such fiercely debated topic. Many studies sanctify small classes as being better for students. However, large classes have advantages as well, and both large and small class sizes have downsides to them.

Advocates of smaller classes cite a host of benefits. First, there is better student achievement in smaller classes. This is because teachers can pay more attention to fewer students. They can employ numerous innovative classroom strategies that a smaller class makes possible, and at the same time have more discipline in the classroom. This gives more time for teachers to focus on instruction than classroom management. Secondly, smaller groups can enjoy better peer interaction. This is because everybody knows everybody. Everybody knows if someone is absent or off-track, and the smaller groups help the low-performing students achieve better.

On the other hand, there are advantages of bigger classes. Primarily, the cost is less if the classroom is bigger. Fewer teachers are needed to handle bigger class size. What is more, if class size is made smaller, many new and inexperienced teachers have to be put into the job, which reduces the efficiency of teaching. Therefore, with fewer, but more experienced teachers, there is more effective teaching in bigger classrooms. Moreover, students learn independence and self-motivation, because teachers don't have time for one on one interaction with students. Finally, students learn to work in groups, because group work becomes a necessity in large classrooms.

In my opinion, there is no one right answer when discussing classroom size, and advantages and disadvantages exist for both approaches. Many people do not favour smaller classes for many reasons. In a survey it was found that people preferred to go to bigger classes with more experienced teachers than smaller classes with inexperienced teachers. Secondly, the students may not have a sufficient amount of peers to interact with if the class is small. So, the advantages of one approach automatically become the disadvantages of the other.

To sum up, in deciding the class size, the key for teachers and administrators is to strike a balance between too many students and too less students.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of smaller class size
Para 2: Advantages of bigger class size
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

215. *Some people say that vertical city is best where people live and work in tall buildings. Others say that horizontal city is better where there are few tall buildings. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.*

As the global population is rising, and cities are becoming more crowded, the planners are in a dilemma as to which way to spread. The traditional spread is horizontal, in which cities grow outwards, whereas the vertical spread is upwards in which cities are growing upwards. Supporters of both have their arguments, which shall be discussed in this essay.

The concept of the 'Vertical City' is fascinating and attractive to some people, for many reasons. In these types of cities there are tall buildings, which accommodate a larger number of people. We all know that the population is burgeoning, and it is estimated that by 2050, more than 75% of the population will be in cities. Land is scarce and so the only option is to go upwards.

Secondly, such cities also prevent the loss of farmland and allow green spaces for parks, which are the lungs of the community. Moreover, water supply, central heating and cooling, waste disposal etc. are more efficient when done in small spaces. Additionally, tall buildings are more attractive.

On the other hand, supporters of horizontal spread of cities cite a host of benefits. First, horizontal cities in which most buildings are low-rise are better in case of natural calamities such as earthquakes. Secondly, highly skilled architects and engineers are not needed for low-rise buildings. To make skyscrapers, which can withstand the wind forces and can tolerate the brunt of earthquakes is not every builder's cup of tea. So horizontal cities are more economical as compared to vertical cities.

Moreover, people who live in horizontal cities can enjoy a better quality of life. Horizontal cities can provide people with more natural light, views and ventilation. In horizontal cities, because of limited accommodation, the population is extremely small. Basically, low density of population ensures a higher quality of life. Moreover, the competition is not so intensive than that in vertical cities. Therefore, people in horizontal cities have a better quality of life.

To conclude, the present dream of people is a big house with a two-car garage, but as the population continues to grow and land becomes scarce, vertical cities may become an option worth considering.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of vertical cities
Para 2: More Advantages
Para 3: Advantages of horizontal cities
Para 4: More advantages
Conclusion:

216. Team activities can teach more skills for life than those activities, which are played alone. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Both teamwork and individual work require different skills and teach different things. Most of our daily life depends on teamwork, like doing a job and raising a family. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that team activities teach more skills for life than solo activities. In this essay, I intend to analyze how team skills are beneficial in imparting the skills for life.

To begin with, there are many skills learnt by working in a group. For example, some important skills of life are communication skills, co-operation and conflict management skills. All these are only learnt through teamwork. In solo activities, we do not need to communicate, and so we do not learn these skills. However, when we step into daily life, we realise that communication skills are the most needed skills. We also have to co-operate with our family members, colleagues, friends and neighbours in daily life. When we do team activities, we learn co-operation also. Conflict management skills are also learnt when we do team activities. You have differences of opinion and you learn to manage tough situations very diplomatically. All these are very necessary skills of life.

Furthermore, we also learn leadership skills, decision-making and critical thinking skills, while doing team activities. We learn how to make our voice heard, and we also learn how to accept the correct suggestions of others. Finally, we learn sportsman-spirit, which is a very good trait. We learn to accept victory with modesty and defeat with grace. This is an important life skill.

On the other hand, we learn many skills of life through solo activities also. We learn a sense of competition and perseverance through individual activities. All life skills are important for us. We cannot forget that man is a social animal, and cannot live alone. So, what we learn in teams can be applied more in our daily lives.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that team activities and individual activities – both teach important skills of life, but team activities are definitely better teachers of life skills than solo activities.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Some skills we learn through teamwork
Para 2: Some more skills learnt while doing team activities
Para 3: Some skills learnt through solo activities
Conclusion: Team activities are definitely better teachers of life skills than solo activities

217. *Unemployment is getting increasingly serious in many countries. Some people think students only need to get primary education, while others think secondary education is necessary. What's your opinion?*

Joblessness is an issue of concern in many countries. Some people argue that if students receive 'only' primary education, the problem of unemployment could be lessened. However, others believe secondary education is necessary. I firmly believe that 'only' primary education is insufficient for the holistic development of students, and the value of secondary education cannot be challenged.

Those who say that only primary education should be there, feel that education has little influence on finding a job. To begin with, the competition for jobs is increasingly tough, since there are more and more job seekers. Definitely, no matter what level education a person receives, he or she has to go to find a job finally, facing some competition. Therefore, the earlier one goes to find a position, the better for a person. Furthermore, they think people can acquire the technique through work instead of school. In other words, higher education does not provide practical technique for factories. It is unnecessary for people to receive more education than primary courses.

On the other hand, it is necessary for individuals to receive as much education as possible before they go to work. Firstly, secondary education plays a key role in the development of individuals. Secondly, education will definitely enhance the chances for work. The more education one receives, the more opportunities for jobs he will have. Secondary education is the barest minimum education every child should go through, before stepping into the world of work. Last but not least, receiving more education will widen one's horizons. Some of them, maybe, set up their own business, creating a new approach to unemployment.

Furthermore, if students step into the job market immediately after primary education, they will remain at the same level of earning for years and years, even if they start earning early. What is more, primary education is complete at the tender age of ten and this is far too early to think about getting to work. In contrast those who step into the job market on the basis of their academic qualifications may be late in starting their jobs, but once they do so, they are better placed than those with 'only primary qualifications.

To summarise, although 'only' primary education is sufficient for a few kinds of work, I firmly believe that people should receive higher education before they go to work.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Secondary education is a must
Para 1: Views of those who say only primary education is good enough
Para 2: Benefits of secondary education
Para 3: A point of contrast between 'only' primary and secondary education
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

218. *Fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) are the main sources in many countries, but in some countries the use of alternative sources of energy (wind energy and solar energy) are encouraged. To what extent do you think it is a positive or negative development?*

It is irrefutable that fossil fuels are the main source of energy in many parts of the world, but some nations are taking a step forward and using renewable sources like wind, solar and tidal energy. Definitely, it is a positive development. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main advantage of using alternate sources is that the conventional sources like coal and oil are non-renewable. They take millions of years to make and we are finishing them at an alarming rate. This means that if we finish the existing resources they will be gone forever as far as our generation and the coming generations are concerned. Energy from the wind, the sun and the sea is an everlasting source of power. So, more and more governments should come forward in promoting these sources.

Another big advantage of these non-conventional sources is that they do not pollute the environment. We all know that global warming and damage to the protective ozone layer are caused by carbon-dioxide and other by-products of fossil fuels. If urgent steps are not taken towards the use of natural sources like sun and wind, then the time is not far when the whole earth will transform into a boiling pot.

Although the use of these alternative sources has some hurdles such as the initial cost of setting up solar panels and wind farms is very high and these are also dependent on the geographical locations. However, once the initial cost has been met with, their maintenance is practically negligible.

Summing up, the use of these alternative sources is a very positive development. It should be the global priority to invest in such research and development.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: It is a positive development
Para 1: First advantage of alternative sources – renewable
Para 2: Second advantage of alternative sources – non polluting
Para 3: Some drawbacks of alternative sources
Initial cost high
Dependent on geographical locations
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

219. *Research shows that overeating is as harmful to people's health as smoking. Therefore, the advertisements of certain food products should be banned, as the ads of cigarettes are banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

It is true that excessive consumption of certain types of food is bad for human health, just as smoking is. However, I disagree that adverts of these food items should be banned just as ads of smoking are. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, smoking causes harm to the smoker as well as the non-smoker, who is in the propinquity of the smoker. Studies have proven that the passive smoker is even more at risk of lung cancer than the active smoker. This is because he inhales the second-hand smoke, emitted by the smoker. A pregnant lady, who is continuously exposed to these passive fumes, may give birth to a child with congenital defects. So, smoking harms the innocent non-smoker even more than the smoker. Therefore a ban on advertisements of cigarettes is justified.

However, a prohibition on ads of foods is simply unjustified. To begin with, there is little relation between the over consumption of a kind of food and its advertising. Ads just tell us about the various choices we have. I believe that taking care of one's health is an individual's responsibility, and also is a right to freedom of choice. Also, it has been found through a research, that taste is the number one factor, when deciding what to eat. So banning ads of food will not make a considerable difference to the consumption of unhealthy foods.

Furthermore, advertising of food items should also not be banned, because ads are vital for any country's economy. Businesses thrive on ads, and if ads are banned they will go into bankruptcy. Another important reason against banning is that it would be very difficult to decide which food item to ban, and which not to.

To sum up, a ban on adverts of certain food items is not a good way to battle against overeating. Overeating can also not be likened to smoking, as overeating does not harm the bystanders, as smoking does.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Reasons for ban on ads of smoking
Para 2: Reasons for not banning food items
Para 3: More reasons for not banning food items
Conclusion:

220. The rapid development of communication technology, such as smart phones, tablets and other mobile devices, has more disadvantages than advantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the given statement, which says that the speedy advance in communication technology has more negative effects than positive. I believe that without these brilliant technological gadgets, human life would not be the same and the society would not be as prosperous as it is today.

To begin with, the modern gadgets have accelerated the pace of communication, and now we are able to communicate with anyone in any corner of the world. Long distance communication has also become much cheaper than before. Newer jobs have been created because of these technologies. Many people work in the programming field, as systems analysts and as web designers.

Furthermore, businesses can expand globally, with very little investment. They can develop a network of customers and get instant feedbacks on their products or services. Payments can be sent and received by wireless terminals, like PayTM. Another big advantage is to the students. Students can create documents and immediately upload them to a teacher's electronic folder. Teachers can then view the documents immediately, and keep them permanently stored. It works in reverse, too. Teachers can upload assignments, links, or feedback for students via these shared resources or folders.

Moreover, these gadgets have proved an asset in healthcare also. The tablet and smartphone are becoming nearly as ubiquitous in healthcare as the stethoscope. One survey in 2013 discovered that 86% of physicians used smartphones. In one handheld device, doctors can access patient information, research medical literature, and securely communicate with patients and colleagues.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of mobile communication technology cannot be overlooked. First, the elderly are not very comfortable with these gadgets. Then, these are not very reliable, as you are not sure whom you are talking to, unless it is a video call. When you text or email, there's no vocal tone and you can't see facial expressions. So, there is an increased chance that your message will be misunderstood. Additionally, there is the issue of cyber-crime. You may be the victim of cyber bullying. The wrong people could gain access to your personal details, which could result in you or your business losing money and reputation.

To sum up, the pros of modern communication technologies are far more than their cons. The onus is on us to use these gadgets judiciously, so that the negative side can be minimised.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages – speed and cost
Para 2:Advantages – businesses and students
Para 3: Advantages – healthcare
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

221. *Some people believe that government should spend on new public buildings, such as libraries and museums, rather than renovating old buildings. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Our public buildings -- museums, post offices, town halls, libraries, schools -- are a reflection of who we are as a community, and as a people. The given statement says that the authorities should invest on constructing new public buildings, instead of revamping the old ones. I vehemently disagree with this perspective. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Proponents of the given statement say that it is more simple, beneficial and cheaper to build new buildings instead of preserving the old ones. They opine that the old, withered and worn out, buildings should be demolished, and shiny new ones made instead. They argue that replacing the old with the new is part of progress. However, they are forgetting the benefits of keeping our heritage intact.

First of all, preservation and restoration plays a cultural role. Old buildings teach us about the history that happened before we were born, and promote the respect for those who lived in different times and different societies. Architectural monuments cultivate pride of our past and heritage, making us unique in the world. For example, Kapurthala is known for a string of beautiful buildings, which were made by the then Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, during the pre partition days. These buildings, are now the pride of the people there. Historical structures bring character and certain charm to the neighborhood that people live in.

Secondly, economy is an important merit of keeping the old. Architectural monuments are great attractors of tourists. Everyone likes to experience the "spirit" of the place, which most often is represented through architecture. To cite an example, the Salarjung Museum in Hyderabad Telangana, was once the residence of the Salar Jung family, who served as Prime Ministers to the Nizams, who were the erstwhile rulers of Hyderabad. It has the biggest collection of antiques from all over the world, and thousands of tourists visit this museum everyday. Tourists provide locals with jobs and extra income. Restoration works also contribute to boosting the economy.

Finally, restoring old buildings is environmentally friendly. Building new green buildings and energy-saving houses is important, but restoring the old ones is as "green" as it can get. Preservation and restoration is the ultimate form of recycling. It helps reduce construction waste, and saves the energy that is usually spent on manufacturing and transporting building materials and tools.

To sum up, although building new buildings may be cheaper and simpler than restoring old ones, I firmly believe that old is gold, and should be preserved.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Proponents view
Para 2: Old buildings have a cultural role
Para 3: Tourism
Para 4: Environmentally friendly
Conclusion:

222. *Some people think that the government should make laws regarding nutrition and healthy lifestyle, while others think that it is a matter of personal choice and personal responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

The modern sedentary lifestyle, and the easy availability of junk food is leading to many diseases such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension, which are eating away the health budgets of many governments. That is perhaps why some people opine that government should make laws and policies that promote healthy food and limit access to unhealthy food. However, others say that there should be no regulation on what we eat and how we live. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives.

Supporters of government role in regulating our lifestyle and nutrition, say that everyone does not have enough knowledge about health. Moreover, people go for the easily and cheaply available fast foods, which provide calories, but are bereft of essential nutrients. This increases the risk of diseases and therefore government should formulate policies such as taxing such foods heavily, and making healthy foods available at subsidized rates.

The governments can adopt the 'carrot' and 'stick' approach. Carrot policy is the incentive given to people if they exercise, and the stick is the punishment. For instance, in Mexico City, those who do 10 squats are allowed a ride in the subway for free. In many offices, $25 incentive is given to every employee who walks 7000 steps per day, five days a week. In India, the government has made it compulsory to provide highly nutritious mid-day meal to children of primary schools, so that they don't suffer malnutrition.

On the other hand, there are those who believe that the onus of having a healthy lifestyle should be left to the individuals. They say that the government cannot, and should not force anybody to follow a healthy diet and exercise daily. It is people's right to eat what they wish and follow any lifestyle they want. The government should just aware the people about the dangers of unhealthy lifestyle, and then leave it on the people to do what they wish. The government should also provide gyms and sports centres at very affordable rates for people, so that they are motivated to go there very often. But, there should not be any compulsion on people to exercise regularly or eat only what is healthy and not go after taste.

To conclude, government intervention is needed to make healthy choices available to people, and to alert them about the consequences of a bad lifestyle and eating habits. People should also follow the advice of government and be cautious about what they eat and how they exercise.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: first argument is that everyone does not have enough knowledge about health
Para 2: How governments can follow the carrot and stick approach.
Para 3: Why the onus of having a healthy lifestyle should be left to the individuals,
Conclusion: governments should promote healthy lifestyles both for the benefits of individuals and overall economy.

223. *Some people believe that sport competitions are a source of emotional stress for young people. Therefore, youth should be banned from participating in sport competitions. Do you agree or disagree?*

I completely disagree with the parochial notion that the youngsters should not be permitted to play sports, as competition makes them emotionally stressed. There are a number of arguments that support my view, which I will be putting forth in the upcoming paragraphs.

Tacitly, there are numerous benefits of competing in sports. Such competitions promote skills like self-confidence, team spirit, developing strategies, overcoming obstacles, and so on. Admittedly there is a feeling of competitiveness that can cause some amount of emotional stress. However, that is not just limited to the field of sports. Competition is there in every aspect of life, starting with the school life, and continues onto when we start working. Sports competitions teach the youth how to overcome challenges, accept failures and keep trying to succeed, which helps them overcome obstacles in their lives as well.

To add to it, sport is a very popular career option for many youngsters. Through the state-level and national-level sporting competitions, the best of the talent can be identified. These youngsters can then move on to competing at an international level, and bring name and fame to the country. The government also provides job opportunities to the sport laureates. Furthermore, such competitions promote harmony, when people and teams from different cultures, countries and backgrounds compete with one another and strengthen relationships.

The proponents of the view that the youth should not be permitted to participate in sport competitions say that the pressures of winning are too demanding for the players and lead to deleterious consequences, like the win-at-all-cost attitude, not being able to accept failure, drug abuse for better performance, etc. However, this kind of stress is faced by children everyday at schools, and competing in sports only helps them become more confident and tough enough to face the challenges they face in their personal and professional lives.

To sum up, the children and the youth should be encouraged to participate in sport competitions, to promote their overall development, and to inculcate in them the life skills, like self-confidence, sportsmanship spirit, feeling of fraternity and many more. I am certain that when done in purposeful and developmentally appropriate manner, which places the needs of the children well ahead of winning, competitive sports can and should be a great experience for kids.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of sporting competitions
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Other view, and then refute it
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

224. *Some people think government should ban dangerous sports, such as skydiving and rock climbing. Do you agree or disagree?*

In recent years we have seen a considerable rise in dangerous or extreme sports. Although I do not support an outright ban on such sports, I do feel that the government should regulate such sports, so that they are played under supervision, which will minimize the risks.

Those who maintain that the government should ban dangerous sports activities argue on the grounds that a government has a responsibility to protect its population. In other words, the law should be there to prevent citizens from taking risks themselves, whether deliberately or unintentionally. These sports can be highly dangerous and sometimes life-threatening. More than that, it is not just the participants who are at risk, but spectators too can be seriously injured. If, for example, a Formula 1 car crashes, the driver may not escape unharmed, and there is also a chance that a bouncing tire or debris may fly into the crowd. Given this level of danger, it is understandable why people call for the authorities to take action.

However, banning such sports is not the answer. Instead, the government should ensure that the companies or centres, which provide the facilities for such sports should meet the required, legal safety standards. Another argument against banning is that then people would play these sports in hiding, and then they would be even more risky. After all we all know that forbidden fruits taste sweeter.

A further point is that in statistical terms there is a low probability of injury in many so-called dangerous sports, and people are at greater risk carrying out everyday activities such as crossing the road or cooking a meal. With the rapid development of advanced technology and medical insurance in our society, the security system of those extreme sports is absolutely mature enough to protect people who take part in these challenging activities.

What is more, those sportsmen who excel in such sports bring name and fame to their country. They break records set by others, and when they do so, the name of their country shines in the whole world. I also believe that people should be allowed to go for whatever risk they choose. So, if someone wishes to freefall from a plane at 30,000 feet, then he should be free to do so and it should be accepted that it is not the place of the government to dictate how they lead their lives. Not infringing citizens' freedom should be regarded as a government's priority.

To sum up, it can be said that such sports should be performed after sufficient training and under supervision of experts. Dangerous sport companies should require a license for providing such training. To lay a prohibition on such sports is not the answer.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Arguments for banning
Para 2: Arguments against banning
Para 3: Arguments against banning
Para 4: Arguments against banning
Conclusion: should not be banned but regulated

225. The advantages brought by the spread of English as a "global language" will outweigh the disadvantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

I definitely agree with the given statement that the increased use of English as an international language will have more pros than cons. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, English is already the lingua franca in many parts of the world. It is already spoken in 86 countries. So, spreading it as a global language, would be accepted by so many people who already know this language. Secondly, English is easier to learn than any other language. Unlike Chinese, for example, English has only 26 alphabets, which are combined to make words and sentences. It is easy even for non-native speakers to read written English. In addition, a number of English words have been borrowed from many other languages, and many English words have been adopted by many languages and are used as part of their own languages. Therefore, many people in different countries already know some of the English. So, it could be the easiest language to learn.

Furthermore, it is the language of global business and also jobs. It is the language of technology. You can make the best use of internet if you know English, as many websites are written in English. Knowledge of English makes travel easier. There would also be no need of expensive translations. Finally, English will be the most promising language. Since English is used in many fields such as economics, politics, and academics, more and more people will study English in the future. If you have an international meeting in any field, it will probably be done in English. The demand of English will never stop.

On the downside, many people fear that local languages would die out and with that, local cultures would die out because language and culture are inter-related. Moreover, it is bound to be divided into dialects. Finally, the spread of English as a global language, could be opposed by those who want their language to be the global language. For example, Chinese people might want their language to be the global language.

To conclude, there are more advantages than disadvantages of English as a global language. Its popularity and demand will increase more and more in the future.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Advantages of English as a global language
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: opposite view
Conclusion:

226. *In some countries, some of the criminal cases in the law courts are shown on the television, so that the general public can watch them. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?*

There are some countries such as the US, where court cases are televised, so that the public can view them. There are arguments in favour of, and arguments against such televising. This essay intends to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of televising criminal courts. I, personally, believe the pros outweigh the cons.

There are many arguments for televising court proceedings. Firstly, by allowing the televising of the court cases, efficient and fair trials will be ensured. Because of televising many people will be able to access the court cases, and also will be able to criticize the judges for engaging in a trial insincerely. Secondly, if we can all watch trials, we will become more confident in our legal system. The effect of televising the court cases would allow people to know better of the judiciary system, and give them knowledge of law related issues. It is the way to enhance trust towards the justice system by making the court transparent and open.

Furthermore, right to know is a fundamental right, all people have. They should be able to know what happens during the trial. Journalists are allowed to write reports of the proceedings, but written judgments are not enough. These are full of odd words and complicated sentence constructions. Therefore, articles written by reporters about trials don't satisfy people's right to know.

What is more, televising trials could prevent many crimes, as a lot of people would not want their cases being shown. The showing of the cases would aware the potential criminals of the treatment they will receive when they commit crimes, and discourage them from doing it. Finally, some families of victims may not be able to go to the trial, but they can follow it on TV from a safe distance.

On the other hand, one of the arguments used by those who are fundamentally skeptical about the whole development, is that the presence of cameras could distort the very nature of the process. The jurors may be influenced by the media coverage. In particular, it has been argued that televising the events could act as a deterrent to victims and witnesses giving evidence. Witnesses will lose their anonymity, as everyone in the country will know their face. To add to it, showing trials on TV, could turn lawbreakers into celebrities. The procedures might turn into entertainment, like in the Judge Judy show.

To conclude, televising the trial courts has both merits and demerits. However, the benefits definitely have an edge over the drawbacks.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of televising
Para 2 & 3: More advantages
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

227. *Some people believe that everyone has right to university education. Therefore, government should make university education free for everyone, no matter what their financial background is. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

People have different views about who should pay the fee of university education. Some believe that the government should totally fund tertiary education, as the society benefits the most if the youth are highly educated. However, I disagree with the notion. I firmly believe that the student himself benefits the most from tertiary education. Therefore, the tuition fee should be borne by the students.

Proponents of free tertiary education cite a host of benefits. They say that if higher education were made totally free, then the whole society would benefit. That is why in all developing countries there has been a strong effort to raise the educational level of the society by putting as much money as possible into providing educational institutions. Developing countries cannot move ahead without enough educated professionals such as doctors, teachers, scientists and engineers. Governments in such countries provide scholarships or free education to as many students as they can fund, because they realize that the whole country will benefit. Many developed countries also try to offer free tertiary education because they want a highly educated population.

On the other hand, there are many credible arguments against free tertiary education. Firstly, the individuals themselves get so much benefit from tertiary education that they should themselves pay for it. Doctors, lawyers, accountants and engineers have some of the highest earnings in most societies. So, it is justified that the government, and therefore the tax-payers, should not pay for students who will later earn more than anyone else. Moreover, most students come from the middle classes and their parents can afford to pay for their fees.

Furthermore, it is also a well-known fact that if a person gets something for free, he doesn't value it that much. Because of free education, the university classes would be full of non-serious students, who would spoil the decorum of the classes. Many students would also not complete their education and drop out mid way. In such cases a lot of government money would be wasted. As it is, the government has a lot on its shoulders. Therefore, it would be wrong to put the entire burden of university education on its shoulders.

To conclude, it would not be wise to put the cost of tertiary education on the government and so the cost should probably be paid for by the student himself, or through some loans, which must be paid back later.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why some say that university education should be free
Para 2: Why it should not be free
Para 3: More reasons for not making it free
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Another version of the same essay – The government should pay the university fee for all those who want to study at the university. Do you agree or disagree?)

228. *In many countries, people buy imported food rather than food produced locally. Why do people do that? How can people be encouraged to eat locally produced food?*

Globalisation has ushered in an era in which tastes have become international. So, the demand for imported food has increased. This essay intends to look into the reasons why people prefer imported over local produce, and also suggest ways to motivate people to eat locally produced food.

There are myriad reasons why people prefer imported food. First, imported foods have better quality. When foods are imported, their quality is always checked, and only the best products end up in our markets. Regulations on local food are less strict, because there is less distrust. Ironically enough that means that local food isn't quality controlled as much. Another guarantee that we eat good-quality imported foods, is the fact that the reputation of the food importing companies is at stake. If these companies don't get good feedback from consumers, they will do everything to change the supplier and start offering foods that people will enjoy eating.

Secondly, importing food gives people access to more choices. Any country's climate and land don't allow growing all sorts of fruits and vegetables throughout the year. Because of imported foods, we can have fresh bananas, mangoes, tomatoes or potatoes anytime we desire. Another important reason why imported food is preferred is that it has become a necessity and not merely a choice. The number of people who are interested in working as farmers is constantly decreasing. This has led to a shortage of local food production.

Many steps could be taken to encourage people to eat local produce. People should be made aware of the benefits of local food. Local food is fresher and more nutritious, as local food is harvested shortly before ripening. When food is allowed to ripen on the plant before it's picked, and when it's eaten fresh, it has the maximum nutrients and flavor. Additionally, there is no need of adding artificial ingredients that increase the food's shelf life. So, when people eat with the seasons, they are eating foods when they are the richest in flavour and the least expensive. Government should also check the local produce for quality from time to time. If people get good quality local foods, they will be less likely to opt for foreign food. Steps should also be taken to increase local production of food.

To sum up, there are many reasons why people opt for imported food, but some steps can be taken to revive their liking for local foods.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons.
Para 3: Steps to make them like local food
Conclusion:

229. The best way to learn about other cultures is to work in multinational organisations. Do you agree or disagree?

A major benefit of globalization has been setting up of multinational companies in the developing nations. This has lead to the rapid growth in the economy of the developing countries and an added benefit is the exposure the employees get to cultures of different countries, mostly the developed ones. However, I disagree with the given statement. I believe that although working in an MNC is a good way to understand and learn about another country's culture, it cannot be deemed as the best method. I will put forth some supporting arguments for my belief.

It cannot be denied that to work in a multinational company, it is very important to gain knowledge about the client or the customer, who is usually from another country. This holds true for the entry level agents to the top managers. They all have to deal with the client from a foreign country. So it is essential that they have some knowledge about that country's culture. For instance, they should know how to address the client. In some cultures it is all right to address the client on a first name basis. However, in some others it may be regarded as disrespectful.

Having said that, working in an MNC is definitely not the best way to learn about a culture. When working in an MNC, the employees need to look at only certain aspects of the culture, which they will need to talk about when speaking to or when interacting with the client. It may include things like how to address them, how to greet them, things that they can talk about when making small talk, things they shouldn't ask about, their holidays, etc. This will lead to gaining knowledge about only some aspects of their culture. They may not get to know about their food or their language.

Admittedly, working in a multinational organization provides opportunities to travel abroad, and that is an excellent and probably the best way to learn about the culture of another country. However, such opportunities are given to a select few and not the entire employee population. In my opinion, the best way to learn about another culture is to actually live in it, and travelling gives us the best opportunity to learn another way of life.

To recapitulate, working in an MNC is definitely a good way to know about another culture, but it is certainly not the best.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why MNCs are good to learn other cultures
Para 2: Why they are not good
Para 3: More reasons why they are not the best as far as learning other cultures is concerned
Conclusion:

230. People believe that not all school children have the natural ability to learn a new language. This means it is not right to force all school children to study a foreign language. Do you agree or disagree?

Learning other languages is very worthwhile and beneficial, especially in the "global village" that the world has become over the recent decades. Nowadays, it seems to make more sense than ever to be familiar with, and competent in speaking several different languages. Therefore, I firmly believe that a foreign language should be there in all school curricula, even if a few students find it difficult to learn.

To begin with, the acquisition of a second language develops skills such as communication, cultural awareness and global citizenship, by overcoming language barriers. A second language can also inject confidence in children by helping them develop global understanding. Many young people travel the world soon after leaving school, and there can be no doubt that their experiences would be enhanced by being able to speak the native language in countries they visit.

Secondly, learning a foreign language would also open up all sorts of career opportunities, which they would not have otherwise. What could be a better example than the education system of India in which all school students have to learn English right from primary school? That is why Indians are very well placed in the global job market.

Moreover, learning new languages is said to increase a person's brainpower too. It has been proven by researches that bilingual and multilingual students do better in other subjects also. In other words, language learning and cognitive development are inter-related. Therefore, it would be very practical to make it mandatory to learn a foreign language at school.

Undoubtedly, there may be a few who just would not be able to cope academically with learning other languages. This naturally includes children who are developmentally disabled and may be attending special schools, or are studying in special units at mainstream schools. There could be some relaxation for such category of students. If such children can just get a basic grasp of reading and writing their own language, then that has to be regarded as an adequate achievement.

Summing up, I think being exposed to other cultures and having the opportunity to learn at least one other language in school is a healthy, positive and enriching experience.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1 – the acquisition of a second language develops skills such as communication, cultural awareness and global citizenship by overcoming language barriers.
Para 2 – learning new languages is said to increase a person's brainpower too
Para 3 - There could be some relaxation for the students who are mentally challenged
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

231. *Some people believe that living in big cities is becoming more difficult. Others believe that it is getting easier. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

One of the most striking features of the industrial age, is the growth of urban life. Undoubtedly, this growth has provided tremendous comforts and opportunities to the human race. However, it has also opened new sets of challenges for them. In this essay, I will discuss whether living in metropolis is getting easier, or more arduous.

First of all, we need to understand that life is a breeze when we have ease of access to everyday things, whereas the opposite makes it equally more strenuous. Now, everyone knows the fact that compared to a small town or a village, the ease of access to needs like healthcare, education, entertainment and transportation is better than ever before in the metropolis. For example, with the introduction of rapid transport systems such as the metro trains in Delhi, traveling in Delhi is both comfortable and safer. Secondly, no one can deny the fact that technology has been one of the most important contributing factors in making our lives easier, and with increasing access to high speed internet connections in the cities, people now can do things lot more easily, while sitting in the comforts of their home.

On the other hand, if we talk about the deterrents in urban life, the first glaring problem that comes to everybody's mind is the environmental pollution caused due to increasing number of cars and construction activities. As a consequence, countless citizens are suffering from asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases. The second major concern is that life expenses in metropolises have skyrocketed in recent years. This has resulted in an increasing number of homeless people with extremely low living standards, which can be witnessed in cities like New Delhi and Mumbai.

To conclude, I would like to say that living in city certainly makes our lives lot more comfortable, and it provides ample opportunity for everyone to fulfill their dreams, but as mentioned above there are new problems which affect city life. However these challenges are not a show-stopper in terms of the comforts provided by the city life, and can be easily mitigated by the government by implementing newer rules and controls.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Introduction
Para 1: Advantages of City Life
Para 2: Disadvantages of City Life
Conclusion

232. *Parents should encourage their children to spend less time studying, and more time doing sports/physical activities. Do you agree or disagree*

The given statement implies that sports are more important for children than academic education, and so more time should be devoted to sports. I however, firmly believe that both - academic subjects and sports are equally important for the holistic development of children.

On the one hand, there are many advantages of sports for children. To begin with, these break the monotony of tough academic studies. Participating in sports keeps children physically fit. We all know that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. World-renowned scientific research suggests that children deliver optimum performance through a balanced approach to education. If a child devotes his entire time to academic subjects, without exercising, he becomes lethargic and dull. Participation in sports recharges the batteries of children, and they can perform better in studies too.

Another important benefit of sports is that children learn important virtues of life through sports. They learn competition, co-operation, sportsman spirit, and so much more from sports. These skills are important later on in life. Even recruiting agencies look for such skills apart from that piece of paper called the degree. So, such subjects are as essential as academic subjects. Finally, it would be worthwhile to add that sports classes in schools have given us players like Sachin Tendulkar and Dhoni who have won laurels for our country.

On the other hand, academic education is also very important, so students must be pushed as hard as possible to achieve their best. Devoting more time to sports and less to academics would also be detrimental for children. They need to spend time on studies, so that they get into university and are placed in good jobs later in life. Therefore, I feel that a more rounded education would produce a better individual.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion by saying that academic studies and sports are equally important for children today. Therefore, parents should motivate children do allocate equal time to both.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Importance of sports
Para 2: More importance of sports
Para 3: Importance of academic education
Conclusion:

233. *Nowadays, some countries are spending a lot of money to make it easier to use bicycle. Why is this so? Is it the best solution to transport problem?*

It is true that many countries, most of which are developed countries, have started investing in the bicycle industry. There are more than a billion bicycles in the world, twice as many as automobiles. In recent years, bike production has climbed to over 100 million per year (compared to 50 million cars). This essay intends to analyse the reasons of this phenomenon. I believe that although it is a good solution to the traffic problem, it is not the best solution.

The main reason is that these countries realize that cycling is a clean alternative to motorbikes and cars, and so investing in facilities for cycling will help reduce congestion and pollution. Problems related to congestion in the cities of the emerging world continue to grow, and will grow faster than any investment in new roads could match. Secondly cycling is cheaper and healthier than other forms of transport. Bicyclist commuters are generally healthier than those who drive motor vehicles to work. They also remain unaffected by OPEC decisions about crude oil production or the price per barrel.

Another very important reason for investing in this industry, is the potential of this industry to provide jobs. Every cycle lane which is made, and every cyclist who is created, contributes to job growth. In Europe alone, more than 6 lac people are employed in the cycling industry - more jobs than in mining and quarrying, the steel industry, and even any other automobile industry. The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Switzerland and many more countries have started investing in a big way and have seen many positive effects.

As far as the best solution to transport problem is concerned, I still feel that cycling comes second to public transport. There are a few limitations in the use of bicycles. First, these need to be balanced by the rider in order to remain upright. Not everyone can ride one. Second, there is reduced protection in crashes, in comparison to motor vehicles. Another disadvantage is that there is longer travel time (except in densely populated areas). Cycling is also vulnerable to weather conditions. Finally, a basic level of fitness is required for cycling moderate to long distances. Public transport, on the other hand, caters to all segments of society. There are children, the elderly, the sick, the disabled and pregnant women, who cannot ride a bicycle.

To summarise, there are many motives for countries to invest in making cycling easier, which have been explained in the above paragraphs. However, cycling is not the best solution to transport problem. Investing in public transport takes the lead in this arena.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Why investment in cycling is not the best option.
Conclusion:

234. More and more people do online shopping. Why is this the situation? What is the effect of online shopping on shops and communities?

Today, with the Internet so readily accessible to us, more and more people are turning to online shopping for all their needs. Clothes, shoes, electronics, groceries and even fruit and vegetables can now be purchased via the Internet. This essay shall look into the reasons why people are switching to online shopping instead of traditional shopping, and also discuss its effects on shops and societies.

There are several advantages of shopping online, because of which people are opting for this method of shopping. The first is the ability to shop at a time that is convenient to you, not just when the shops are open. The second advantage of shopping online is that goods are often cheaper as the seller does not have the costs of running a shop and having to pay wages to salespeople, insurance and all of the other running costs of a real world business. Online shopping can also be a lot more comfortable than real world shopping, as people do not have to go out in bad weather sometimes.

Another huge advantage of shopping online is that people have the opportunity to compare as many products and prices as they want, without having to spend the time and money to travel between several different shops. They are also able to read reviews that have been written by other people who have purchased the item they are considering. They are able to find out about the item from a genuine user, not just the salesperson. Finally, they are able to find and buy products from all over the world, and not just in their local area, which makes purchasing of hard-to-find items a lot easier.

There are many negative effects of the trend of online shopping on people and societies. The main negative of shopping online is that people have to pay shipping costs and have to wait for the items they purchased to be shipped and delivered. Another disadvantage is that they cannot feel or see the item they want to buy. Sometimes, the item they get could be quite different from what they wanted. Another disadvantage of shopping online is that it is cumbersome to return faulty goods. It can literally take weeks to exchange a faulty product purchased online. Then, cyber crime is also an issue. A person's credit card number could be hacked and misused. Finally, societies become more aloof as people don't come out for shopping, which is an opportunity to bump into someone you know and is a chance to socialize.

The negative effects can also be seen on the local shopkeeper. Their sales go down as more and more people shop online. Only the giant stores are able to survive. For instance, in my hometown, many furniture shops have closed down as online stores such as, Fabfurnish, Urban Ladder and Pepperfry have entered the online market, and have started luring people with mouth-watering deals.

In summary, the main reasons of shopping online are convenience and cost savings, which are also the positive effects. There are many negative effects on local shops and societies. However, despite the negatives, I believe that online shopping is here to stay and prosper.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1 & 2: advantages and positives
Para 3 & 4: Negative effects on people and societies
Para 4: More negative effects on people and societies
Conclusion:

235. Some people think that in the modern society individuals are becoming more dependent on each other, while others say that individuals are becoming more independent of each other. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Whether we are dependent or independent of each other is difficult to say. In some cases, we heavily rely on others, but in others we are quite self-sufficient. In this essay I intend to delve into both views and finally give my opinion.

There are times when we are dependent on others. When we are little, our parents care for us, otherwise we would have no access to food, shelter, and clothing. At the same time, we are emotionally important to them, so they always remember they are responsible for raising us up. When we are grown up, we start to learn at schools, and then it is the teachers on whom we rely heavily. When we are employed, we need to work closely with our colleagues and our employers also depend on our productivity.

We are also independent of each other in many ways. We don't need to go to the banks. We can do net-banking sitting at home. We can do online shopping. We don't need to go and depend on salesmen. We can entertain ourselves alone by computer games and the Internet. We can even study at home through online education and distant education. We are not dependent on teachers for imparting education. We can book railway and air tickets online and are not dependent on booking clerks. We can eat ready to eat food available in the market. We are not dependent on somebody in our home to cook for us.

Whatever arguments we put forth in support of both views, the fact cannot be denied that man is a social animal and will always be dependent on others. This dependence may be direct or indirect. When we are seemingly independent, we are still dependent on people behind the technology. For example, when we do net banking we depend on all those software developers who have made it possible for us. When we eat ready to eat food we depend on those who cook and pack that food.

Summing up, we are all part of a society and it is not possible for us not to depend on others. This dependence, however, may be visible or invisible.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: In this essay I intend to delve into both views and finally give my opinion.
Para 1: How we are still dependent on each other
Para 2: How we are independent of each other
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion: we are all part of a society and it is not possible for us not to depend on others. This dependence, however, may be visible or invisible

236. *It is a good thing if senior management workers in a company get a much higher salary than other workers in the same company. Do you agree or disagree?*

The size of the pay of the top officials of large organisations, which is disproportionately higher than that of ordinary workers, has sparked much debate in the recent times. Some consider it very fair, and are very happy about it. I, however, am not in favour of this discrepancy.

Advocates of a fat pay for senior officials argue that it is needed to attract and retain the best executive talent. Undoubtedly, a talented manager is a major asset for any company, as he determines its success and prosperity. Furthermore, the top manager could be re-employed by a business rival. The gifted managers who could understand and manage people in business setting are always sought after. Hence, high salary is a powerful means to retain such talent. Finally, the directors obviously face the stress from their workplace in daily lives, which may cause health problems. Therefore, people should accept the truth that big responsibilities deserve big salaries.

However, the huge difference in the pay has led to many problems. Firstly, as executive pay has soared, the wages of ordinary workers have stagnated. This has led to widening of the gap between the rich and the poor. For example, the soaring executive pay, particularly in the financial sector, has made the UK one of the most unequal societies in the developed world. Unequal societies suffer far worse social and economic problems. To add to it, economic recovery is also hindered by the fact that so much money is concentrated in the hands of a wealthy elite - who can afford to invest it in property or financial assets - rather than low and middle-income households, who spend it in the productive economy.

Furthermore, in most other top-level positions – for example senior civil servants, top lawyers and judges, surgeons, and leading military officials – there is no culture of performance related pay. Therefore, such huge pay-packets for top officials in the business sector is not at all justified. I believe that a fair and balanced pay is what we need to have a happier society. Many studies support the view that firms concerned about social responsibility can put restrictions on executive compensation and still achieve good financial performance.

To sum up, although there are reasons for the fat pay given to the top-level managers, and we need companies to grow and to create both wealth and jobs in this fierce global market, I still believe that we can achieve this by being fair, and not overpaying the top executives.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Advantages of higher pay of top executives
Para 2: Disadvantages of such difference in pay
Para 3: More disadvantages
Conclusion:

237. *It has become easier and more affordable for people to travel to other countries. Do you think it is a positive or a negative development? Give your opinion and relevant examples from your experience.*

It is irrefutable that international tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. In fact it has become the backbone of many economies of the world. This situation has both pros and cons. In my opinion, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

International tourism can have many benefits for individuals and that is precisely why countries are opening their doors for tourists. The most important benefit is that tourism provides regular employment for many local people who might otherwise be unemployed. They can find work in restaurants or hotels, or with tourist agencies as guides or drivers, for example, and earn regular wages. This, in turn, means that they may be able to save money and improve their standard of living. The second benefit is that tourists spend money in the country and this allows local businesses such as restaurants, bars and taxi companies to flourish. In turn, other businesses, food suppliers or petrol stations, for instance, may be established in order to provide services to support the companies, which cater for tourists. In other words, the whole economy of the region develops.

A third benefit is that in order for tourists to be able to visit remote areas, roads, airports and hotels have to be built and local people also benefit by being able to use these new facilities. Furthermore, when communications improve, it becomes possible for other industries to move into the area, bringing with them more employment opportunities and increased prosperity. A final advantage of tourism is that visitors from outside bring fresh ideas and different ways of doing things to the local community. Consequently, local people may learn from tourists. Likewise, visitors learn about the local people and culture, and return home with a deeper understanding of the host country.

On the other hand, there are some problems associated with international tourism. Firstly, there is the increasing crime rate. Some locals see tourists as easy prey because, not only are they in unfamiliar territory and therefore less able to take care of themselves, but also they carry visible items of wealth, such as cameras and jewellery which can be disposed off quickly for a profit. Another major problem is health. With greater mobility comes greater danger of spreading infectious, contagious diseases around the world. Also to be considered is the natural environment, which can be seriously threatened by too many visitors. Australia's Great Barrier Reef, for example, is in danger of being destroyed by tourists and there are plans to restrict visitors to some of the more delicate coral reefs.

Summing up, international tourism has both advantages and disadvantages. However, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: This situation has both pros and cons
Para 1: Benefits of international tourism
Para 2: More advantages of tourism
Para 3: Disadvantages of tourism
Conclusion: Advantages of tourism outweigh the disadvantages

238. *Nuclear energy is a better choice for meeting increasing demand. Do you support the use of nuclear technology for constructive purposes? Use your own knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.*

These days it seems like everyone is worried about how the world will meet its energy demands when we run out of oil and natural gas. Solar energy, wind energy, geo-thermal energy, nuclear energy and so on are being developed as alternative sources. In my view, nuclear power is not a good choice for meeting the increasing demand because it can be used to cause great human disaster by the use of nuclear weapons of mass-destruction, it is too expensive, the materials used are not safe and there is a possibility of accidents.

To begin with, nuclear technology could be wrongly used for terrorist activities and mass destruction. An increasing number of countries now have nuclear weapons or have the technology required to make such bombs. If life on earth is to continue, we must control nuclear weapons of mass destruction. To eliminate the threat of nuclear war, all the nuclear power nations of the world should agree to disarm as soon as possible.

Secondly, nuclear power is not economical. Nuclear fuel is expensive and on top of that nuclear power stations cost a lot to build and operate. People who work in nuclear power stations must be highly trained specialists and so their salaries also must be high.

In addition to being expensive, nuclear materials are not safe. When uranium is taken out from the ground, radioactive gas is released, which is not safe for miners. People who work with nuclear fuels also can get cancer. Moreover, as nuclear power stations run, they create a lot of nuclear waste, which is also dangerous. No town wants nuclear waste buried nearby and for good reasons.

Most significantly, there is always the risk of nuclear accidents. The power stations can fail when they get old. The machinery can malfunction or there can be human error. For example, there was an accident in the Tarapur Power Station in 1992 and who hasn't heard of the Chernobyl disaster in former USSR in 1986.

To sum up, it is true that oil and gas cannot supply all the world's energy needs, but we cannot replace them with a source which is expensive and dangerous. Therefore, I disagree that nuclear technology should be used for any purposes even though they are constructive.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Disadvantage of nuclear power – could be misused
Para 2: Disadvantage of nuclear power – not economical
Para 3: Disadvantage of nuclear power – not safe
Para 4: Disadvantage of nuclear power – risk of accidents
Conclusion:

239. *Many people say that companies should give importance to their employees, whereas others say that they should give importance to customers. Discuss both and opine.*

PEOPLE, either in form of employees or customers, form the essence of each and every company that exists in the world today. We also know that companies are built by the people and for the people, and they cannot survive without either of the two groups. In this essay, I will discuss whether the companies should prioritize employees over customers, or whether they should put customers first.

Those in favour of putting employees first, cite a host of benefits of this approach. Conventionally, customer satisfaction has been the foremost goal of companies, but of late they have begun to understand that it's impossible to achieve it without having their employees buy into it. Companies have realized that happy employees, equals happy customers, and because of this they have started focusing their attention towards the benefit of their workforce. For example, nowadays a lot of companies are providing facilities such as Child Day Care, Gymnasiums and Sports Centers within their office premises. Some organisations have also started hosting lots of event for the employees such as award functions, and health check up etcetera, so that the employees feel valued in the organisation.

Now if we talk about customers, they have always been treated as kings in the market, and to some extent they deserve it, because they are the livelihood of the business. Secondly the relationship between an organisation and a customer is an important one. To what extent customers are willing to spend depends upon how well they are treated. Organisations today are taking great pains to achieve customer satisfaction. They are spending a lot of energy and time on finding out what is important to the customers. We can say that the customers will always remain important in a company, because without happy customers, any company can see its doom.

I believe that both – employee and customer happiness have to be in balance with each other. Both need to be heard and respected to make it a win-win. This question is like asking 'heart first or lungs first?' You can't live if any of these stop working. Organizations have to realize that their customers will only be happy if the people servicing their customers are happy. Employees are the key touch-points to know the customer better, so an organization can develop and deliver products and services that are relevant to customers' needs and expectations.

To conclude, I would like to mention that although the customer has always been the king in a company, but in today's competitive market the organisations have to look into their employees' happiness simultaneously. If approached as mutually exclusive efforts, they are doomed to lose both.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Why some people say Employees first
Para 2: Why some people say customers first
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

240. The movement of people from agricultural areas to cities to work can cause serious problems in both places. What are the serious problems and what measures can be taken to solve this problem?

The world is steadily becoming more urban, as people move to cities and towns in search of employment, educational opportunities and higher standards of living. This situation can cause serious problems in both, villages and cities, which I shall discuss in this essay and also suggest some ways forward.

In cities, there is a lot of pressure on the resources such as land, water and infrastructure like public transport, health care and law and order etc. There is an increased demand for land, which pushes the property prices. This also leads to encroachment of pavements and creation of slums. There is increase in demand and consumption of water. Limited access to drinking water poses serious health hazards and easy spread of water borne diseases across the masses. Health hazards resulting from urbanization are also connected to air pollution, as well as crime, traffic and lifestyle. There is also a sharp growth in urban traffic and the public transport system of the urban cities is choked.

In villages, as more land exits farming, the local agricultural economy may suffer. Closer proximity to urban consumers and new output venues allow farmers to adapt their agricultural operations to higher value or specialty crops, such as fruits and vegetables. This has also led to an industrialization of farming and modern methods are being used to meet the demands of the increased population of cities. The small-scale farmer has suffered as a result.

The solutions are not simple. What must be understood is that we cannot stop urbanization. Urbanization is synonymous with progress. Growth of cities is not bad; unplanned growth is bad. Careful planning of cities with the future in mind is required. This will reduce the creation of slum areas. Small-scale urban agriculture, intensive commercial peri-urban agriculture should be promoted. This will meet the food needs. Finally, strengthened and improved rural-urban linkages can make important contributions in improving the situation. If cities and villages are linked well with efficient public transport, many people would not shift to cities.

Summing up, urbanization can cause problems in both rural and urban areas but steps can be taken to combat the situation.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Problems in cities
Para 2: Problems in villages
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

241. A report indicated that many children between 7 and 11 spend too much time watching television and/or playing video games. How does the problem affect the children, their families and society? What measures can be taken to control it?

Laurence J. Peter has rightly said that 'Television has changed the child from an irresistible force to an immovable object.' After coming home from school, children spend a lot of time in watching TV and playing video games. This essay shall discuss the effects of this excessive TV viewing on children, their families and society and also suggest some ways forward.

There are many negative effects of spending too much time on TV by the 7-11 year olds. 7-11 years is a crucial period of childhood after which children step into adolescence. This is the time when children develop the maximum, physically as well as mentally. The more time children spend on watching TV and playing video games, the less time they have for studying, exploring, playing and interacting with parents and friends. In addition, excessive TV viewing can result in obesity as kids are inactive and tend to eat junk food while watching TV. They are turning into couch potatoes. What is more, there is a lot of violence on TV, which should not be watched by children. Communication has come down drastically within the family and even among children of the neighbourhood.

It is irrefutable that TV is one of the best ways to entertain and inform and even playing video games introduces children to technology, which is the need of the hour. However, all this is good in moderation as there are lots of active ways of entertainment such as playing games or doing sports, which are actually much healthier. Moreover, children need interaction with the family and society for their holistic development.

The solutions are simple but the onus is largely on the parents. They should give quality time to their children and ration their TV viewing hours. Even the time to play video games should be set properly. Outdoor activities should be encouraged and neighbourhood societies should be formed where children can play outdoor games with each other. Parks should be maintained properly so that children have a safe place to play outdoors.

To conclude, television and video games, in moderation, can be a good thing. However, excess of everything is bad and therefore I believe parents should set viewing limits to ensure their children do not spend too much time watching TV.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I shall discuss the effects of this excessive TV viewing on the children, their families and society and also suggest some ways forward.
Para 1: How TV can affect the 7-11 year age group the most
Para 2: Advantages of TV if watched in moderation
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

242. *Some people believe that if police force carries guns, it can encourage a higher level of violence. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

I disagree with the statement that armed police force would promote a greater degree of violence. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

My first argument to support my viewpoint is that guns would, to a large extent, deter the potential criminals. Police officers are those who are responsible for taking care of all the citizens' safety and wearing guns could largely make sure of this. For example, if someone has the intention to commit a crime, he would think twice about doing so if there is police carrying guns on patrol. Therefore, the level of violence would decrease rather than go up.

Secondly, criminals usually have guns and so, police officers need them in order to control crime. Instead of taking guns away from the police, it is more important to make laws against the general public having guns. Countries with weak or ineffective gun laws, or countries bordering such countries, like Mexico which has strong gun laws, but virtually no way to prevent them from being smuggled over the border from the U.S., need a police force that is not only armed, but is armed better than the criminals.

Opponents claim that police in the U.K. are able to go without guns and also have crime in control. They have a point but I believe that crime in UK is under control because they are able to control the flow of guns to the general populace. Therefore, I reiterate my point that police force should carry guns.

To sum up, because criminals can easily come into possession of guns, therefore the police force needs to be armed. Armed police in itself could never be a cause of increased violence. Nations around the world should hope to someday reach the point where their police force can afford not to carry guns and still be effective.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: If police is armed, criminals are deterred from doing crime.
Para 2: Police need guns because criminals have guns.
Para 3: Opponents view and then refute it
Conclusion: reiterated my point

243. *Some people think governments should spend money on measures to save languages with few speakers from dying out completely. Others think this is a waste of financial resources. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

The United Nations estimates that approximately 6,500 languages are spoken in the world today. By the end of this century, many linguists estimate that over half of those 6,500 languages will be gone. Some opine that efforts should be made to save these languages, but others believe it would be wastage of money. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss both views. I, however, side with the latter view.

The reason why the possibility of a language dying raises so much concern for sociolinguists is that language is directly related to culture. It is said that, "When a language dies, a culture dies". Secondly, these languages are a significant part of their speaker's identity. Another very practical reason for wanting to save a dying language is that archaeologists and anthropologists can get a wealth of information about a society from its language.

On the other hand those opposed to saving a dying language say that languages that lose their communicative purposes and are abandoned by speakers should disappear from the public arena. The truth of "when a language dies, a culture dies" does not imply the truth of when a language is saved, a culture is also saved. They say that change of culture is a normal part of the law of change and we should welcome this change. They believe that the only thing that can be achieved by saving a language is for intra-linguistic studies and nothing more.

Furthermore, they feel that what actually kills languages is the choices of the speakers. In today's global village, it is far more convenient to have a few languages. There is better communication and also better job prospects worldwide with fewer languages. Even the technology of today is more comfortable to learn with fewer languages. So, such languages that have limited potential at the global stage, and they thus come under threat or even die, it would be better to let them die. There is no need to preserve them.

To conclude, it could be said that, the idea of saving threatened languages sounds good but it is difficult to sustain because the speakers have a right to shift to another language. This trend is not likely to abate. Therefore, it is a waste of resources to save endangered languages.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I shall discuss both views before forming an opinion
Para 1 – Why some want to save languages
Para 2 – Why people are opposed to saving a dying language
Para 3 – More reasons for not saving a dying language
Conclusion: it is a waste of resources to save endangered languages

244. In schools and universities, girls tend to choose arts subjects, while boys choose science subjects. What is the reason? Should the trend be changed?

It is generally seen that in secondary and tertiary educational institutes, girls opt for arts subjects whereas boys take up science subjects. This essay intends to look into the reasons of this phenomenon. I believe that this trend should be changed.

It is not difficult to analyze why girls choose arts and boys choose science subjects. Firstly, right from early childhood, it is ingrained into girls that they are meant to become good housewives and mothers. So, they do not need to study difficult science subjects. They are encouraged to study arts subjects such as home science and social studies, which would later on help them in running the home. Secondly, career advice by parents and teachers makes girls opt for arts subjects. Mostly, women work as teachers, nurses and secretaries etc. Boys, on the other hand, go into technical fields for jobs and so need a background in science.

Furthermore, parents are also not ready to spend a lot on girls' education, especially in countries like India. It is well known that the fee structure of science subjects is generally higher than the arts subjects. Parents think that their daughter will get married and go to her husband's home. So whatever they spend on her is expenditure for them whereas when they spend on their son they consider it an investment. Their son will get a high paid job after studying science and this will definitely add to the family's income.

I believe that this trend should be changed. Choice of subjects should be on aptitude and gender should not come in the way. Today, the gender differences are disappearing and girls are going into space whereas boys are working as chefs and male nurses. To cite an example, Kiran Majumdar is the CEO of Biocon company and Sanjiv Kapoor is the most famous chef of my country, India.

To sum up, there are many reasons for the gender biased choice of subjects in schools and universities, but this trend should be changed as we are heading towards an egalitarian society.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why girls choose arts and boys choose science subjects
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: this trend should be changed.
Conclusion:

245. Nowadays, sport is becoming a business and more and more professionals and big companies are getting involved in sporting events. Do you think that it is a positive or a negative development?

It is irrefutable that sporting events have become quite popular with big business houses, which try to reach more and more customers by sponsoring such events. Nowadays, big corporate houses are also buying sports teams. It is obviously a win-win situation for both. Sports teams and individual sportsmen need money and companies need advertisement. However, I believe that the situation is not as rosy as it looks.

Now that companies pump in millions of dollars into many sports items, talented players are eager to enter the field. This is a definitely a positive development. Many sportsmen are now earning enough to concentrate in their game and not worry about providing bread and butter to the family. Earlier, many sports persons weren't earning enough and also the prize money wasn't good. This deterred many talented players from pursuing a career in sports. Now the situation is totally different. Today, sports have become the backbone of the economy of any country. Today's sportsmen act as ambassadors for their respective countries and provide name and fame to their country.

On the downside, when sports become a business, the focus can shift from talent to profit. Although big prize monies and sponsorship deals can attract fresh talent into the game, sometimes the same can lead to problems like match fixing. It is not uncommon for international cricket and football players to get involved in match fixing controversies. What is more, the pressure to perform can also compel many players to resort to unethical means such as consumption of drugs to enhance performance.

Finally, the biggest sufferers are the non-glamorous games, which the private companies are unwilling to sponsor. For example, in India cricket is hugely popular so companies are eager to sponsor cricketers. Players of other less popular games and events are ignored by all. The governments may try to cover up to some extent, but the government funding can never match that of private companies.

To conclude, it is not hard to see that corporates entering the field of sports is both good and bad. Big prize money and sponsorship deals will definitely encourage more people to pursue a career in sports. On the other hand, companies will always have business interest in their mind. Non-glamorous sports are ignored and also, sometimes, this can take the focus away from the game.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: It is both – a positive as well as a negative development
Para 1: Positive effects – Talented people are opting sports as a career. Companies are getting ads.
Para 2: Negatives – match fixing – unethical means –
Para 3: non glamorous games suffer
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

246. *Some people believe that the fittest and strongest individuals and teams always succeed in sports. Others think that success in sports depends on mental attitudes. Discuss both views and give your opinions.*

People are divided on the reasons for success in sports. Some individuals opine that only those who are physically fit succeed in sports. However, others believe that a positive mental attitude is required for succeeding in sports. In this essay I shall discuss both views. I believe that both – physical fitness and mental attitude are needed for success in sports.

It is irrefutable that there are sports in which fitness and strength is very important for success. A player who is not physically fit cannot excel in sports such as rugby, soccer, wrestling, volley ball and many more. That is why the coaches and trainers make the players work out for hours every day so that players can build both strength and stamina and succeed in their respective sports.

On the other hand, the fact cannot be denied that players can succeed with positive mental attitude and good game plan. For example, our Indian cricket player Sachin Tendulkar is very short, yet he can do wonders with his bat. Anil Kumble is one of the best bowlers in the game of cricket. He can read the mind of the batsman opposite him and that's why in one match he managed to take 10 wickets. In Hockey too, winning depends on teamwork, attitude and co-operation.

Furthermore, there are many examples where players have reached pinnacles of sports career despite severe physical limitation. Swimmer Amy Dyken suffered from asthma but went on to win 4 gold medals in Olympics. Jeff Blatnick suffered from cancer, but won gold medal in Roman wrestling in 1984. Simon Keith had a heart transplant but still he plays soccer. Yuvraj Singh, the famous Indian cricket player fought with lung cancer and is back in his team only because of his positive mental attitude.

To sum up, no doubt physical fitness and strength have a role but mental attitude is also very important. A successful sportsman needs a combination of physical and mental power.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: In the following paragraphs I intend to delve into the role of both in our lives.
Para 1: How physical fitness is important
Para 2: Importance of positive mental attitude
Para 3: Examples of success because of positive mental attitude
Conclusion: No doubt physical fitness and strength have a role but mental attitude is also very important. A successful sportsman needs a combination of physical and mental power.

247. Some people think that we should invent a new language for international communication. Do the benefits of this outweigh the problems?

There are so many languages around the world, thereby discouraging people from different regions or cultures to communicate with each other. To overcome this obstacle, some people propose to invent a new language, which will be used as an "international language" among people who come from different areas. Although this proposal seems reasonable, I personally see more disadvantages than advantages of inventing a new language.

First of all, many people would not accept a new language because it would be artificial and not based on any culture. In addition, people would have to spend time to learn the grammar and the words of the new language.

Secondly, promoting a new language requires financial support and a lot of time. For instance, in some countries such as China and India there are many languages because it is financially unrealistic to teach everyone in poor areas the same language. Although this might be achieved finally, it will take as long as a hundred years or even more.

Another reason against having a new language is that it may be divided into dialects, and so the whole purpose of having one language would be lost. For instance, in Punjab, a small state of India, the mother tongue Punjabi has two dialects, which are quite different from each other. So it would be unrealistic to expect one language without different dialects in the whole world.

Finally, we all know that variety is the spice of life and language is related to culture. So, if we have one language spoken in the whole world, then it would be a dreary and dismal place to live in.

To sum up, although there would be benefits such as easy trade and travel, inventing a new language for the international communication is not a good idea because of the various reasons given above. In my opinion it is totally a waste of time and money to invent a new language because its advantages cannot outweigh its disadvantages.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I personally see more disadvantages than advantages of inventing a new language.
Para 1 – Why new language would not be acceptable
Para 2 – Another reason
Para 3 – final reason
Conclusion: inventing a new language for the international communication is not a good idea

248. *In order to learn a language well, we should also learn about the country as well as the cultures and lifestyles of the people who speak this language. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?*

Language and society are as inextricably linked as a chicken and an egg. Language is the verbal expression of culture. I strongly agree that in order to learn a language 'well' you must also know the culture and lifestyle of the people who speak that language. In the following essay I intend to support my views with my arguments.

It is true that some successful language learners have never learnt about the culture and lifestyle of the native speakers. Such learners probably have a gift for learning languages and would be successful under any circumstances with regular effort. For most people, however, learning in a social context is the key to learn the language well.

Language is much more than just a means of communication. It is an art, a science, a culture, an identity and a vision. It is a lifestyle. It is like seeing the world through different eyes. For instance, the Eskimos have 24 different words for snow like - 'aput' means snow on the ground, 'gana' means drifting snow. Snow has a greater impact on their culture than ours and so on their language. So definitely learning about their culture and lifestyle would help understand the value of these meanings.

There are dialects, nuances and idioms of a language, which can only be learnt if we learn about the culture and lifestyle of the people. For example, Punjabi is the mother tongue of people who live in Punjab. It has two dialects, which mean ways of pronunciation and speaking. The two dialects are quite different and can only be learnt if you spend time with those people or learn about their culture. Then there are the nuances in a language, which means subtle shades of meaning, which can also not be learnt without knowing the lifestyle of people. Finally it is more enjoyable to learn a language if we learn about the culture and lifestyle. We are more motivated to learn another language.

To conclude, it could be said that it is definitely needed to know about the culture and lifestyle of people if you have to learn a language well. It makes learning fun and it helps to understand the dialects and nuances of the language.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1 – There may be some talented people but for most people, however, learning in a social context is the key to learn the language well
Para 2 – Language is like seeing the world through different eyes.
Para 3 – There are dialects, nuances and idioms of a language
Conclusion: it is definitely needed to know about the culture and lifestyle of people if you have to learn a language well

249. *Some languages are increasingly spoken in different countries, while the usage of others is rapidly declining. Is this a positive or a negative development?*

Today, we do not belong to a big planet called Earth. We are part of a global village and there is more interaction among people of different parts of the globe than ever before. Therefore, some languages are being spoken more, and the use of a few languages is declining. This is both – a negative as well as a positive development.

On the positive side, the increasing use of some languages is easing communication among people. For example, English is now spoken in more than 86 countries of the world and French in around 33 countries. In fact, English has become the lingua franca in many parts of the world. Because of this people do not face difficulty when they travel from one country to the other. What is more, if people speak the same language then they also find it easy to do business with each other. Global trade is based on good communication. Businesses cannot flourish if for every small communication an interpreter is required.

Nowadays, we belong to a 24/7 society. Many multinational companies have opened in different parts of the world. The rich nations who own these MNCs provide jobs to millions of people worldwide. Naturally, a person who knows their language is better placed in these companies. The pay package is also better and chances to work abroad also go up. In a way the widespread use of a few languages also helps to decrease the gap between the rich and the poor.

On the other hand, the decline in use of some languages is also something to be concerned about. It is a well-known fact that language and culture are inter-related. If languages die out then culture also dies out. Moreover, we all enjoy life on this planet because of its diversity. If diversity decreases, then boredom sets in and the earth becomes a dull and boring place to live in.

To conclude, it could be said that, the increase in use of a few languages and the decline of others is both a positive as well as a negative development. This situation is an inevitable sequel of globalization. If the governments take steps to protect the endangered languages, then the negative effects can be minimized.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: It is both – a positive as well as a negative development
Para 1 – Advantages of the increasing use of a few languages
Para 2 – More advantages
Para 3 – Disadvantages
Conclusion: restate your opinion

250. Some people believe that tourists should accept social and environmental responsibility while others believe that tourists should not accept any responsibility at all. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that tourism industry has become the backbone of many economies of the world. No wonder, all countries are opening their doors to tourists. The negative social and environmental impacts of tourism have led many to suggest that tourists should accept accountability for this. I definitely agree with this notion. Eco-tourism, sustainable-tourism, responsible-tourism, modern-tourism or whatever name you may like to give it, is the need of the hour. In the following paragraphs, I intend to put forth my arguments to support my view.

The most important reason why tourists should be responsible is that many tourist destinations are endangered now because of the litter and pollution spread by the tourists. For example, the Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh, which is a popular tourist spot, once got so badly damaged by the wrappers and plastic bottles which tourists threw that no boating could be done there and it smelled so bad that people stopped going there. It took months to get it cleaned up and restore tourism there. The local people and the governments cannot handle such situation effectively unless the tourists themselves lend a hand by being careful.

Secondly, there is over-consumption of resources by tourists such as of water and fuel and this is incompatible with sustainable tourism. Tourist demand for resources such as water and food may also compete with the needs of local people and may lead to injustice with the locals. For example, in Shimla, a popular hill station, tourists stay in five star accommodations and take two showers a day where as the people outside are short of drinking water. To add to it, many tourist activities such as skiing, boating, motorized water-sports, and trekking represent a stress to fragile ecosystems. Who will welcome the tourists to those places if tourists don't accept responsibility? Instead of five star accommodations, they could live with the locals and be satisfied with one shower a day.

Finally, if tourists do not respect the local people's culture and environment, then the natives would be hostile towards them and the whole purpose of tourism would be lost. For example, in our religious places, it is customary to cover our head and take off our shoes. If tourists don't do so they would not be welcome by our people there. So, the onus is on the tourist to know beforehand the norms of the place and fortunately nowadays, everything is available on the net or one can get all information from the tour operators.

Responsible tourism is everyone's responsibility. The well being of the destination is not only the responsibility of the tourism sector - it is also the responsibility of the tourist. That is why it has rightly been said that – 'A good tourist is one who leaves behind nothing, but footprints; and takes away nothing, but photographs.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree – tourists should be responsible
Para 1: The local people and the governments cannot handle such situation effectively unless the tourists themselves lend a hand by being careful – e.g. of Sukhna lake
Para 2: there is over-consumption of resources by tourists – who will welcome them if they don't help locals – e.g. of Shimla
Para 3: if tourists do not respect the local people's culture and environment, then the natives would be hostile towards them – give e.g.
Conclusion

251. *Some people think visitors to others countries should imitate local customs and behaviours. Some people disagree; they think the host country should welcome cultural differences. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.*

Today, with the passage of time each and every country is on the path of development, and with this development there is a growing trend of visiting different places in different countries. It is a highly debated issue whether tourists should do and behave as the people of the host country or should the host country accept visitors as they are. Both situations have their own pros and cons, which I shall discuss in this essay.

There are many benefits of adopting host countries customs. Firstly, it decreases chances of misunderstanding and embarrassment. For e.g. in the UK it is offensive to ask about pay to anyone, which is common in India. Secondly, a nation's customs and traditions are fascinating and offer a deep insight into that country. People visit other countries to broaden their horizon. So, if tourists copy the customs of host country, they learn more about them and that too in an interesting way. Finally, visitors establish a rapport with local people because people feel respected when their customs are understood and imitated. The visitors become a member of the host country and so they don't suffer any culture shock.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why a host country should tolerate and embrace foreign culture. To begin with, no country should cling to its own customs and traditions and accept the new customs and traditions brought by visitors. Secondly, there should be no binding on the visitors to adopt the customs and traditions of the hosts. For example, if the visitors are pure vegetarians, they should not be forced to eat non-vegetarian food just because the host country's people eat that.

On balance, I feel that someone who is moving to another country should respect the customs, culture, traditions etc. of that country. This is necessary because a newcomer is like a guest in someone else's home. So he is expected to follow the rules of that country. However, it is not reasonable to compel a believer of certain religion to ignore his religion in order to comply with the local customs.

Summing up, mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony. A cosmopolitan society in which everyone is tolerant of each other's customs and traditions is the need of the day. After all, today, we are part of a small global village and not a big planet Earth.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: benefits of adopting host countries customs
Para 2: reasons why a host country should tolerate and embrace foreign culture
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

252. *Some people think that people moving to a new country should accept new culture in the foreign country rather than living as a separate minority group with different lifestyle. Do you agree or disagree?*

It is a highly debated issue whether immigrants should do and behave as the people of the host country or whether they should stick to their traditional lifestyle and live as a separate minority. I believe that it is a matter of personal choice as both situations have their own pros and cons.

There are many benefits of adopting host countries' customs. Firstly, it decreases chances of misunderstanding and embarrassment. For e.g. in the UK it is offensive to ask about pay to anyone, which is common in India. Secondly, a nation's customs and traditions are fascinating and offer a deep insight into that country. People move to other countries to broaden their horizon. So, if immigrants copy the customs of host country, they learn more about them and that too in an interesting way. Finally, visitors establish a rapport with local people because people feel respected when their customs are understood and imitated. They become a member of the host country and so they don't suffer any culture shock.

On the other hand, there are many advantages of making a minority group. If a person is from a country with strong and old traditions, it will be difficult for him to adapt to the new customs. He can't break the old customs such as food habits and wearing certain types of clothes. In such cases if he retains his old customs and lives with his own community as a separate minority, he won't suffer from homesickness.

On balance, I feel that someone who is moving to another country should respect the customs, culture, traditions etc. of that country. This is necessary because a newcomer is like a guest in someone else's home. So he is expected to follow the rules of that country. However, it should not be obligatory for him to follow those customs and change himself altogether. As time passes and he gets to know the hosts better then he can decide if he wants to adopt any custom or stick to his own. After all being a cosmopolitan is the need of the hour.

Summing up, it is a matter of personal choice. Mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony. A cosmopolitan society in which everyone is tolerant of each other's customs and traditions is the need of the day. After all, today, we are part of a small global village and not a big planet Earth.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: It is necessary to look into pros and cons of both situations before forming an opinion.
Para 1: benefits of adopting host countries customs
Para 2: advantages of making a minority group
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion: Personal choice. Mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony

253. The spread of multinational companies and the increase in globalization produce positive effects for everyone. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the statement that the growing globalization along with the expanding multinational companies benefits all the people. Although, supporters of globalization claim that there are many benefits of MNCs, they are in fact damaging the quality of life. A number of arguments support my opinion.

My first argument relates to their products. Supporters of globalization would argue that multinational companies produce high quality goods available to most people. While this may be true to some extent, it also means we have less choice of products to buy. When powerful multinational companies invade local markets with their goods, they often force local companies with fewer resources to go out of business. In consequence, we are obliged to buy multinational products whether we like them or not.

Secondly, it is sometimes said that MNCs and globalization are making societies more open. This is true to some extent but the fact cannot be ignored that as a result the human race is losing its cultural diversity. If we consumed different products societies all over the world would be more varied. This can be seen by the fact that we all shop in similar multinational supermarkets and buy identical products wherever we live.

Thirdly, defenders of multinational companies often point out that they provide employment. Although this is undoubtedly true it also means we have become more dependent on them, which in turn makes us more vulnerable to their decisions. When, for example, a multinational company decides to move its production facility to another country, this has an adverse effect on its workers who lose their jobs. What is more, the jobs MNCs provide are not paid as much as they have to pay for similar jobs in their country. So, in fact they are exploiting workers of poor nations.

To summarise, multinational companies do have their benefits, but they also have their drawbacks, and not everyone is benefited by them.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: First point of the statement with my refutation – relating to more variety
Para 2: Second point of the statement with my refutation – relating to loss of cultural diversity
Para 3: Third point of the statement with my refutation – relating to Employment
Conclusion: multinational companies do have their benefits, but they also have their drawbacks and not everyone is benefited by them

254. *Some people think that personal happiness is directly related to economic success. Others argue that happiness depends on different factors. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

Happiness is a state of mind. Obviously, different people understand it in different ways. Some believe that economic success is an essential element to happiness, but others opine that factors like a stable family life, secure source of income and good heath are more important in achieving happiness. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view even though I admit that economic success also has a minor role in happiness.

Undoubtedly, to achieve personal happiness, economic success is necessary, but its importance shouldn't be exaggerated. Apparently, it's sensible to say that one needs sufficient money to live in a spacious apartment, to have a private car, fashionable clothes and latest household electrical appliances, which are all indispensable for happy life.

However, it is also true that material success alone can't ensure that one can lead a happy life. One may have a lot of money but if there are not cordial relations among family members, one can never be happy. In fact, too much wealth can lead to stress in life if children go astray because of too much wealth. A person who has the barest minimum but a very understanding life partner and obedient children can be very happy.

Good health is another factor needed for happiness. Can you imagine a multimillionaire suffering from cancer to be happy? Another big factor is a stable source of income. One can never be happy if one is not sure whether his business will pick up or if his job is secure.

To conclude, economic success is important but those who cooperate well with co-workers and those who get along well with families, friends and neighbours are more likely to be happy, and it's the same case with those who pursue a variety of interests and hobbies at leisure and those who are in good health.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Economic success is one important factor
Para 2: Good relations with family and friends
Para 3: Good health
Conclusion:

255. Housing shortage in big cities can cause severe social consequences. Some people think only government action can solve this problem. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Big cities act as magnets for everyone. Therefore it is increasingly difficult for ordinary people to have somewhere to call home in big cities due to housing shortage, especially the lack of affordable housing. Some people think only government has the power to solve this problem. I completely agree with this statement.

The main reason for housing shortage in large cities is the burgeoning urban population. The situation goes from bad to worse as each year millions of job seekers rush into the city to try their lucky break and the majority of them eventually get settled down, which makes housing shortage even more serious. Careful planning of cities is required to address the issue and obviously, only the government has the power to address this problem.

Even if the population were indeed under control, we still need more apartment buildings to house people who have already worked and lived in the city without decent housing. Again, only the government can decide which old buildings should be demolished to make way for new ones and which area could be designated for residential housing development. Of course, individuals can have their voice heard, but the final decision has to be made by the government.

Another reason that causes housing shortage is that those in the real estate business raise the cost of housing exorbitantly. To stop those profit-making housing developers and real estate brokers from pushing up the prices of housing, effective rules and regulations are needed, which can be done by the government. As for the housing projects for low-income families, we can only depend on the government, too.

To sum up, only the government action can solve the problem of housing shortage in big cities.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I completely agree with this statement.
Para 1: The main reason for housing shortage in large cities is the burgeoning urban population – only the government can carefully plan the cities
Para 2: only the government can decide which old buildings should be demolished to make way for new ones and which area could be designated for residential housing development
Para 3: To stop those profit-making housing developers and real estate brokers from pushing up the prices of housing, effective rules and regulations are needed, which can be done by the government
Conclusion: only the government action can solve the problem of housing shortage in big cities.

256. When families have a meal together it is considered social activity. Do you think eating together is important to people in your country?

It is irrefutable that eating together is a social activity. Sharing dinner together gives everyone a sense of identity. It can help ease day-to-day conflicts, as well as establish traditions and memories that can last a lifetime. Eating together is definitely significant to people of my country, India.

The first and foremost advantage of eating together is that it creates a sense of belonging. Conversations during the meal provide opportunities for the family to bond and learn from one another. It's a chance to share information and news of the day, as well as give extra attention to your children and teens. Family meals foster warmth, security and love, as well as feelings of belonging. It can be a unifying experience for all.

Secondly, family mealtime is the perfect opportunity to teach appropriate table manners, etiquette, and social skills. Parents can be perfect role models in this and children learn by following them. What is more, meals prepared and eaten at home are usually more nutritious and healthy. They contain more fruits, vegetables, and dairy products along with additional nutrients such as fiber, calcium, vitamins A and C, and folate.

Furthermore, research shows that frequent family dinners (five or more a week), are associated with lower rates of smoking, drinking, and illegal drug use in pre-teens and teenagers when compared to families that eat together two or fewer times per week. To add to it, children do better in school when they eat more meals with their parents and family.

In my country most people do value shared mealtime. However, the fast paced life and influence of the global culture is taking some away from this custom. Fortunately, some recent studies have shown that even in the developed countries people are realizing the importance of family meals and are downshifting. It is indeed time to bring the "family" back to the dinner table.

To conclude, eating together is definitely an important social activity. That is why it has been said that, 'The family that eats together stays together'.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: eating together is a social activity
Para 1: it creates a sense of belonging - a unifying experience for all
Para 2: Advantages of family meal
Para 3: More advantages
Para 4: Situation in my country
Conclusion:

257. Some people say that parents have the most important role in a child's development. However, others argue that other things like television or friends have the most significant influence. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that parents have the most significant role in a child's development whereas others opine that friends and other environmental factors such as TV have a more important role. It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion.

Parents have direct interactions with the children. They provide a sense of identification to the child. These have their greatest effect on intellectual development and character traits. They also play a very important role in the socializing process of the child. Right from the bedtime stories to the behavioral habits parents play a very important role in making a child a responsible citizen. That is why it is believed by some that parents have the strongest role in a child's development.

Friends, on the other hand, are important in order to help children grow emotionally and socially. Children find out who they are by comparing themselves to others. They learn about attitude, character and personality. Building good relationships boosts a child's self esteem and they find comfort in those friendships when things get tough such as losing a pet or facing family problems.

Television is also one of the most prevalent media influences in children's lives. How much impact TV has on children depends on many factors: how much they watch, their age and personality, whether they watch alone or with adults, and whether their parents talk with them about what they see on TV.

In my opinion, we cannot generalize as to what has more significance. In the early years family generally has more impact but in adolescence peers and TV may impact more. It appears that the power of the peer group becomes more important when the family relationships are not close or supportive. For example, if the parents work extra jobs and are largely unavailable, their children may turn to their peer group for emotional support.

To sum up, behavior is affected by a complex interaction of many different factors such as parents, peers and environment. All these are inextricably linked in the development of children. There is individual variation and therefore it is difficult to generalize which factor plays the most significant role.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion.
Para 1: How parents affect children's behaviour
Para 2: How friends affect children's behaviour
Para 3: How TV affects children's behaviour
Para 4: Own opinion
Conclusion:

258. *Some scientists believe that studying the behaviour of 3-year-old children can tell which children would grow up to be criminals. To what extent in your opinion is crime a product of human nature or is it possible to stop children from growing up to be criminals?*

Some scientists are of the opinion that hereditary characteristics are responsible for the person's temperament and hence future career. I disagree with this notion. I believe that genes do play a role but the primary determinant is nurture – education and bringing up. It is definitely possible to mould a child into any direction by proper bringing-up.

If we adopt the mentality that if parents are criminals so will the children be then we are limiting or even damaging the individual's basic right to achieve his very best. Children can rise above the gene pool and rise to great heights. Even if a child is born to criminal parents but brought up away from that environment and provided quality education, he will not be a criminal.

The debate on nature versus nurture has been raging for ages and no clear-cut answer has come forward. A child prodigy can be born to ordinary parents and many intelligent parents can have ordinary children. A talented person can go unnoticed in the absence of right environment and upbringing and an ordinary person can reach great heights with proper training. So, interplay between hereditary and environmental factors must be there.

It has been seen that children born to intelligent parents also are intelligent and successful. But it is also possible that such parents provide an environment, which nurtures the development of their children. When we see some programmes such as 'India's Got Talent' and 'Little Champs', we notice some extremely gifted children who are born with talent and also some who have achieved great heights with great perseverance and proper coaching.

To sum up, both nature and nurture play a part in determining the character of a person. It can also be concluded that both are inextricably linked with each other. But nurture weighs over nature and it is definitely possible to prevent children from growing up to be criminals.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Children can rise above the gene pool and rise to great heights
Para2: interplay between hereditary and environmental factors must be there.
Para 3: When we see some programmes such as 'India's Got Talent' and 'Little Champs', we notice some extremely gifted children who are born with talent and also some who have achieved great heights with great perseverance and proper coaching.
Conclusion: both nature and nurture play a part in determining the character of a person. But nurture weighs over nature and it is definitely possible to prevent children from growing up to be criminals.

259. *Children who grow up in families, which are short of money are better prepared with the problems of adult life than children who are brought up by wealthy parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Role of family atmosphere in a child's development is a cause of concern. However, I disagree with the notion that children of poor families are better equipped in dealing with the challenges of adult life than those of rich families. No doubt, adversity is a good teacher of life, but rich parents can also prepare their children to face the problems of adult life by good education and good nurturing.

A child of poor family has more situations to solve a problem or make a decision as both parents are working to make both ends meet and children have to look after themselves. They realize the value of money as they have to live with the barest minimum and as a result they find it less difficult later on in life when they face financial challenges. In contrast, the children of wealthy families are born with a silver spoon in their mouth. They are completely ignorant of the value of money as everything is provided for them in their youth and expect the same situation in adulthood.

On the other hand, children of rich families study in the best schools and get the best higher education. They can learn problem solving in such academic institutes. What is more, a wealthy child may be well trained by a parent who himself has a lot of knowledge of money. Such parents themselves know money management better and can pass on those skills to their children.

Life experiences also play a role. Children can have innate ability to face problems of life. They may have personality traits such as being optimistic, outgoing, confident and open-minded. Due to these abilities they can solve problems in a better way.

To sum up, a poor child may learn to get along without wealth and a wealthy child may be well trained by a parent to face hurdles of life by effective education. Therefore, I disagree that the economic situation of the family has a role in teaching children problem solving skills.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree. No doubt, adversity is a good teacher of life, but rich parents can also prepare their children to face the problems of adult life by good education and good nurturing.
Para 1: How children of poor families learn problem solving
Para 2: How children of rich families learn problem solving
Para 3: How life experiences play a role
Conclusion: a poor child may learn to get along without wealth and a wealthy child may be well trained by a parent to face hurdles of life by effective education

260. In many countries today there is insufficient respect to old people. What are the reasons? What problems might it bring to the society?

It is irrefutable that because of advancements in science and technology, we have a graying society today. These demographic changes have brought up the topic that there is less respect for the elderly who are now in great numbers. In this essay I intend to delve into the causes and effects of this trend.

There are many reasons for lack of respect to the aged. In the workforce, creative and energetic young people who are able to work under a lot of pressure are preferred. In the techno-savvy world of today, the elderly feel out of place. They are not earning and so the youth hold the reins of the economy. Secondly, the old have problems adapting to ever-changing lifestyles and lag behind the times and so receive insufficient respect. The elderly are like a frog in the well and want their young ones to follow their professions. The youth, however, want to walk on the un-trodden path and find new avenues for themselves. Furthermore, the elderly suffer health problems such as hypertension, diabetes and arthritis, which make them physically weak and so they lack respect.

Another big reason for the elderly receiving less respect is the fact that they find it very difficult to let go. The young belong to the global culture and their elderly constantly nag and criticize them for their ways. This, is not taken in the good light by the youngsters and they start ignoring them. The young also belong to a 24/7 society where competition is very stiff and as a result find it irritating and frustrating to find time to care and respect their elderly.

Less respect to the elderly has already caused many problems in these countries. The most noticeable is that people are indifferent to each other, and individuals tend to feel agitated, worrying about their own old life in the future. As a result, the whole society is not as harmonious and vigorous as the ones where senior citizens are treated with courtesy and respect. This situation has also led to a mushroom growth of old-age homes in the cities.

To sum up, it is our duty to respect the old people and the youth should not forget that they too will age one day. But, the elderly should also learn to keep-up with the times and be flexible with their youth.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: In this essay I intend to delve into the causes and effects of this trend.
Para 1: Reasons for lack of respect to the aged
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Effects
Conclusion: it is our duty to respect the old people and the youth should not forget that they will too age one day. But, the elderly should also learn to keep-up with the times and be flexible with their youth.

261. *Some people think parents should read or tell stories to children, while others think parents need not do that, as children can read books, watch TV or movies by themselves. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

It has been rightly said that 'There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories.' The question of debate is, whether parents should read or tell stories to children, or whether children should come to know about stories themselves by reading books or by watching TV or movies. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

There are many benefits of reading bedtime stories to children. First of all, it encourages family bonding. In this day and age of hectic lives and busy schedules, reading together is a simple and enjoyable way for parents to take time out and focus on the family. Children also feel wanted and loved. What is more, it moulds children into becoming readers, and this significantly increases the child's potential for academic success as well as lifelong success in general.

Furthermore, reading stories also helps children master language development, as by listening to stories, children learn pronunciation and vocabulary. It also builds listening skills, increases a child's attention span, and develops the ability to concentrate. It develops children's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken and written terms. It develops and fosters a child's natural curiosity.

On the other hand, some opine that children should themselves read stories from books or watch them on TV and in movies. This would be much easier for the parents who are too busy nowadays, but then all the above benefits would not ensue. What is more, parents can start telling stories to children much before children can themselves read. Watching TV does not help the child to develop imagination, and this may be detrimental in the long run. Moreover, it would be difficult to monitor what children are actually learning.

To sum up, it is always better for the parents as well as the children, if parents read aloud to their children. This would give them quality time together and loads of other benefits, which I have discussed above. Someone has rightly said that, "Stories are the creative conversion of life itself into a more powerful, clearer, more meaningful experience. They are the currency of human contact."

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: benefits of reading bedtime stories to children
Para 2: More benefits
Para 3: Opponents view, and refutation
Conclusion:

262. *A tendency that the news reported in the media focuses on problems and emergencies rather than the positive developments is harmful to both the individual and the society. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

Today, we belong to a highly competitive era and in a bid to be at the top, the various sources of media are focusing on sensational news, which fetch more viewers and readers. Some individuals opine that this attitude is harmful for the people and the society. However, I disagree with this, as I believe that as long as the negative news reports are unbiased, the general public will not be harmed and there will be no detrimental effects on individuals and society.

My first argument is that it is the duty of the media to keep the people abreast of what is happening all around. If negative things are happening, people should know all that because then they can be prepared if anything is likely to affect them. Secondly, if the media reports such news, then more and more people can volunteer to help. For example, two years ago when Tsunami hit Japan, the news was spread like wildfire through all sources of media and people from all over the world sent relief in whatever way they could.

Undoubtedly, it is the onus of the media to report positive developments also. The media is a link between the government and the people. Very few people get to meet any politician in real life. But we can reach our voice to the authorities through the media. Then, the media also helps to get justice at times. In the Nirbhay rape case in December, 2012, it was through the efforts of the media that the culprits got a speedy punishment and Nirbhay's family got justice. How can all these reportings be considered bad for the individuals and the society?

Proponents of the given statement say that such news makes people immune to negative things happening in society and so too much of such news should not be reported. They also believe that when media reports details of crime, then many people learn crime, which is definitely bad for the people and societies. I still believe that the media should apprise people with whatever they need to know, whether it is good or bad.

To sum up, it is imperative that media reports both positive and negative news without any bias and exaggeration. It is people's responsibility to take all the news with a pinch of salt and analyze it with their critical thinking skills. Therefore, reporting more news on problems and emergencies is definitely not bad for the societies and individuals.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: importance of reporting all news
Para 2: Medias responsibility
Para 3: Proponents view
Conclusion:

263. *Some people say that some urgent problems in modern society can only be solved with international cooperation. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Today, the nations of the world are more closely tied than ever before. That is precisely why some individuals opine that all nations should shake hands with each other to solve the problems of the modern world. I believe they are absolutely right. In this essay I will provide arguments to support this belief.

To begin with, there are the economic issues, which the whole world is facing. There is the interdependence of the rich and poor nations. The gap between rich and poor nations can only be reduced with the joint effort of all nations. Although rich nations have provided aid and technical assistance to Third World nations, there is still a lot to be done. To add to it, economic events in one region, such as OPEC's decision to raise oil prices affect people around the world.

Another major concern is of the environment. Global warming is a problem, which does not recognise national boundaries. Unless all nations come together and fight this problem on a war footing, we are all heading towards doom. Both developing and industrialized nations face the difficult decision of how to produce enough for their people while preventing the destruction of the environment. Today, scientists all over are unanimously looking at alternative energy sources such as solar, water, and nuclear power.

Furthermore, certain species that human beings depend upon for our food supply are going extinct. If their numbers fall too low we may face extinction ourselves. Endangered animals need protection, which can only be done by joint efforts. What is more, the human population has burgeoned, but industrial pollution, unsustainable agriculture, and poor civic planning have decreased the overall water supply. Therefore, fresh water problem also needs to be tackled by joint efforts.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate that all nations should work unanimously to solve the problems of today's world. Today, we do not belong to a big planet Earth; we are part of a global village. The problems are common; therefore solutions too need joint efforts.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: To begin with, there are the economic issues
Para 2: Another major concern is of the environment
Para 3: More issues
Animal extinction
Population, pollution, fresh water
Conclusion: The problems are also joint; therefore solutions too need joint efforts

264. *It is generally believed that education is of vital importance to the development of individuals and the wellbeing of societies. What should education consist of to fulfil both these functions?*

It is indubitable that education is of great significance to the progress of people and societies. Education is a companion, which no future can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate, and no nepotism can enslave. This essay intends to analyze what all should be there in education, so that it can uplift the societies and its people.

First of all, education should impart professional knowledge. Such knowledge enables individuals to earn a livelihood. In this way they are benefited themselves and also they can look after their families better. This leads to better societies because an educated society is a crime free society. People are self-sufficient and so do not need to go on the path of crime.

Physical education should also be provided by a well-rounded education. It is a wellknown fact that healthy individuals would make a healthy society. Good health is a basic human need and for the holistic development of individuals, physical education should be incorporated in school curricula.

Education should also teach moral values. This makes us adaptive to society. There is less violence and less crime in society if people are educated. They become more open minded and live in harmony with each other. Moral science should be a compulsory subject till high school level.

Finally, today, environmental education is the need of the hour. All schools should have mandatory lessons on saving the environment. Small steps can go a long way in saving energy. Energy saved is energy generated. We all have to do away with some luxuries, if we want a better tomorrow.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that education should have professional, physical, moral and environmental components. After all, 'Education is not the filling up of a pail but the lighting up of a fire'. A well-rounded education consisting of all the above components would benefit both the individual and the society.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: (vital – crucial) (irrefutable)
Para 1: Academic education – jobs – vocational education
Para 2: Physical education – healthy individuals – healthy society
Para 3: Moral education
Para 4: Environmental education
Conclusion

265. *In some countries more people choose to live alone or by themselves in recent years. Why is this the case? Is it a positive or negative development for the society?*

As any country develops, people are faced with new challenges and set new goals for themselves. Many individuals have to leave their families and as a result this trend of living alone or in nuclear family units has increased. This essay intends to explore the reasons of this phenomenon in depth. I believe it is largely a negative development, although there are a few advantages, too.

The first possible reason of this changing family structure is globalization. The huge planet Earth is now a small global village. This situation has opened lots of opportunities for the people to travel to and work in other countries. Moving to foreign countries or even in far-off places in one's own country is not possible with the whole family. So this has led to the breaking of joint families into nuclear units. When children of such nuclear families grow older, they live individually to explore new avenues for themselves.

The second important reason is the growing generation gap. The elderly want to stick to their tradition and culture whereas the youngsters want to adopt the global culture. This leads to conflicts and so there is lack of harmony among the family members. The senior members of the family do not want to let go, but the youth want to be free birds and so living individually is the only option once they are able to earn for themselves.

This situation is both positive as well as negative, but the demerits outweigh the merits. Man is, after all, a social animal. Living alone may seem good for some time, but this isolation can lead to depression. There are many ups and downs in life, when a person needs the loving and tender care of his nears and dears. In addition, children of nuclear families are often left unattended when both parents are working. They can become self-centered or can even go astray. The elderly also need the love and support of their children at this age. They are forced to live lives of isolation and depression. This has also led to the mushroom growth of old-age homes. On the positive side, this leads to faster progress, as people are not held back by family ties. Nuclear families are easy to maintain. Conflicts are also less and so love among the extended family members is maintained. Family get-togethers are celebrated with great enthusiasm.

To sum up, living alone has become common because of many reasons, which have been discussed above. In my opinion, the cons of this situation, overpower the pros.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: First reason
Para 2: Second reason
Para 3: positives and negatives of this situation.
Conclusion:

266. More and more people are using mobile phones and the Internet to communicate. Therefore, people are losing the ability to communicate face to face. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Today, it is impossible to imagine a life without the modern communication devices, such as the smart phones and the Internet. These gadgets have revolutionised the concept of communication. Although, people are communicating less in-person, I disagree that their ability of face-to-face communication has been lost because of technology. I will support my perspective with my arguments in the following paragraphs.

Undoubtedly, the excessive use of smart phones and the Internet has subverted our offline relationships, including face-to-face interaction. The sight of people looking at their cell phones, ignoring their friends and family sitting next to them, has become common. However, technology is not snatching their ability of direct communication; it is just giving them other options, which they find more interesting and beneficial. It has become exceptionally easy to contact each other electronically and share information instantaneously in a community. They can share photos and videos simultaneously with many people. Gone are the days, when people could use only fixed telephone or write letters, which took days to reach. Obviously, people have gone crazy over these cutting-edge technologies, which have made possible, what seemed impossible, not very long ago.

Face-to-face communication, however, must be kept alive, and it can only be possible if we, ourselves, make efforts to do so. We cannot just sit back and blame technology for taking away this ability from us. Technology makes communication less personal, because when you text or email, there's no vocal tone and you can't see facial expressions. According to a research it was calculated that 55 percent of the message pertaining to feelings is in facial expression alone. So, there is an increased chance that your message will be misunderstood if you are not engaged in face-to-face dialogue with the person you are talking to. Body language is also very important in communication, which can be masked in communication through technology.

To conclude, I reiterate my view that even though, the smart phones and the Internet have reduced the face-to-face communication, these gadgets have not reduced our ability to do so. The onus is on us to keep the face-to-face communication alive.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Technology and the modern communication. Technology has not taken away our ability
Para 2: Face to face communication. How and why we can keep it alive. We should not blame technology for less face-to-face interaction.
Conclusion:

267. *Some people say that the best way for children to learn to read is by using online materials. Others say that printed materials should be used. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Reading is a crucial factor affecting intellectual and emotional growth. Today, there is much more emphasis on reading than it was in the past. The notion of reading in the 21st century networked society has changed recently. Children are no longer confined only to the print reading, but its scope has broadened to the Internet resources. The issue of debate is that which out of the two methods is better for teaching reading to children. This essay intends to explore the merits of both methods.

On the one hand, traditional, printed, reading materials are still the gold standard in instilling the habit of reading in children. Reading skills develop in a sequence. First, a child develops a love for books. Children read more when they have access to engaging, age appropriate books, magazines, newspapers, and other reading materials. They read more on topics that interest them than on topics that do not interest them. At the same time, they are beginning to develop eye-hand coordination. Next, they acquire tracking skills (the ability to follow words and pages from left to right through a book). Then children begin to recognize individual letters, and later they realize that letters form words. Reading ability continues to improve as they receive positive feedback from interested adults.

On the other hand, there are many benefits of online reading materials. There are some children, who find it difficult to read from books and other printed materials. In such cases, online materials have proved to be very helpful. Studies have shown that, new multimedia such as electronic books and stories enrich students' interest and help them be prolific readers. In another research it was found that online-reading texts used in a language classroom prepare students to become life-long users of the language.

I believe that reading habits should be instilled in children right from preschool years. At that stage printed materials are the best. Parents should surround children with books. They will be more likely to pick them up and get absorbed in them. They should also set an example. If a parent regularly picks up a book, the child will do the same. Parents should read out to children. They will get excited in stories and begin to read on their own. In the early elementary years, from first through third grades, children continue learning how to read. It is a complex process, difficult for some and easy for others. This is the stage when online materials can prove useful. Parents and teachers can use these to instill the habit of reading.

To conclude, it is important to teach children how to read, no matter how it is done. In preschool years, printed materials are better, but later on online reading materials can also be used to stimulate the interest of reading in children.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay
Para 1: Benefits of traditional reading materials
Para 2: Benefits of online reading materials
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

268. *Schools should stop using books for teaching children as they find them boring, and use films, TV and computer instead. To what extent do you agree with this?*

I definitely agree with the given statement, which says that the use of books should be replaced by computer and TV in schools, as students find them uninteresting. I believe that films, TV and computer are better educational tools, and are more engaging for the students.

There are many reasons why multimedia tools have an edge over the traditional book. To begin with, the most important job of every school is disseminating knowledge, which can be done by multi-media or by written form through the traditional books, but the absorption of written material is insufficient and lackluster in today's scenario. Children need something, which can stimulate their interest and keep them engaged. The computer can stimulate and educate students better than books or speech alone ever could. Electronic search mechanisms can help students find passages instantly, which would be hard to find in a book, unless they remembered precisely where to look. Multiple windows allow students to keep multiple passages in front of them simultaneously. Further, through such media there could be immediate exchange of ideas with other students across the globe, which could be very exciting for the students.

Furthermore, such a practice of using these computers and TVs in classrooms would ensure that students all over are receiving the same education in the same way, and this could prove very useful especially when there is lack of good teachers, such as in remote areas. Nobody wants to go to the remote areas to teach. As a result, the children are taught by local teachers, who have themselves not received a very good education. So, those children can never shine and compete with children of big cities, even if they have the ability in them. This situation can be fought with, by the introduction of computer, TV and films in schools. Very few good teachers could cater to a wider network of schools in remote areas with the help of these tools. Finally, it would be good for the environment because paper would be used less.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that it is the need of the day to familiarize students with multimedia gadgets in schools right from school days and definitely these AV aids have an edge over the printed book as far as piquing the interest of today's students in concerned.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Advantage of computers and TV over books
Para 2: More advantages of computers and TV over books
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

269. *Nowadays it is easy to apply for and be given a credit card. However, some people experience problems when they are not able to pay their debts back. In your opinion, do the advantages of credit cards outweigh the disadvantages?*

A credit card is great fun, but only until you get the bill. If you have a credit card, you can spend upto its limit, even without having that much in your bank account. However, you have to be careful about paying it off in time. If you are unable to do so, you can land in deep debt. Therefore, the weight of the merits and demerits of credit card is in the hands of the user.

There are many benefits of credit cards. Firstly, people can use them practically everywhere, even overseas. Credit cards can also boost peoples' purchasing power because they can be used to buy goods and services over the phone, through the mail and online. To add to it, they provide financial backup in the event of an emergency, such as an unexpected healthcare cost, job loss or auto repair. For instance, if a person is on a holiday and has a medical emergency, he will have no problem in paying the hospital bills through credit card.

Furthermore, credit cards allow people to purchase items and pay them off in monthly installments. They also offer discounts and rewards at stores. For instance, when a person makes purchases using the credit card, he can collect points, which accumulate and can be used to get free items, such as airline tickets. Some cards may offer cash back as an incentive to use the card. They can help build your credit history. A person with a good credit history does not face problems when applying for a loan for any reason. Credit cards also keep a record of the cardholders' expenses, helping them to monitor their financial activities.

On the other hand, credit cards can have their disadvantages. The most dangerous part of credit cards is not paying them off on time, and once a person falls behind by one payment, then late fees, interest, and penalties build very fast, because of which many people find themselves sunk in credit card debt with no way out. Another big disadvantage is the hidden costs. There is the start-up fees, the processing fees and also the annual fees, which is quite an amount. Additionally, one of the most overlooked negative aspects to credit cards is the ease with which cardholders overspend. The psychology behind this is simple. Cardholders purchase items without ever exchanging actual money, so they don't get the feel of spending. Finally, people have to be cautious when they use their credit card for online transactions. It can be hacked and misused, if the site is not secure. Misuse can also happen if they lose their credit card. They have to report promptly if such a thing happens.

Summing up, as with anything, there are advantages and disadvantages of using credit cards. It is in the hands of the person using the card to make its advantages outstrip the disadvantages.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Advantages or disadvantages lie in the hands of the holder
Para 1 & 2: Advantages
Para 3 & 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion:

270. It is important for all towns and cities to have large public outdoor places like squares and parks. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Public spaces such as squares and parks are social spaces, which are very much needed in today's era where people otherwise lead isolated lives. Therefore, I strongly agree that is imperative for all urban areas to have such outdoor places.

There are many advantages of having outdoor places such as squares and parks. Firstly, if such places are not there, people may not even know their neighbours. Earlier, most people in the world grew up, and died within 10 or 20 miles of where they were born. Everybody knew everybody, within that radius. Now, with emigration and greater physical and social mobility, many of the world's people find themselves in places far from home. As a consequence, they may not know their neighbors at all. It is often necessary to bring people together, so that they can get to know one another, learn about one another's cultures, and develop common interests, concerns, and goals. Therefore, large public places are the need of the day.

Secondly, parks are the lungs of the concrete jungles that we live in today. A city park can also serve as a neighborhood focus, with playgrounds, sports fields, and other facilities bringing together adults and children from all corners of the area. State and national parks are also places where significant interaction usually takes place. The fact, that everyone is there with a common goal – to see the features of the park – make conversation easier, and break down social barriers.

Another important reason for having such public spaces is that they add identity to a place and act as places of tourist interest. Thus, they can boost the economy. For example, the Trafalgar Square in the UK, the Times Square in New York and the St. Peters Square in Rome are frequented by tourists across the globe.

Finally, most town squares are the most suitable places for open markets, music concerts, political rallies, and other events that require such large open spaces. Being centrally located, town squares are usually surrounded by small shops such as bakeries, meat markets, cheese stores, and clothing stores. At their center is often a fountain, a monument or a statue. Many of those with fountains are actually named Fountain Square.

To conclude, large open spaces such as parks and squares are absolutely essential for all towns and cities, as they serve many important purposes.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: Reason 1 – to enhance community life
Para 2: Reason 2 – green spaces – neighbourhood interactions
Para 3: Reason 3 – identity and economy – tourism
Para 4: Reason 4 - most suitable places for open markets, music concerts, political rallies etc
Conclusion:

271. *International community must act immediately to ensure all nations reduce their consumption of fossil fuels e.g. gas and oil. Do you agree or disagree?*

Our future crucially depends on their long-term availability of energy sources, which are also safe and environmentally friendly. The present resources we use are the fossil fuels, which are neither going to last forever, nor good for the environment. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that the international community like the United Nations must take immediate actions to ensure that all countries lessen the use of such resources.

To begin with, a strong reason to reduce the use of fossil fuels is that such conventional sources like coal and oil are non-renewable. They take millions of years to make, and we are finishing them at an alarming rate. This means that if we finish the existing resources they will be gone forever as far as our generation and the coming generations are concerned. Energy from the wind, the sun and the sea is an everlasting source of power. So, more and more governments should come forward in promoting these sources. Here, an international organization's intervention is needed because individual governments can become complacent.

Secondly, the consumption of these non-renewable resources has harmed our environment severely and to such a huge scale, which cannot be solved by any single nation. Additionally, due to economic reasons, many governments cannot spend their national budget in finding and using more expensive, but friendly energy resources like biogas and bio-fuel. This is where international organizations can step forward, and apply their great power over national policies for the sake of the global living environment. Reducing the speed of global warming, limiting levels of air pollution, and thus preventing further damage of ozone layer can only be possible if every country agrees to change its transport system and use renewable energy resources.

However, it is reasonable to have some disagreements from countries. They might claim their rights as an independent nation to decide what their problems are and how to deal with those problems. Economic state of many poor countries, which are still struggling with famine and development, is another reason of refuting the international policies on using fossil fuels. The issue of CDR (common but differentiated responsibility) is also there. The developed, industrialised world has been exploiting the environment for decades, and so it is quite obvious that now they should do more to save the environment. Having said that, I believe that all governments should first recognize that if the environment would continue being abused, the planet would soon become uninhabitable.

In conclusion, it is vital for international powerful organizations to pose strict regulations on consumption of natural resources worldwide, and all nations must take part in reducing the usage of fossil fuels.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Reason 1 – non-renewable *Para 2: Reason 2 - cause pollution*

Para 3: Why some countries would not comply

Conclusion:

272. *Some people believe that the best way to produce a happier society is to ensure that there are only small differences between the richest and the poorest members. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Some individuals are of the opinion that the most effective way to bring about a satisfied society would be to narrow the wealth inequality. I, however, disagree with this perspective. I believe that reducing the rich-poor gap could help to some extent, but this is certainly not the best way. I shall put forth arguments to support my views in the following paragraphs.

Admittedly, everybody is in favour of bettering the lot of those who are worse off in society, and narrowing the financial gap between the two poles brings about social happiness. For example, the wealth gap arising from power and corruption is certainly unfair and needs to be gotten rid of, and only in that way can social satisfaction be achieved. But then, there are those who have become very rich because of their hard work and perseverance. In such cases, if steps are taken to bring the rich down by increasing their tax slabs, then it would lead to their unhappiness and so the whole society will again not be happy. Therefore, efforts should be made in other directions for a happier society.

To have a happier society, the focus should be on raising the standard of living, and opportunities for the very poorest of society. If this were accomplished, the gap between rich and poor would indeed be reduced, and it would be extremely welcome. The poorer sections should be taken care of by the government in every way – given jobs, housing, and welfare for all medical and social needs. This gives people comfort and reduces anxiety.

Another important factor in the creation of inequality is variation in individuals' access to education. Therefore, if education facilities are provided to the have-nots, then they can raise their standard of living and the gap will automatically come down. Education provides knowledge and an introspective attitude, and thus life is enriched with more and possibly higher purposes. When the whole society is equipped with education, happiness is ensured.

Finally, a better living environment makes the public happier. Environment is the very basis on which life is maintained, and happiness is achieved. However, as technology is evolving, living environment is being harmed and pushed to the edge of endangering lives. People are suffering from many diseases because of pollution. So, pollution needs to be controlled for a happier society.

To sum up, there is no doubt that economic inequality can be pernicious and damaging, but decreasing the gap is not the best way for a happier society. The focus should be on lifting the bottom and not pulling the top down.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why decreasing the financial gap is not the best way
Para 2: Other way to get happy society – facilities for the poor
Para 3: Other way to get happy society – educational opportunities for the poor
Para 4: Other way to get happy society – pollution-free environment
Conclusion:

273. Children find it difficult to concentrate on or pay attention to school. What are the reasons? How can we solve this problem?

It is unfortunate, but true that today, children find it daunting to focus on their studies in school. This essay intends to analyze the reasons for this situation, and suggest some solutions to ameliorate the problem.

Children have difficulty concentrating at school for various reasons. The most important is sleep deprivation, which plays an important role in lowering the attention of schoolchildren, according to a new research. Experts believe this is because of the increasingly technology-saturated culture children live in. Secondly, some children are not able to cope up with the tough academic competition, and consequently lose interest in studies. Additionally, noise and the activities of other children distract many. Finally, some children are affected by medical conditions, such as attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), in which children cannot concentrate on anything for long.

The solutions depend on the proper diagnosis of the causes of this lack of interest. First of all, parents and teachers must learn to be reasonable. One should not expect one's child to be able to concentrate for too long. Most adults need a break after about 30 minutes of concentration. The same applies for children. There should be some time gap that allows children to take a mental break before moving on to the next period. Then, parents should speak with their child's teacher to make sure that the schoolwork is not too difficult for their child.

Furthermore, parents should see to it that their child gets at least 8 hours of uninterrupted sleep. For doing so, it is mandatory that TV and computer should not be there in the child's room. The onus is on the parents to ration the TV viewing hours of their children. They should also meet the teachers and discuss the factors, which may be causing distraction. Sometimes, the right placement in the classroom might work wonders for the child. For example, a seat could be fixed for him where he is most likely to stay focused and be less distracted by other variables, such as activity outside a window. Finally, the parents should speak with their child's doctor and have a routine physical performed to rule out any illness or complications.

To sum up, children of this contemporary society have many distractions because of which they find it challenging to concentrate at school. However, this situation can be dealt with very nicely by the combined efforts of parents and teachers.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons for lack of attention
Para 2: Solutions
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

274. The best way for the government to solve the problem of traffic congestion in cities, is to provide free public transport 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some people opine that the finest solution to urban traffic congestion is to provide free public transport round-the-clock. I, however, beg to differ. I believe that free public transport could help in solving the traffic problem to some extent, but it definitely is not the best solution, as it would lead to many other problems.

Undoubtedly, many people, especially daily commuters, would benefit from free public transport. But such a service would be a big burden on the governments, as it would require a lot of funds to maintain such free services. Moreover, a considerable proportion of these services would be wasted, as these would be underused on weekends and midnights. Therefore, it would not be practical on economic grounds to run free public transport.

There are numerous ways to solve the traffic problems. The most effective would be to encourage people to use public transport. This could be done by decreasing the fare, increasing the comfort and increasing the frequency of public transport. Obviously, if people do not have to waste time waiting for the bus or train, get comfortable seats and have to pay far less than what they would have to spend on their own personal vehicle, then they would willingly choose public transport, and would not mind paying for it. So this step would prove better than giving a totally free public transport.

Additionally, the government could levy toll tax and increase the price of fuel to discourage people from using their own cars. Media could be used to aware people about simple measures like car-pooling. For instance, if five people from one block of flats have to go to the same office, they could each take out their car for one day a week. This would be a win-win situation for the environment and the people.

To sum up, having a totally free public transport would not be practical to implement, as it would not be economically viable for the government. Therefore, it would not be the best method. The better methods would be to encourage people to use public transport by making it better.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Points against free public transport
Para 2: Better methods to reduce traffic congestion
Para 3: Better methods
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

275. Some people argue that public should be allowed to have guns. Others do not agree. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

People are divided on the issue of gun ownership. There are some, who hold the opinion that gun ownership should be allowed, as it is in many countries such as the US, where as others opine that people in general should not be permitted to keep them. This essay intends to analyse both views. I, however, side with the latter view.

A major reason why governments should not allow people to have guns is because of the potential for accidents. In America, for example, you can legally shoot people if you find them robbing your house, but this can lead to people dying over cases of mistaken identity. In addition, there are crimes where people act rashly or in anger, so guns that were intended for defense are often used aggressively.

Another important argument against owning guns is that there can be intentional damage caused by guns. It is statistically evident that the number of gun-related crimes is higher in countries where firearm ownership is legal. Countries like America, for example, suffer from a disproportionately high number of fatal shootings, in comparison with most other countries.

On the other hand, those in favour of gun ownership say that without the freedom to bear arms, there is no self-defense. Without self-defense, there would most likely be more break-ins, robberies and even deaths. In the UK it's illegal to have a gun, yet criminals can still get one. So if anyone who had a gun used it harmfully, you would have no self-defense. They also argue that shooting is a sport, and so being prevented from owning their own firearm, is both unjust and a violation of their rights. Their argument is justified to some extent, but the harms of allowing guns are much more.

To sum up, it is clear that the permissibility of guns can lead to injury and death, both intentionally and unintentionally. Although there are points to support gun ownership, they are weak in comparison with the rising tide of gun crime, a situation, which will only continue to worsen.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Points against gun ownership
Para 2: More Points against gun ownership
Para 3: Points for gun ownership
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

276. *Some people prefer to go to health clubs and gyms for health care, but some say that walking and climbing stairs are more effective. Discuss both and give your opinion.*

Nowadays, people are becoming more and more health conscious, and are therefore more inclined to develop their health through physical exercise. Many go to gymnasiums to work out using machines, while others just maintain a physically active lifestyle by walking and climbing stairs. This essay intends to discuss the pros of both approaches.

There are many advantages of going to health clubs and gyms. The instructors in such places can guide you depending on your level of fitness and age. They make you warm up properly and then do the more vigorous or demanding exercises, which reduce the risk of injury. A cool down after the workout is almost as important as a warm-up, and this is all done very well in gyms and health clubs. A healthy and active lifestyle is not enough, as all muscles are not worked out in that way.

Secondly, gyms and health clubs give you the motivation needed for such physical activity. Today's lifestyles are too sedentary, and whatever walking or using the stairs we do, we cannot fulfil our body's needs of exercise. We also tend to take things easy and become too complacent regarding our health. When we go to the gyms, we see other people exercising over there, which gives us the impetus to workout. Finally, the equipment and the guided environment there make exercising easier. Perhaps that is the reason why there has been a mushroom growth of gyms in the past few years.

Some, on the other hand, find it impractical to take out time and go to a separate place to do physical exercise. They believe that health can be maintained by just grabbing simple day-to-day physical activities. For instance, they walk over to short distances and briskly climb the staircase and avoid the elevator. This, in itself, has great advantages too. It saves the additional time and expenditure needed to go to gyms. Once we are habitual of these activities, they become a part of life.

After considering the pros of both approaches, I believe that routine physical activity, coupled with a day or two per week in the gym is ideal. One cannot depend on just routine physical activities. Joining a gym just for the weekends would make the weekends something to look forward to, and one can focus on those muscles or areas of body, which are not touched by simple day-to-day physical activity. So both approaches could play a complementary role with each other.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of gym
Para 2: More advantages of gym
Para 3: Advantages of routine day to day activities
Conclusion: Own opinion plus conclusion

277. *Adult youths are often called up for working for the development of communities. Do you think they should work voluntarily or should they get paid? Give your opinion.*

The development of communities requires the vibrant energy of young blood. There are many programs requiring voluntary work in most communities, where the young could help. I firmly believe that monetary incentives should be there to ascertain the involvement of the young adults in such ventures.

The most important reason for making the voluntary work being paid is that today's youth need some pocket money to satiate their material desires. As it is, the youngsters are lured by the glamour of the consumerist society. This paid voluntary work would give them a chance to earn some of those things, and needless to say it would benefit the community. In other words, it would be a win-win situation for both sides. What is more, it would reduce petty crime, as some youngsters resort to unethical ways to get those things. So, an incentive is needed to increase their compliance for voluntary work.

Secondly, today's youngsters have very sedentary lifestyles. They have to be motivated to go out and do some physical activity. When they are involved in community work, they have a positive outlet for their pent up energy. Just going to the discos and hanging out with friends, is such a waste of their energy. If they know they would be paid for something, they would do it willingly and it would be channelizing their energy in the right direction.

Finally, this monetary incentive would make them put their best into whatever work they have to do. Some youngsters may also find future career options in such work, which would definitely be very helpful for all communities. Unpaid work would be done half-heartedly and may not bring the results, which are expected.

To summarise, the youth should be paid if they do voluntary work. The monetary incentive may be the barest minimum, but it should definitely be there.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Monetary incentives should be there
Para 1: First reason – would increase compliance and would reduce petty crime
Para 2: Second reason – would channelize their energy in the right direction
Para 3: final reason – the work would be done whole-heartedly
Conclusion

278. *Science tells there are activities that are good for the health. However, some people still continue doing unhealthy habits. Why is this so, and what changes can be done?*

People of the modern world are better informed than ever in the history of mankind. They are well aware of what is good or bad for their health. Despite that they keep on indulging in activities, which are detrimental for them. This essay intends to look into the causes of this phenomenon, and suggest some solutions to mitigate the problem.

The first reason for ignoring their health is the fast paced competitive era of today. People know that exercise and healthy food is good for them, but cannot find the time to do exercise and cook healthy food. They have become workaholics in a bid to live a life of luxury, and as a result their lives are becoming sedentary. They choose to go by car even for short distances, and eat fast food to satiate their taste buds. Fast foods are rich in salts and unhealthy fats, which are not good for health, but are cheaper, tastier and more readily available. Some unhealthy habits such as drinking and smoking are done for showing their status, or to forget the stress and strain of life.

The solutions are not simple, mainly because people are themselves choosing those activities despite knowing that they are bad for them. The government should take the help of media to motivate people into doing exercise and going for healthy food. Gyms should be set up at negligible membership costs so that people avail them easily. Bicycle lanes should be made so that those who want to do cycling can do so safely. For example, Denmark has 19000 km of bicycle tracks, as a result of which most people have adopted bicycles as their favourite means of transport for short distances within the country.

Furthermore, there should be strict rules and regulations for food outlets to provide healthy food without trans-fats and excess salts. The Food and Drug Authority should regularly have surprise checks. It would be a better approach than to ask people to refrain from fast foods. Moreover working hours should be fixed so that people have time for themselves and their families.

To sum up, it is true that people are doing unhealthy activities even after knowing they are unhealthy, yet some steps can be taken to motivate them to change their sedentary lifestyle and eat healthy food.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro:
Para 1: Reasons
Para 2: solutions
Para 3: solutions
Conclusion

279. *Although countries with long average working hours are economically successful, this often has some negative social consequences. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

In some countries the standard working hours are relatively longer than those in other countries. This practice obviously leads to a booming economy. I agree with the given statement, which says that economic success, resulting from long work hours, comes at a price for families, people's health, and may also contribute to higher unemployment.

The most serious effect of working overtime constantly is putting employees' health at risk. This is because when employees work long hours, they do not get time to exercise and relax. An unhealthy lifestyle increases the risk of heart disease, diabetes and stress related illnesses. Being chronically overworked can also cause psychological problems, like nervous breakdowns and depression. More number of unhealthy people can never be good for any society.

Another problem is that employees do not get enough time for socializing and family life. Long work hours do not make a very family-friendly environment. People may find it hard to raise children and work. In particular, women may have to decide against working or having children. Because of long work hours, some employees will not find the time for a relationship or family at all, and remain single. Consequently, birthrates are likely to fall, which might leave a society with an aging population, and may result in many hard to solve problems.

Lastly, companies that require longer work hours will employ less people in total. More number of people working lesser hours, is surely better than fewer people working more number of hours. The consequent unemployment is definitely detrimental for the countries in the long run.

In conclusion, I believe that the advantages of long work hours are only for short-term. The negative effects cannot be ignored. Governments and companies should understand the long-term cost and keep the working hours in limit, so that unemployment comes down, work efficiency goes up, and the overall quality of life improves.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Agree
Para 1: Disadvantage – employees' health at risk
Para 2: Disadvantage – no time for socializing and family
Para 3: Disadvantage - unemployment
Conclusion:

280. The restoration of old buildings in major cities in the world involves a lot of government expenditures. This money should be used in new housing and road development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

People are divided on the issue of dealing with old buildings. Some opine that it is pointless to spend money on their restoration and upkeep, and that it would be better to spend that money on roads and new buildings. I partially agree with their view. I believe that those old buildings which are neither beautiful nor useful, should be demolished, where as those buildings which add character to a place, give it a unique identity or have a historic significance should be repaired and renovated at all costs.

There are many arguments in favour of making new buildings and roads. The new modern buildings, of course, look much more glamorous and function better than old ones. Modern architectural techniques give modern buildings an advantage that they can accommodate more people in lesser space. New roads are also in need due to the fast progress of trade and business. There is also an economic factor regarding this practice. Constructing new buildings consumes more materials, which can boost related industries such as steel, iron, lumber, cement and so forth.

What is more, the newer buildings could be made in such a way that they are energy efficient by using newer technologies, which could save a lot of energy later on. For example, double glass panels could be used for insulation and the terraces could be made as to accommodate solar panels. All these measures are the need of the hour considering the rapidly occurring climate changes and the burgeoning population.

On the other hand, there are some old buildings, which give a unique identity to a place, and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today. For example, the Sainik School of Kapurthala was the home the maharaja of Kapurthala, Jagatjit Singh. It is a magnificent piece of architecture and is now serving a very good purpose. There are many other such buildings, which house important government offices or have been converted to hotels for tourists. The Umedh Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan has been converted into a hotel and is a good source of revenue for the government. We would be losing a lot of our historical and cultural background if we demolish such buildings.

To summarise, the decision to preserve or demolish old buildings should be made after considering many factors. If the old buildings can be used effectively or be made into tourist attractions or are giving a unique identity to a place, these should definitely be preserved. Only if a building is occupying a lot of space and is unfit to live in, it should be demolished.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: I partially agree with their view.
Para 1 & 2: Advantages of newer buildings
Para 3: there are some old buildings, which give a unique identity to a place and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today
Conclusion:

281. *If some people get a chance to choose between life without work and spending most of the time working, then they would choose not to work. Agree or disagree?*

We cannot escape work. Human civilisation has been built on work. Billions of people throughout history have created the cities, farms, industries, armies and infrastructure, which have marked our time on the planet. Therefore, I disagree that people would choose not to work, if given a choice. People may enjoy being without work for a few days, but ultimately it is work, which saves us from the dullness and boredom of life.

To begin with, work provides us with an inner creative joy. It saves us from the dullness and boredom of life. It puts our energies to a proper use. Unused energies create disorders in us. They make us physically unhealthy and mentally unhappy. Time hangs heavy on our shoulders when there is no work. Moreover, work provides us with money for our livelihood. It makes our life meaningful and peaceful. Idleness is more tiresome and painful than work. Even the most unpaid, unimportant and unpleasant work is better than no work.

Furthermore, for a really useful and happy life, doing good and constructive work is necessary. Constructive work is rather difficult in the beginning, but very pleasant at the end. For deriving maximum pleasure from life, we must work. We must also realise that good work pays, and evil work destroys at the end. Every man who learns some useful skill enjoys it till he improves himself completely. The element of constructiveness is an important source of happiness. When a worker builds up something new, he feels encouraged and elevated, and thus gets pleasure from his creative work.

On the other hand, there are many arguments put forth by those, who would rather not work if given the opportunity. They say that work is an important part of their lives, but it has come to a point where it has taken over their lives. Therefore, they no longer find the satisfaction in their daily work lives, which people did 50 years ago. They have become slaves to what jobs they have, and when asked whether they would opt for a life without work, would surely jump to the opportunity. Their lives have become very mechanical, and perhaps that is why they would rather not work if given a choice. However, I still believe that such a feeling is short-lived, as work is the very essence of life.

To sum up, when you have a job or a career, you have self-respect, dignity, and self-worth. Therefore, I disagree that most people would not work, even if they had a choice.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: reasons
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Proponents view with negation
Conclusion: Reiterate your stand

282. *Some people think that the government should strictly control the supply of fresh water, as the resources are limited. While others think we can use as much water as we want. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.*

Water is the hub of life, and the crisis of our diminishing water resources is almost as severe as any wartime crisis we have faced till now. Though 75% of the earth is covered in water, only 1% of it is fresh water with the rest being saline in nature. Therefore, many people feel that governments should impose restrictions on the use of fresh water, where as some people oppose the restraints on water use. This essay intends to look into both standpoints. I, personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons in favour of government control on the supply of fresh water. Firstly, fresh water has to be used with care owing to its less availability. Any resource without restriction is bound to result in wastage of it. For example, in countries like India, where there is shortage of water, people from the upper strata misuse the fresh water in swimming and other water related sports. The main cause of water scarcity is water mismanagement. Thus, this clearly shows that the restrictions on water are required for it to be used in an efficient manner.

On the other hand, a limit on such basic amenity as water does not appeal to many people. They say that it would make it an even more valued resource, especially for the under privileged. For instance, some resourceful rich people could influence some corrupt officials to have more fresh water supplied to them. This would make the barely available water to be even more unaffordable for the people of lower strata. Thus, this clearly shows that restrictions on already less available fresh water would just worsen the situation.

I believe, that the government should have the control on the supply of fresh water, as it is a very precious commodity today. Water is essential for all dimensions of life. Governments should pay attention on fresh water consumption by restricting its mismanagement. There should be strict laws against those industries, which are polluting underground water by their effluents. The government should also educate and aware the people about ways in which to use water frugally.

To conclude, I firmly believe that fresh water supply should be in government's hands. Nevertheless, care should also be taken to ensure that the authority controlling water supply would serve all people equally and impartially.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Reason in favour of government control
Para 2: Reason against government control
Para 3: Own view
Conclusion:

283. More and more people want to buy famous brands of clothes, cars and other items. What are the reasons? Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

A brand is a name, a symbol, a design or a term that separates one seller's product from that of the other. Today, branded products have surrounded our lives. This essay intends to discuss the reasons for this increasing brand consciousness. I believe that it is a positive, as well as a negative development.

The first reason that for going for branded items is that a brand is a promise. You know what you're going to get with a well-branded product or service. They provide a good guarantee and warranty. To cite an example, if a person buys a branded cell phone, but unfortunately it stops working for some reason, he will get a full replacement, provided it is within the warranty period. A non-branded product usually does not carry any guarantee or warranty. That is why going after brands seems reasonable to most people.

Secondly, people go after brands because these are considered a status symbol. Brands speak about the person who is buying them. Young people today would rather buy only two pairs of Levi's jeans a year than 6 pairs of ordinary ones. They believe that such branded items have quality as well as durability. They believe in buying once and using it for a longer time.

Finally, brands have become very popular today because of the power of advertising and the media. The media of today's global village has spread awareness about these brands like wildfire. The most pervasive media of today, the TV, is bombarding people constantly with knowhow of these brands. To add to it, the growing economy has increased people's buying power, which also makes them run after brands.

On the positive side, brands provide quality, durability and security to people in terms of guarantee and warranty. People get value for money. As competitiveness is increasing, these brands are also making their price competitive, which is making them affordable by the people. Earlier, the target audience of these brands was the top strata of society, but today these brands are targeting a much larger segment, and so they are also able to cut down their cost because of mass production. Another big benefit is that these brands have led to the emergence of another big industry, which is of imitations or copies. This secondary industry is catering to a far too much bigger population and is adding a lot to boosting the economy.

On the downside, brands provide a feeling of inadequacy among those people who cannot afford them. Sometimes, people end up overspending on such items and this upsets the family budget. Some people may even resort to petty crime such as shop-lifting, pick-pocketing and chain snatching. Finally, people are becoming workaholics to buy such products, and are failing to draw a line between work and leisure and also between work and family, which is adding to the stress and strain of this already hectic and fast paced life of today, and is also leading to broken homes.

To sum up, brand heedfulness has many reasons and has both pros and cons. The onus is on us where to draw the line and also understand which brands to follow, and which are merely a frivolity.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:

Para 1: Reason 1 *Para 2: Reason 2* *Para 3: Reason 3*

Para 4: Why it is a positive development *Para5: Why it is a negative development*

Conclusion:

284. *The tendency of human beings to copy one another is shown in the popularity of fashions in clothes and other consumer goods. Do you agree or disagree?*

Undoubtedly, in the contemporary society most people are following the same fashions and buying the same consumer goods. The given statement implies that because people want to copy each other, we have similar fashion and similar things. However, I believe that this similarity is because we all have access to the same clothes and the same material things, and not because we want to imitate each other.

To begin with, widespread purchase of the popular consumer products is because today, people have the knowledge of the best things available around the globe. They can compare things and check the reviews and then choose to buy anything if it suits their pocket or needs. People don't buy anything just because the other person has it. For example, the Apple I-phone is widely accepted and used by an increasing number of people around the world due to its extraordinary functions and ease of use.

Secondly, earlier people had limited access to the outside world, resulting in the lack of fashion exchange. The modern technology makes the fashion exchange possible. The fashion shows in Milan, Paris and New York can be simultaneously transmitted to the rest of the world via the satellite. Moreover, people buy and wear only what is comfortable to them and suits them and not because others are wearing the same clothes. For instance, jeans and T-shirts are worn all over because they are the most comfortable clothes for casual wear.

It cannot also be denied, that there is a tendency among people to feel wanted and a part of a group. This is because man is, after all, a social animal and so he does what everyone else does. If he doesn't wear what is the fashion of the day, he feels out of place, or may even be ridiculed by others. Therefore, to some extent it can be said that people imitate each other, which can be reflected in what they wear or do.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion that the popularity of fashion is the irreversible tendency brought about by advanced technology, which has led to the economic and cultural integration and only partly due to the so-called tendency to copy.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: first reason
Para 2: second reason
Para 3: Final reason
Conclusion:

285. In some countries, young people are not only richer, but also safer and healthier than ever before. However, they are less happy. What might be the main reasons of this? What can be done for this?

In some countries young people are not as happy as before, although their living conditions have improved considerably. This essay intends to discuss the reasons for this, and suggest some solutions to alleviate the problem.

Undeniably, the recent times have seen a boom in the economy of some countries, as a result of which the young people have more than enough to spend. They are also enjoying better health because of the better health facilities and better awareness of health. Their lives are also more secure, because with better economy, they can avail the best things to make their lives safer. They are connected with each other 24/7, which also contributes to their security. However, despite all this, they are the most unhappy and stressed lot.

The first reason for their dissatisfaction is that they are exposed to the global culture and they are lured by it, but parents want them to follow the traditional culture, which leaves them confused and unhappy. Earlier, children knew only what their parents or teachers told them, and took that as granted and so were happy and contented. Now they have the power of the satellite TV and the Internet in their hands, and they are the most well informed generation than ever in the history of mankind. They can compare, and so what they have is never enough.

Secondly, they are living in an era of fierce competition, and parents and teachers have too much expectation from them. The young people, a few decades ago, competed with only the youth of their town or country, but today's young person faces competition from his counterpart of the global village, which was earlier the huge planet Earth. Earlier, 60% marks in senior secondary were enough to get you admission in a good college or university, but today the cut-off rates are 90% or even more.

Another important culprit of the discontent of youngsters, is the consumerist society of today. For example, they see newer models of cell phones and other gadgets every day and buy them, but very soon those models also become obsolete and this happiness becomes very short-lived. The generation gap between parents and children is also responsible for their stress. Parents want their children to follow their profession, but the youth of today wants to follow the un-trodden path, and explore newer avenues for themselves.

The solutions are not simple, but parents and governments can take some steps. Parents should help young people to develop a positive attitude towards life and the world. Traditional values, such as respecting the elderly, spending more time with family members, would help young people to become happier. Children loved by families are more likely to feel content. The governments should have facilities for the children and the youth, so that they can compete in the global arena. Finally, the onus is on the youth to realize that the ultimate happiness lies within themselves. They should set realistic goals for themselves and try to find happiness in the small things of life.

To sum up, there are many reasons why the youngsters of today are not as happy as their counterparts of the past, but some simple measures can help to alleviate this problem.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Acknowledging the facts of the given statement
Para 2: First reason of unhappiness *Para 3 & 4: More reasons Para 5: Solutions*
Conclusion:

286. *Some people say that museums should be free, whereas others opine that some entry fee should be there. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.*

One very complex issue in today's world is the funding of museums and art galleries. Some people argue that they should be free to the general public and funded by governments, while others believe that there should be an entrance fee, like that of other tourist attractions. This essay intends to discuss both views. I, however, side with the latter view.

On the one hand, there are two main arguments to support the notion that museums should be free. The first argument is that institutions like museums are a public service, and therefore there should be free access to the man in the street. If, for example, there was a charge, only the wealthy could afford to enjoy works of art. The second argument is that if they did levy a charge, fewer people would go to museums. This would be serious as they are educational institutions and standards would fall.

On the other hand, there is only one major argument in favour of charging an entry fee. This is that both museums and art galleries need to charge an entrance fee if they are to survive in the modern world. Governments do not have sufficient funds to subsidize all such institutions and there are other priorities for public money. Therefore these galleries and museums need to charge their customers, not only to survive, but to update their exhibitions and make new purchases. To cite an example, the Pushpa Gujral Science City in Kapurthala could not have sustained without revenue from the entry tickets.

Considering the standpoints of both sides, I believe that without an entry ticket, it would be difficult to maintain the museums. However, a day could be fixed per month when the entry could be made free for a few hours so that the common man can also go there on that day. For instance, in the Houston Museum of Natural Science, entry is free on the second Tuesday of every month, and so school trips and many other people frequent the museum on those Tuesdays. The other days are enough to earn from the entry fees.

To sum up, there is no harm if museums charge some fees for entering the museums, but it should not be very high, and then one free day could be there every month for the poor people also.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Importance of making museums free
Para 2: Importance of charging money
Para 3: Personal opinion
Conclusion:

287. *It is expected that there will be a higher proportion of old people than young people in the future in some countries. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?*

It is the inescapable truth that we are heading towards a graying society, which means that the population of the elderly is soaring. Scientists predict that there would be fewer youth than olds in the near future. Although the population ageing should be seen as a success story, it brings social and economic challenges for the nations. So, it can be said that this situation is both, positive as well as negative.

First, there will not be enough workforces to keep the economy running. Lesser number of youngsters would mean lesser people working, which will decrease the revenue received by the government from taxes. To increase the labor pool, the government will need to spend a lot to invite foreign skilled workers to fill the job vacancies. This is exactly what is happening in developed countries like Canada and Australia, which have opened doors for skilled workers to immigrate and settle there permanently.

Second, health care costs are four to five times higher with the elderly because of their deteriorating wellbeing. Wear-and-tear on their bodies accumulated over the years make their immune system more susceptible to disease. It will be a necessity to allocate a considerable budget from the government to improve the quality of their life. No wonder, nanny care courses are in full demand in developing countries because professional nannies are required to look after the elderly and are being paid handsomely.

On the other hand, we cannot demonize the older population, because one day we, too, will pass through that stage. We cannot deny we've made progress. We've given ourselves the great gift of longer life and better health. So anything we face in terms of the challenges of dealing with this, does not outweigh those benefits. The challenge for the future is to ensure that people everywhere can grow old with security and dignity, and that they can continue to participate in social life as citizens with full rights. One way out would be to increase the age of retirement, and to give part-time work to the willing elderly. This could help in a big way to the predicted worker shortage. Also, part time, older workers don't need the benefits, don't get called home for sick kids, are more mature, and approach their jobs with more patience and better perspective. Working part time also allows retirees to stay active while maintaining their lifestyles, feel productive and interact with others, which is a win-win situation for all.

In summary, aging is inescapable. A predominantly old-aged society will certainly have a negative impact on a country's advancement, and so it has to be planned well. The countries will have to spend on prolonging the quality of life for the senior citizens, and providing job opportunities to them for as long as they are able to.

PLAN FOLLOWED:
Intro:
Para 1: negative effect on economy
Para 2: Healthcare costs
Para 3: Positives of a graying society and how to meet the challenges
Conclusion:

288. Some people think news have no connection to people's lives, so then it is a waste of time to read the news in the newspaper and watch television news programs. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

News is what connects us to the outside world. Had it not been for the news, people would be living isolated lives. News mainly informs the public about events those are around them and may affect them. Therefore, I disagree that news have no connection to people's lives and getting to know the news through the newspaper or TV is a waste of time. I believe that people's lives are touched by the local, national, and also by the international news.

First, there is a lot of importance of local news. It is very important to advise people in a locality about activities that may have an impact on a community. This can allow a community to engage in decision-making processes in a community. For example, if a local community reports that a youngster of their area has topped the board exams, then the whole community feels proud and it also encourages others to excel in their field.

Secondly, national news is also significant for people. Such news can allow people to gain a sense of national perspective. This is particularly significant for countries that have a diverse range of population centres such as cities or towns. For example, large cities many thousands of kilometres apart may still rely on each other for trade or resources of economic significance. So, knowing the situations in other cities and towns becomes important.

Finally, the international news is also important in today's global economy. Knowing what is happening in other countries gives people a perspective of each other's ways of life and cultural differences. Certain kinds of news from countries that rely on each other for energy or other resources can often have a profound influence in overall global economics.

Those who opine that news is not important, argue that we already have very fast and hectic lives and what is happening around cannot influence us as we do not have the energy, nor the enthusiasm to do anything about it. So, it is futile to read the paper or listen to the news. They say it is a waste of time to listen to the news and we should focus on our work and not waste precious time listening to the news. What they fail to understand is that without being connected to the outside world we would be totally in the dark as to where we are heading. Modern newspapers and news channels cover nearly every sphere of human activity such as the economic situation, education, business, politics, the theatre, radio, cinema and sport.

To summarise, listening to the news or reading the paper daily is very important to be a part of the global village of today.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Importance of local news

Para 2: Importance of national news

Para 3: Importance of global news

Para 4: Other people's view with refuting statement

Conclusion:

289. In many cities and towns, the high volume of road traffic is a problem. What are the causes of that and what actions could be taken to solve the problem?

In recent times there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of vehicles on the roads. This essay intends to analyze the reasons of this phenomenon, and also suggest some solutions to alleviate the situation.

There are many reasons why traffic has increased in towns and cities. One is that cars have become more affordable for the average consumer, as so many automobile companies have entered the market with the common man in mind. For instance, Tata Motor's Nano car, is now called the poor man's car. Secondly, the personal vehicle is something, without which most families feel handicapped, as most of the people have to commute to work. Even the shopping malls and multiplex cinema houses have opened out of towns in the suburbs, which have made them even more inaccessible without the personal vehicle. Another obvious reason is that people have become more affluent, as women have also started working along with the men. This has also led to the need of two cars or more per household.

Furthermore, the public transport is not that frequent or reliable, and so people prefer going by their own vehicle. The expanding road network has also enabled more people to come out on the roads in their own cars. In some remote areas, there is no facility of public transport. Last but not least, people do not share car journeys or do car pooling, which means that if five people from one apartment block have to go to one area for work, then each one can take his car once a week.

The solutions are not simple, because of the complexity of its causes. However, one option can be to improve the reliability of public transport to encourage people to take the bus or the train rather than get in the car. Bus passes or train passes could be issued to daily commuters, which would be very attractive for them. Steps could also be taken to discourage the people to use the personal car by increasing the toll tax, for example. These problems can be resolved if people understand traffic rules and drive vehicles according to rules. This will decrease traffic jams on the road.

Besides government should limit the number of vehicles owned by single person. For instance, in Singapore, government has made strict rule and does not permit people to own more than a set number of vehicles. One more step, which has yielded results in many developed nations, is the HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes on motorways. This means that there are lanes reserved for those private vehicles, which are fully occupied. This has encouraged car-pooling. Another useful suggestion is to make bicycle tracks so that people are encouraged to cover short distances on bicycles. For example, Denmark has 19000 km of bicycle tracks, and that is why people prefer to ride bicycles.

To sum up, I feel that the problem of traffic is not easy to control. However, government rules and awareness among people can resolve this problem up to certain limit.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: Why traffic has increased in towns and cities Para 2: More reasons
Para 3 & 4: Suggestions
Conclusion:

290. Ambition is an important character for people who want to be successful in life. How important is it? Is it a positive or negative characteristic?

It has been rightly said that big results require big ambitions. Ambition is extremely valuable in today's times. Job applications often ask for ambitious candidates. Entrepreneurs are admired for their ambition and energy, and dynamic countries and cities have ambitious plans for growth. Although ambition has a dark side, I believe it is largely a positive trait.

There are many advantages of being ambitious. Being ambitious means setting goals, and then working hard to fulfil them. Ambition also teaches flexibility and resourcefulness. When problems occur, ambitious people find a way around them. In addition, being ambitious makes us tolerant. By including other people in our ambitions we all move forward. Ambition does not have to mean moving ahead on our own. It can be a vision for a whole city, the elimination of a disease, or the improvement of a community.

On the other hand, ambition is often associated with negative characteristics such as greed, intolerance, and the drive for power. It is also often associated with ruthlessness. It can block out human feelings such as friendship, respect for others, or compassion. Over-ambitious people also resort to unethical means such as hurting others to achieve their goals, which is definitely wrong.

In my opinion, a life without ambition is mechanical and meaningless. We need to celebrate ambition and enjoy the better present and the future it brings. However, we should not become obsessed with ambition to such an extent that we forget what is right and what is wrong. What is more, in our ambitious pursuits we sometimes fail to draw a line between work and family, which leads to stress and can make us miserable.

To sum up, ambition is positive because it gives us the impetus to work hard, but it can be negative if it turns into over-ambitiousness and makes us workaholic wherein we disrupt our work-life balance.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:
Para 1: importance of ambition
Para 2: when ambition can be bad
Para 3: Personal opinion
Conclusion:

291. *Some people think that politicians have the greatest influence on the world. Other people, however, believe that scientists have the greatest influence. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

The given statement intends to compare the impact of scientists and politicians on the people across the globe. It's important we have both scientists and politicians equipped to do their jobs, particularly when issues of public health, safety, and indeed our long-term survival are at stake. To do their jobs well, scientists and politicians must operate in very different settings, but it is also important they act together to understand, manage and improve our lives. Therefore, I believe that the role of both is equal, albeit different.

Politicians are elected by citizens to work for the betterment of the masses by enforcing regulations to maintain social harmony and law and order in the country. They represent the common man, and do their best so that no one is devoid of their fundamental rights. They also represent their countries in matters where global co-operation is needed. They have the power to change the standing of their nation in the whole world. For example, the economic policies of our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi have brought India way up in the eyes of the whole world.

On the other hand, the contribution of scientists cannot be underestimated. They have made great progress in the field of medicine. Today, there is a cure for many fatal diseases, such as cancers. Scientists all over the world are toiling whole-heartedly to find a cure for problems such as AIDS. It is because of the contribution of scientists that we have electricity and the automobile. The contribution of scientists in the field of communication has shrunk the whole planet Earth into a global village. The satellite TV and the Internet have brought the world into the common man's bedroom. Because of scientists' contribution, education has reached the remotest corners of the world, thereby reducing the gap between the rich and the poor. Scientists are working on fighting global warming. They are working on space tourism and exploring other planets for evidence of life.

To sum up, politics and science are two endeavors that have fundamentally different aims. Both have equivalent and profound impact on our lives.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Equal roles
Para 1: Role of politicians
Para 2: Role of scientists
Conclusion: Both have equivalent and profound impact

292. Some people think job satisfaction is more important than job security, while others think that people cannot be expected to enjoy a job and having a permanent job is more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Whether to choose a satisfying job or a satisfying paycheck is a dilemma many young minds are facing these days. Some claim that job satisfaction is more important than a secure job, while others claim that it is not realistic to expect job satisfaction, and thus it is beneficial to have a permanent job. This essay intends to analyze both viewpoints before reaching a conclusion.

Advocates of job satisfaction cite a host of benefits. They believe that nowadays people spend a great deal of their time in their workplace. So, if they are not happy with their job, they are also unhappy with their personal life. Moreover, if they don't like their job, it could stress them out and lead to many health problems. Therefore, people should consider a job, which they love, and which gives them the challenges they are looking for. This is the very reason for which people should choose a job that would provide them with meaningful employment.

On the other hand, people want to go for a secure job for many reasons. A secure job ensures regular income and stability, which is also very important. Having a job one loves, is one thing, but if that job doesn't pay enough to allow a person to raise a family, pay his debt, have his own home, or save for retirement, then it isn't very good at all.

I believe that people's expectations from their work will keep growing, and hence job satisfaction can only be temporary and they may be disappointed when their further desires fail to fulfil. It can also happen that once people get job satisfaction, they may become less ambitious, which may be detrimental for themselves and their work. In comparison, job security can ensure that the employees dedicate their energy into work with little worries from being fired due to their mistakes.

In conclusion, it is clear that choosing a career that one loves has many advantages. If you love what you do, your chances of success are pretty high and money will follow. But, job security is more important because it provides you regular income and keeps you free from the stress of being fired any time.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro:
Para 1: Advantages of job satisfaction
Para 2: Advantages of job security
Para 3: Own opinion in favour of job security
Conclusion: Job security is more important

293. *Some people think foreign visitors should be charged more than local people when they visit the cultural and historical attractions in a country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

International tourism has become the backbone of many economies of the world, and these countries rely heavily on the tourist dollar. Therefore, some people argue that tourists from overseas should be charged more than local residents to visit important sites and monuments. However, I disagree with this practice.

Those who are in favour of charging foreign tourists more, cite the benefits of this practice. They argue that these cultural or historical attractions often depend on state subsidies to keep them going, which means that the local population already pays money to these sites through taxes. The tourists, on the other hand, come for a short time and pay no taxes. They also say that the foreign tourists, on average, are more well to do than local people. They spend a lot on visiting such places in their own country. So, it does not pinch them to pay more for these attractions. Hence, it is only fair to charge them more, as these sites require a lot of funds for their maintenance. No wonder, it is common in many Indian tourist places to see rate tables such as Taj Mahal, Agra: Indian Citizens Rs 20, Foreigners Rs 970; Fatehpur Sikri, Agra: Indian Citizens Rs 50, Foreigners Rs 485.

However, I believe this to be a very shortsighted view. We should not oversee the fact that foreign tourists contribute to the economy of the host country in many other ways. They spend money on a wide range of goods and services, including food, souvenirs, accommodation and travel. The governments and inhabitants of every country should be happy to subsidise important tourist sites and encourage people from the rest of the world to visit them.

Furthermore, if travellers realised that they would have to pay more to visit historical and cultural attractions in a particular nation, they would perhaps decide not to visit those places and choose other methods to occupy themselves while in another country. For instance, they would enjoy the beaches and mountains. In this way the host country would lose out important chances of spreading their culture and tradition, which these historical sites do beautifully.

To sum up, I believe that every effort should be made to attract tourists from overseas, and it would be counterproductive to make them pay more than local residents.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why they are charged more – opponents view
Para 2: Why they should not be charged more
Para 3: More reason why they should not be charged more
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

294. Young people are often influenced in their behaviours and situations by others of the same age. This is called "peer pressure". Do the disadvantages outweigh the advantages?

We are all surrounded by our peers, people our age who have experiences and interests similar to ours. We make dozens of decisions everyday, and are influenced by each other's choices and behaviours. Similarly, young people are influenced by peers because they want to fit in, be like peers they admire, do what others are doing, or have what others have. No one is immune to peer pressure. Peer pressure can be both, positive as well as negative. Pressure has the power to create a diamond, but it has to be the "right" pressure.

There are many advantages of peer pressure if the peers are good. Good peers set plenty of good examples for each other. If peers are committed to doing well in school, or doing their best in a sport then they can influence those around them to be more goal-oriented, too. Secondly, peers who are kind and loyal can influence others to build these qualities in themselves. What is more, peers can help each other make decisions, such as what courses to take and even how to handle a family argument. Peers often give each other good advice. Peers might get each other involved in clubs, sports, or religious groups. One's world would be far less rich without peers to encourage or to offer moral support when one needs it most.

On the other hand, bad peers may pressurize each other into doing something wrong, such as shoplifting, taking drugs or drinking or taking dangerous risks when driving a car. Nearly everyone ends up in a sticky peer pressure situation at some point. Young people are going through a lot of stress in their life, as it is the time when the most crucial decisions of life have to be taken such as pursuing a career or choosing a life partner. It is very easy at such times to succumb to negative peer pressure.

Responding to peer pressure is part of human nature — but some people are more likely to give in, and others are better able to resist and stand their ground. I firmly believe that the stress of resisting unhealthy peer pressure can be buffered by good family relationships and a high self-esteem. So, the onus falls on the parents to give a stable family atmosphere and talk to their children about peer pressure. Explain what a powerful force it can be, and tell them that the excuse that "everyone did it" will never be accepted and they will be held responsible for their actions.

To summarise, peer pressure is inevitable and it can be positive as well as negative. However, if parents teach their children how to handle negative peer pressure, it can be largely positive.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Peer pressure can be both, positive as well as negative.
Para 1: How peer pressure can be positive
Para 2: How peer pressure can be negative
Para 3: How good family relationships can change the way children respond to peer pressure
Conclusion: peer pressure is inevitable and it can be positive as well as negative.

295. *Everyone should stay in school until they reach the age of 18. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

In many countries, school attendance is mandatory for all children up to a specific age. In India this is 14 years of age. In the UK and many other countries it is 16, although the UK government now has plans to raise the school leaving age to 18. I agree that children should be in school till the age of 18. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The most important reason for raising the school leaving age to 18 is that the age of 14-18 is the most impressionable age of a child's life. During this period of adolescence, the children undergo physical and hormonal changes, because of which they are under a lot of pressure. Therefore, lengthening compulsory schooling helps protect childhood. While at school students will be protected from some of the pressures in life. They have the rest of adulthood to work, make budgets and make choices. Providing them with space to grow for as long as possible can make them better prepared for adult life.

Secondly, more education provides the opportunity to acquire more skills and therefore more options. It has been shown many times that those with more education find it easier to find work, and that they are more likely to find that work satisfying. What is more, raising the school-leaving age is a crucial investment in society's future. Doing so increases the economic potential of the future workforce, and so will bring increased tax revenues in the long term.

However, the opponents claim that extending the period of compulsory education requires a huge investment in teachers, books and new school buildings, which would be very expensive. They also say that many families need their children to make an economic contribution to the family income, and working early can help these families to survive. Finally, just being in school does not guarantee that a student is learning. Unwilling students become disruptive, and damage the education of others in their class.

To sum up, even though compulsory schooling till 18 has some drawbacks, these are nothing as compared to the vast benefits this approach would bring and the cost needed to implement would be negligible if compared to the huge economic potential of the future workforce. Therefore, I believe that everyone should stay in school until the age of eighteen.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: Agree
Para 1: advantage of this approach
Para 2: other advantages
Para 3: Opponents view
Conclusion: restate opinion

296. *Some think that children should start school as early as possible, while others believe that they should start school at the age of seven. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

Education is very important for everyone. Some people think that children should begin their formal education at a very early age (4 years), whereas others opine that the age of seven years is the best for young people to commence educational studies. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives before reaching a conclusion as to which approach is better.

Advocates of sending the child to school at the age of 4, cite a host of benefits. They say that children who begin to study at a very early age have more chances to succeed in the future. It is a well-known fact that the younger the individual, the easier it is for him to acquire new knowledge and information. Such children get a head start in learning, which definitely gives them an advantage in their later school years. Secondly, if children remain at home till 7 years, they while away time in unproductive activities. But, when children attend school, they are purposefully engaged in activities that stimulate their minds and encourage them to develop and improve.

On the other hand, there are myriad reasons for sending children to school at around 7 years of age. Every child must have his or her childhood, during which playing and communication with friends and parents is very important. Childhood comes but once in life and should be spent as much as possible with parents. Basic qualities, such as kindness, self-confidence and a good sense of humour cannot be gained from studying. This interaction with parents becomes less after children start school, because they get busy in homework and other activities.

Another important aspect of sending children to school at a later age is that in their early ages children need more exercise, because at this age the development of their body is a very essential aspect. The stress of school and homework stifles the growth of many children. As it is, there are many years of schooling for children even if they start at seven.

To conclude, both approaches have their own sets of merits. Parents have to see what suits them best. If both parents are working, and the family is nuclear, then early age would be better. Otherwise, it would be better to send children to school at the age of seven.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: why some people say that a very early age is better to start school
Para 2: Advantages of later age (7 years)
Para 3: More advantages of starting school late
Conclusion: Give opinion

297. *Some teachers say students should be organised into groups to study. Others argue that students should be made to study alone. Tell the benefits of each study method. Which one do you think is more effective?*

Nowadays, many educationists are advocating the group study approach to make students successful learners. However, some students prefer to study alone at their own pace. Both approaches have their own advantages, and the choice is a matter of personal preference.

Promoters of group study method, cite a host of benefits. First, it provides learners the opportunity to share their ideas among group members, so that they can broaden their knowledge in much lesser time than they would be able to do while studying alone. Secondly, when students study in groups, they develop negotiation skills, like making a contribution, agreeing or disagreeing with someone and asking a person to give examples of their point. Finally, we can put forward working in groups as an example of what happens in real life, in work situations, and say that studying in groups in class prepares us for this.

On the other hand, when students study alone then they have no distractions and they can concentrate on study in a much better way. This is especially helpful in subjects like mathematics and physics. Studying alone also increases the confidence and ability to solve problems on one's own. Students become more competitive which is a necessary virtue in the competitive era of today. Teachers promote solo study by giving different assignments to all students, so that they complete them on their own.

I feel, that teachers should mix and match both these methods depending on the subject and the situation. For boring subjects like history and philosophy, students should be organised into groups, but for subjects that need concentration, individual study should be encouraged. Both methods have their own importance and should complement each other rather than being treated as rivals.

To sum up, there can be no clear cut demarcation in deciding whether to organise children into groups to study, or to make them study individually. Teachers can use their discretion depending on the situation.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: -
Para 1: Benefits of group study
Para 2: Benefits of studying alone
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

298. *Some people think students should learn more practical courses like computer, but others think they should learn more about theoretical courses like geography and mathematics. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Some people opine that students should focus on practical courses, whereas others hold the view that theoretical courses should be studied. This essay shall analyze both perspectives. However, I believe that practical knowledge and theoretical knowledge, both are important phases of learning. Perfect combination of both practical and theoretical methods is necessary for holistic learning.

Theoretical knowledge has its own importance in the learning. Theoretical knowledge is the base of doing anything practically. Anything done practically without the theoretical knowledge can be dangerous at times. Theoretical knowledge explains the 'why' factor at the back of any situation and technique of working. Theory teaches you through the experience of others. To be practically successful we need to have a strong and solid theoretical foundation. Though practicality counts, but it is like half knowledge if no theoretical knowledge is gained. For example, medical theories help us combat diseases, economic theories explain inflation and unemployment, and gravity theory explains the presence of planets. Even marketing, which was once thought to be purely practical, is based on statistical data, which require the knowledge of mathematics.

Those who advocate practical courses say so because today is the era of computers and technology. They feel that such subjects have more job opportunities. Practical knowledge and application skills are essential to survive in this competitive world of today. It is important to understand how things actually work. Practical knowledge is the tool of deeper understanding of the concepts, through the act of doing and experiencing. It is helpful in demonstrating the actual way of working and way of handling. Especially in the professional education scenario, practical knowledge helps in the deep understanding of the concepts along with the origin and the importance of the facts learned through theoretical knowledge. Sometimes, there are some intricate lessons, which are not easy to communicate at that point, so practically demonstrating the things will be helpful in proper understanding. That's why practical training is beneficial to both the trainer and the learner.

In my opinion, both practical and theoretical subjects go hand in hand and, each has their own significance. Theory and practical are interrelated. Theory is the basis of all practical knowledge. For example, a person becomes a doctor in five and a half years, which has four and a half theory plus one year practical. So, for the overall development of the students, a mix of all subjects should be there.

To sum up, it can be said that both theory and practical subjects have their own importance. Both should be incorporated in the school and university curricula.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I shall discuss both issues.
Para 1: Advantages of studying theoretical subjects
Para 2: Advantages of studying practical subjects
Para 3: Own opinion – both go hand in hand
Conclusion: Both should be incorporated in the school and university curricula

299. *Some people think typical teaching of a teacher and students in the class will not exist by the year 2050. Do you agree or disagree?*

Technology is progressing at an exponential pace, and this makes it very difficult to predict what the schools and the teacher-taught relation of 2050 will be like. However, I do agree with the given statement, that the trend of education in the future would be very progressive and technology driven.

To begin with, education will be driven by technology, and learning will be able to happen anytime and anywhere. Students will also be able to make choices in how they learn the content. Learning will be based on individual interest and need. It will be student-centric, and not teacher-oriented. Technology will serve as a means to the resources that students will be able to utilize in order to broaden their learning.

Furthermore, teachers will become facilitators of knowledge and no longer the only experts, because of the rapid and constant changes and additions to information that can be found. For example, the amount of medical knowledge doubles every eight years. It is said that half of what an engineering student learns in their first year, is obsolete or revised by the time he/she graduates. The teacher will still guide students through learning, but it will be impossible for teachers to have all the knowledge. The teacher will still be needed to help students learn where to locate information, and help students evaluate sites and resources for validity.

Specialists in technology will need to be part of the educational environment to constantly enrich the learning environment for students. Each child will have a portable computer, and textbooks will not exist. Teachers will use tablet PCs and projectors to call up images at the front of the classroom at the touch of a button, with the old sound of chalk on a blackboard being replaced by the hum of desktop computers.

To sum up, despite all the new technology in 2050, school would still remain a social occasion and teachers would still be there even if their way of imparting knowledge would be driven by technology.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: agree
Para 1: Education will be driven by technology
Para 2: Teachers will become facilitators of knowledge and no longer the only experts
Para 3: Specialists in technology will need to be part of the educational environment to constantly enrich the learning environment for students
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

300. Full time university students spend most of the time studying. They should be doing other activities too. To what extent do you agree or disagree.

I agree with the statement that students who are enrolled full time at the university should participate in a range of extra-curricular activities besides studying. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, participating in extracurricular activities benefits students academically. One of these reasons is that students learn character-building lessons, which they can apply to their study habits and to their lives. Activities such as athletics, music, and theater teach students how to discipline themselves through drills, practices, or rehearsals. What is more, by participating and persevering in any of these activities, the students gain a sense of self-respect, self-esteem, and self-confidence.

Through extracurricular activities, students learn life skills such as time management that benefit them a lot. These activities take time out of the students' schedules, therefore the students must plan their time wisely and efficiently to complete the assigned tasks. In addition to organizational skills, extracurricular activities in the arts teach students analytical skills and creative problem solving skills, since they have to think creatively to successfully perform music, act in a play, or produce a work of art.

Furthermore, education is not solely learned by reading the textbook, for students can learn an incredible amount from their peers through extracurricular activities. Students learn how to compromise and work in a group. Extracurricular activities also allow students to meet and interact with peers that may not be within their close group of friends. In addition, extracurricular activities help to enhance these social skills and teach lessons not learned in a classroom. Although these social aspects of a student's life do not directly affect his or her grade point average, they do affect the overall wellbeing of the student. Finally, it is well known that nowadays, even recruiters look for social skills in addition to academic qualifications while looking for employees.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate my opinion that students at university should not just be engrossed in their books, but also do many other activities because these help students to receive better grades by teaching them character building lessons, teaching them lifelong skills, and helping students develop social skills.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree
Para 1: participating in extracurricular activities benefit students academically
Para 2: Through extracurricular activities, students learn life skills such as time management that benefit them a lot
Para 3: students can learn an incredible amount from their peers through extracurricular activities
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

301. Many people who leave school hold a negative attitude towards learning. Why does this happen? How to solve the problem?

It is a harsh reality of today that many students are not satisfied with their education at school, and have a negative attitude when they leave school. In this essay I shall discuss some reasons for this phenomenon, and suggest some solutions to mitigate the problem.

The first and foremost reason is that students see examples of their seniors around them, who are still struggling to find jobs, and even those who have found jobs are being underpaid and exploited. So, they presume that even after graduating from school they may not get a suitable job. They cannot see any benefit of studying and getting some degree. So, their negative attitude to learning is well justified.

Another reason for the students' negative attitude towards learning, is that their course of study was forced upon them by their parents, and their aptitude was not taken into consideration. For example, if a student, who wants to make his career in the field of music, is forced to study commerce, how can he feel positive about his studies?

Another important reason is that the teacher-taught relation is very strained these days. The ugly claws of commercialism have crept into the field of education. Education has become a business and the student is the customer. Teachers are biased towards the rich or the brilliant students, and this is very detrimental for the education process.

There could be many ways to address this situation. Firstly, while selecting courses, the students' aptitude should be taken into consideration. Parents also need counseling in this matter. Secondly, the infrastructure of the educational institutes should be improved, which includes the faculty also. The pay scale of the teachers should be so lucrative, that the best people want to enter this profession. Finally, there should be more stress in teaching a wide range of subjects rather than a narrow range, so that when the student enters the job market there are a variety of choices for him to work in.

To conclude, there is no doubt that most students hold a negative attitude towards learning, but the problem can be addressed in many ways.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: In this essay I shall discuss some reasons for this phenomenon and suggest some ways forward
Para1: Not sure of getting a suitable job
Para 2: Their aptitude was not taken into consideration while choosing the course of study
Para 3: Teacher-taught relation is very strained these days
Para 4: Solutions
Conclusion:

302. *The subjects and lesson contents are decided by the authorities such as the government. Some people argue that teachers should make the choice. Do you agree or disagree?*

In almost all parts of the world, there is a national curriculum decided by the government, which is followed in all schools. Some people, however, feel that it restricts the teachers' freedom to respond to the students' needs, and so teachers should decide the school curricula. I believe that the national curriculum is good enough, and has withstood the test of time, but some portion of the curriculum should be left in the hands of the teachers.

There are many advantages of having a curriculum decided by the government. Having a national curriculum standardizes what is taught across the country, giving equal opportunity to all. If we abolish the national curriculum, anything could be taught, and students would have even less equal opportunities. This would also worsen the gap between the government and private schools. It may also imply that religious schools could teach only religion and ignore science, and therefore many students would not receive a well-rounded education.

On the other hand, the problem is that the curriculum is too comprehensive. It tries to squeeze all children into the same mould. It is also true that the national curriculum does not allow for enough local variation. It is important for children to learn the values of things such as local history, accents and dialects. We are not all the same and school should reflect that.

What is actually needed, is a more flexible policy to allow for individual aptitudes and interests. However, there should still be a limited core curriculum, which should be decided by the government. At the same time, the teachers should be given some freedom to offer any other subjects, which the pupils and their parents want. Young people of all ages would be much more likely to thoroughly enjoy school, learn effectively, develop their individual talents, and gain a love of learning, which will illuminate their whole lives. Teachers would 'walk tall' in our society and establish their proper role as guardians of the future.

To sum up, it can be said that a national curriculum should be there, but there should also be room for teachers to have their say wherever needed.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I believe that the national curriculum is good enough and has withstood the test of time but some portion of the curriculum should be left in the hands of the teachers.
Para1: Advantages of having a national core curriculum
Para 2: Flaws in the national core curriculum
Para 3: Flexible policy needed and some part of core curriculum should be in the hands of teachers along with a basic national core-curriculum
Conclusion:

303. Nowadays sending children to boarding school (either in other countries or in one's own country) is becoming increasingly popular. Why is it? Is it a positive or a negative development?

Boarding schools have been extensively debated. One group considers them great boosters of a child's all round development, whereas the other as instruments of neglect of children's emotional needs. Nowadays, boarding schools are becoming very popular. This essay shall probe into the causes of this phenomenon, and also discuss whether this trend is good or bad.

People send their children to boarding schools for a number of reasons. Some parents, who work overseas or travel frequently, choose to put their children in boarding school, because they know how inconsistent they will be in parenting or in providing for the needs of their children. Other parents choose boarding school for their children as a way for them to experience more of the world, and to learn how to interact with diverse people from a young age. Still other parents put their children and teens in boarding school if they are having trouble disciplining their kids or keeping them out of trouble. Finally in this age of dual-income nuclear families, a child's life and development often takes place in rather unsuitable circumstances, and so boarding schools can be a great place for children to be in.

Seen in such a light, the option of a boarding school is very good. After all, these schools are not just about studies - they also give a child time and exposure to a lot of other things like sports and art. Also, children in such schools are more likely to have stronger bonds with their friends, since they spend a lot of time together.

Of course, there are drawbacks such as homesickness. Moreover, children in residential schools have fewer day-to-day interactions with their family, and significantly less time to spend with their parents during their formative years. As a result, many parents, who place their kids in boarding schools, fail to develop a close bond with their children.

To sum up, it can be said that we cannot say whether the trend is positive or negative. It depends on an analysis of the child's needs and the circumstances of the family. Also, it is generally advisable not to send a very young child to boarding school.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: This essay shall probe into the causes of this phenomenon and also discuss whether this trend is good or bad.
Para1: Reasons
Para 2: The positives
Para 3: The negatives
Conclusion: we cannot say whether the trend is positive or negative. It depends on an analysis of the child's needs and the circumstances of the family.

304. Memorization of information by frequent repetition, namely rote learning, plays a role in many education systems. To what extent do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

There are different methods of learning. Two such methods are 'rote learning' and 'meaningful learning'. Both have their own pros and cons. It is essential to look at the advantages and disadvantages of rote learning to reach a conclusion as to which approach is better.

There are many advantages of rote learning. To begin with, it is very helpful where quick memorization is required, such as learning one line in a play or memorizing a telephone number. It is also needed where verbatim recall of definitions or numbers is required. We all know that we need to remember phone numbers, mathematical formulae and definitions as such. If we don't cram them, then we will not be able to reproduce them when needed, and if any small part is changed then the whole thing goes wrong. Rote learning is the only way to learn certain things like irregular verbs and the vocabulary of a foreign language. There is no logic behind irregular verbs, and so we need to memorize them by heart. Finally, many students use the rote method to pass exams.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of rote learning. Firstly, the knowledge acquired by rote is not retained for long. If a person does not repeat information learnt by rote for few days, then the whole thing can be forgotten. Moreover, information learned by rote, cannot be applied in a wide variety of new problems or concepts. For example, if we learn something by rote in math, then we cannot apply it in other subjects like physics. In meaningful learning, the transferability of knowledge is high. Finally, it can be very boring to learn everything by rote.

Definitely, rote learning should not be the only method of learning. Meaningful learning is a must if we want to progress in life and apply our skills in varied fields. However, rote learning has its own importance in some situations. So, the education systems should incorporate both - rote and meaningful learning.

To sum up, it can be said that rote learning has its own advantages, which cannot be overlooked. It should be coupled with meaningful learning, so that its disadvantages can be minimized.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: It is essential to look at the advantages and disadvantages of rote learning to reach a conclusion
Para1: advantages of rote learning
Para 2: disadvantages of rote learning
Para 3: Rote learning should not be the only method of learning. There should be meaningful learning and the rote method should be applied only where needed.
Conclusion:

305. Some people think secondary school students should study international news as one of their subjects. Other people say this is a waste of valuable school time. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Because of the IT revolution and the faster means of travel, we do not belong to a big planet 'Earth'; we belong to a small global village, which is very well connected and that is why there is a debate as to whether secondary school students should study international news as a subject. In this essay I shall discuss both views followed by my opinion.

Admittedly, the youth of today can benefit by studying international news as a subject. This would enrich their experience and broaden their horizon. From the news of any part of the world, students would become aware of the social, political and environmental problems faced by other countries. This could motivate them to do something for their own country, if they are lagging behind or even help the other nations by volunteering to help. For instance, when Tsunami struck Japan voluntary workers from all parts of the world reached out to help. Moreover, the significance of opening international news subject is that students can have a general view of the world, which could help them decide their career.

On the other hand, as secondary school students face stiff competition nowadays, it would be unfair to add the burden of another subject. Moreover, 'international news' would have an ever-changing syllabu,s and so would be practically impossible to introduce as a subject. Finally, in the pluralistic society of today, some news may hurt the sentiments of any particular sect of people and could give rise to conflicts.

In my opinion, international news should not be introduced as a subject. However, steps should be taken by secondary schools to keep students abreast of what is happening in the world by having a short (5 minute) session in the morning assembly in which every day a student could speak the headlines. This would keep students up-to-date without having the tension of memorizing things.

To conclude, it could be said that international news should not be a subject, but students should be made aware of the international scenario in other informal ways.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para1: advantages of studying international news
Para 2: disadvantages of international news as a subject
Para 3: Own view – international news should not be a subject but a 5 minute news break in morning assembly can be there which would keep students abreast of the latest happenings of the world
Conclusion: Subject of international news should not be there

306. *In many countries, good schools and medical facilities are available only in cities. Some people think new teachers and doctors should work in rural areas for a few years, but others think everyone should be free to choose where they work. Discuss and give your own opinion.*

As a big gap is there between the urban and rural areas, some people opine that teachers and doctors, who are fresh out of college, should work in villages for a few years. However, others believe that the choice of where to work should be left on the teachers and doctors. In this essay, I shall discuss the merits and demerits of both approaches and finally give my opinion.

There are many advantages of having teachers and doctors work in rural areas. Firstly, the people in the villages will have access to medical care and education, which they are deprived of normally. Secondly, it would be good for the teachers and doctors, who are fresh from university to translate their theoretical knowledge into practice. In urban areas there are already so many experienced teachers and doctors. Therefore, people would naturally not opt for the fresh graduates. In a rural setting, they would gain a lot of confidence very early on in their career. Finally, a few of these doctors and teachers may choose to live permanently in those villages to serve humanity.

On the other hand, this compulsory policy may have some negative effects. To begin with, we belong to a democratic country and everyone has a right to work where one pleases. Such enforcement may result in working passively and there will be no motivation. So the rural residents may not get appropriate treatment and service. Secondly, fewer and fewer students would choose such majors and careers, and so in the long run there would be shortage of such professionals.

In my opinion, it would be better to have such a rule. It would be a win-win situation for both, rural people and the professionals. It would also help to bridge the gap between the cities and the countryside. The government can, however, make fresh teachers and doctors want to work in the rural areas by offering higher salaries and other incentives.

To sum up, it could be said that sending doctors and teachers to rural areas would be an ideal situation, but the government should offer some financial and non-financial schemes to the fresh doctors and teachers so that they willingly go to such areas and work with full zeal and energy.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para1: Advantages of having teachers and doctors work in rural areas
Para 2: Compulsory policy may have some negative effects
Para 3: Own opinion
Conclusion:

307. Some people think that students benefit from going to private secondary schools. Others, however, feel that private secondary schools can have a negative effect on society as a whole. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

In order to choose the right type of secondary school, you need to weigh all of the options open to you. It is a highly debated issue whether private secondary schools are good or bad for society. In the following paragraphs, I intend to delve into the pros and cons of private secondary schools.

On the positive side, most of the private schools offer smaller classroom size, and so the child can receive more individual attention from teachers. It is a well-known fact that secondary education is very important, because in most cases the career is based on secondary school subjects. Secondly, private secondary schools offer better academic and extracurricular programs. As a result, there are lower dropout rates. Finally, there is less on-campus violence in private schools as compared to government schools. This is because students realize that their parents are spending huge sums of money on their schooling, and so they are more serious in studies.

On the downside, there is less diversity in private schools as compared to public or government schools. As a result, children will meet fewer peers from diverse backgrounds because of the high tuition fee. Secondly, private secondary schools don't conform strictly to educational regulations. So, you have to do a lot of effort to select the right school for your child.

Finally, these schools are very expensive and consequently increase the gap between the rich and the poor. The children from affluent backgrounds can afford these schools and get quality education, because of which they get into the best universities for higher education. The disadvantaged children of poor backgrounds find it very difficult to compete with them in all spheres of life. So, these create an imbalance in society.

Summing up, private secondary schools are providing quality education and are a boon for society. However, they should have some relaxation in fees for the meritorious students of poor backgrounds, so that their disadvantages are minimized.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: Advantages of private secondary schools
Para 2: Disadvantages of private secondary schools
Para 3: More disadvantages of private secondary schools
Conclusion: Secondary schools are very good but should have some relaxation in fee for the meritorious students

308. Some people think it is better for children to begin to learn a foreign language at primary school than at secondary school. What's your opinion? Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Language is the best means of communication. In the modern era of globalization, it is not enough to be able to speak one language to communicate with the outside world. I strongly support the idea that children should begin learning a foreign language at primary school than at secondary school. They become familiar with a strange language faster, improve their hearing ability to understand new words as time goes by and learn new words. In the following paragraphs, I will list some reasons to support my position.

Firstly, there is no doubt that a young mind readily absorbs new information. Child psychologists often mention, that the most formative years of learning happen in the first few years of life. Therefore, what children are exposed to is very often retained and remembered. In this way, a child is in a good position to learn the new information associated with a new language.

Secondly, senior students are often afraid to make mistakes when they are speaking in a new language. This fear is one of the biggest barriers for a person in their efforts to speak freely. Primary school children are not afraid of making grammatical mistakes because basically they just repeat words and sentences in the way they hear them. So, they have a better chance to get used to the right pronunciation of the language.

To sum up, I think that it is very essential for children to begin learning a foreign language in their early ages. It brings many benefits such as great pronunciation. Also, it helps a child develop and gain more knowledge, which is good for the long run.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: I strongly support the idea that children should begin learning a foreign language at primary school than at secondary school
Para 1 – a young mind readily absorbs new information
Para 2 – Primary school children are not afraid of making grammatical mistakes because basically they just repeat words and sentences in the way they hear them
Conclusion: it is very essential for children to begin learning a foreign language in their early ages

309. Some people think that using animals for experimentation purpose is cruel, but other people think that is necessary for the development of science. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Animal experimentation has been a debated issue for many decades. Some people believe that scientists locking up animals in a laboratory environment, is not what nature intended, whereas others believe that laboratory animals perform a great service for humans. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives before reaching a conclusion.

The major advantage of animal experimentation is in testing newly discovered drugs. For many years now, scientists have been working hard to develop cures for diseases. From time to time, new medicines and drugs are created, which may be a solution to a serious illnesses affecting mankind. In order to determine if there is any level of danger in these drugs, these are first tested on animals. For example, who has not heard of the Thalidomide case? In 1952, a drug was used for vomiting of pregnancy. Obviously, it was not tested properly. All the children born had seal-like limbs. By the time it was known that thalidomide was responsible, it was too late and much harm had been done.

Another reason for justification of animal experimentation is that the effect of any drug can be seen over generations. We all know that the life span of guinea pigs used for experimentation is very small, only 3-4 years, and so the effect of drugs can be tested over generations. Even if humans volunteered for testing, it would take many years to test whether the effect passed from one generation to the other.

The arguments against animal experimentation are that animals are also sentient beings, and we have no right to exploit them for our selfish motives. Secondly, they are very different from humans and so what is tested on animals cannot be applied to humans. Finally, unnecessary experiments are done just for new cosmetics, which are not even needed, which is bad.

Summing up, animals are not humans. Although the life of animals in a lab is regrettable, I much prefer a guinea pig to die than a human being. The human need must always come first. It is sad that any living thing must suffer, but the use of laboratory animals in testing new products made today, would go a long way towards helping humankind enjoy a better tomorrow.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para1: Animal experimentation needed to know the side effect of drugs before trying on humans
Para 2: Through animal experimentation we can see the effect over generations
Para 3: Arguments against animal experimentation
Conclusion: Animal experimentation is justified

310. *Some people think the main benefit of international cooperation is in protection of the environment, while others think that the main benefit is in the world business. Discuss both views and give your opinion.*

Today, we do not belong to a big planet Earth. We are part of a small global village. This has led to a greater need for international cooperation in many crucial issues such as poverty, starvation, environmental protection, terrorism and global warming. Some individuals are of the opinion that the main benefit of global cooperation has been in protection of the environment, but others hold the view that the main benefit is in international trade. In this essay, I intend to delve into both views and finally give my opinion.

International cooperation does contribute a lot in environmental protection. First of all, many governments have realized that it is a grave issue, and have taken steps to aware the masses of the simple steps they can take to save the environment. Besides educating the people, the Kyoto agreement was signed by many countries in the United Nations Charter that they would not set up any industry, which would emit more than 5.2% carbon dioxide. However, not enough positive outcome could be seen.

The role of international cooperation in world business is self-evident. Today, we can buy any foreign brand like Reebok and Nike in our country, and our Indian brands like Videocon have touched the international market. This has brought the economy of developing countries quite close to the developed ones.

In my opinion, although a lot has been done in both areas, a lot more needs to be done in the field of environment. The steps already taken are not enough and the governments need to tackle this issue on a war footing. When countries step forward to do something, the issue of CDR (common but differentiated responsibility) comes in, and there are differences among the developed and developing countries. The developed world, which is mainly responsible for damaging the environment, should take more responsibility in saving the environment.

Summing up, international co-operation has benefited the world business much more than the environment.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Discuss essay intro
Para 1: What has been done internationally for environment
Para 2: What has been done internationally for business
Para 3: own view – a lot more needs to be done for the environment
Conclusion: More has been done for trade than environment

311. The increased world demand for oil and gas has made it necessary for locating these sources in remote and untouched natural areas. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of damaging these natural areas? (Against Drilling)

Drilling for oil and gas around the world is a source of significant income, but at the same time it is placing increasing pressure upon the global environment. There is a race for seeking these resources in remote and previously untouched areas such as Alaska and Antarctica. However, I firmly believe that the cons of tapping these resources outweigh the pros. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

It is irrefutable that fossil fuels helped to drive the industrial revolution and increase our luxuries. Their extraction has caused a terrible impact in the environment and continues to damage this planet. The main problem with the extraction of fossil fuels is that the transportation of these fuels can be very expensive. A lot of infrastructure is required, with pipelines and shipping routes stretching thousands of kilometres.

Furthermore, sometimes accidents can occur when these materials are taken overseas. These accidents are not only expensive to the human pocket, but also harm the environment in an immeasurable way. An example of this is the spill, which took place in 1989 in Alaska. This was the largest spill in the history of the United States. About 2,800 sea otters and 250,000 seabirds were killed by the spill. Harbor seals, bald eagles, killer whales, and salmon were also greatly affected.

The final problem would be the greenhouse effect. The extraction and use of fossil fuels is causing global warming. This is because when we use fossil fuels, it causes carbon dioxide, water vapor, ozone, nitrous oxide, halocarbon gases, and methane to collect in the upper layers of atmosphere, which causes the greenhouse effect. We have to use alternative sources of energy, which are non-polluting. Otherwise, the whole Earth will very soon transform into a boiling pot.

To conclude, there is no doubt that fossil fuels are a very important resource in these times, and because of them we have many luxuries such as cars, heating, electricity, running water, and many more. But, we cannot forget that our biggest luxury is our planet, and it is being damaged by the excessive extraction and use of these fuels. This is why people around the world should support the use of renewable resources. By doing this, we will not only have a chance to restore the environment, but can also still have a comfortable and much healthier way of life.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: cons of tapping these resources outweigh the pros
Para 1: transportation of these fuels can be very expensive
Para 2: sometimes accidents can occur when these materials are taken overseas
Para 3: The extraction and use of fossil fuels is causing global warming.
Conclusion – people around the world should support the use of renewable resources.

312. The increased world demand for oil and gas has made it necessary for locating these sources in remote and untouched natural areas. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of damaging these natural areas? (For Drilling)

Drilling for oil and gas around the world is a source of significant income, but at the same time it is placing increasing pressure upon the global environment. There is a race for seeking these resources in remote and previously untouched areas such as Alaska and Antarctica. However, I firmly believe that the pros of tapping these resources outweigh the cons. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Oil drilling should be allowed in order to lower the fuel prices, which will play a significant role in the economic growth of any country. If it is banned in a particular region, it leads to a situation, whereby the dependence on other countries for oil increases. In simpler words, oil import increases and consequently, it affects the overall country's income.

Another benefit of oil drilling is that the process of drilling itself and development of land after the extraction will help in engaging people, thus creating jobs for hundreds of citizens. What is more, with the development of new technologies, it has been seen that oil drilling can be done without damaging the environment and disturbing the plant and animal habitat. In the last two decades there have been no accidents, such as oil spills.

Environmentalists oppose oil drilling and suggest that alternative sources of energy should be used. However, it is well known that the initial cost of setting up the solar panels and wind farms is exorbitantly high. Therefore, I reiterate my opinion in favour of drilling for oil and gas. Even if renewable sources of energy are tapped, still the demand for oil and gas will never lessen.

To conclude, I believe that drilling for oil in remote areas is the need of the day and therefore its advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: pros of tapping these resources outweigh the cons
Para 1: Oil drilling should be allowed in order to lower the fuel prices that will play a significant role in the economic growth of the country.
Para 2: Another benefit of oil drilling is that the process of drilling itself and development of land after the extraction will help in engaging people, thus creating jobs for hundreds of citizens
Para 3: Opponents view and then refute it
Conclusion – I believe that drilling for oil in remote areas is the need of the day and therefore its advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

313. *Some people tend to take temporary jobs (they only work for few month of year), for they have time to do other things. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?*

In a time when jobs are few and employers receive hundreds of resumes for one vacancy, temporary jobs are gaining popularity. Although temporary jobs have both advantages and disadvantages, the pros definitely outweigh the cons.

To begin with, temporary work is relatively easy to get. If the candidate's credentials match the temporary job requirements he might be called upon to fill the position. Secondly, doing temporary work will give a candidate the much needed work experience. Most companies require two to three year experience, which puts recent graduates at a loss. Doing temporary work will give them that experience.

Another benefit of doing temporary work is that if a vacancy becomes available within the company, the temporary worker will have first knowledge of it, and can apply before the job gets posted on-line or handed over to employment agencies. If a temporary worker excels in his current job, chances are that he might be asked to stay on with the company on a full-time basis. Furthermore, by going from company to company, a temporary worker gets a lot of exposure. He doesn't just learn one job in the course of his employment he might gain experience in different fields.

Moreover, by doing temporary work, a worker will also be exposed to different kinds of environments. In addition, a temporary worker will get exposure to different kinds of personalities. By learning to work with different kinds of people, a temporary worker can sharpen his people skills. Last but not least, if a temporary worker needs some time off, he can just make himself unavailable for a while, until he is ready to take on the next assignment.

On the downside, a temporary job does not have job security and you may be fired any time. You also do not get the perks and benefits that regular full time employees get. There may be gaps in your employment from time to time.

Summing up, disadvantages of temporary jobs are far less than the advantages. For some people, a temporary job is just temporary until they find something full-time, while for others it is a way of life.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: the pros definitely outweigh the cons
Para 1: Advantages
Para 2: More advantages
Para 3: More advantages
Para 4: Disadvantages
Conclusion: disadvantages of temporary jobs are far less than the advantages

314. *Some people say that professional workers such as doctors, nurses and teachers, who make greater contribution to the society should be paid more than those people in the field of sports and entertainment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

The high incomes of celebs in the field of sports and entertainment have always been a matter of dispute. I disagree that doctors, nurses and teachers should be paid more than these celebrities. I shall put forth my arguments to support my views in the following paragraphs.

No doubt, doctors, nurses and teachers are making a great contribution to society, but the contribution of these celebrities is also no less. They provide us entertainment and inspiration, and they also bring name and fame to our country. They are role models for the society and people follow them and listen to them.

My second argument is that they have a very short career span. Most of the people in the sports and entertainment field start their career at the age of 19-20 and retire by 33-35 years. A doctor, teacher or nurse does not ever retire if he does not wish to. For example, my uncle is a doctor and even at the age of 94 he goes to his clinic for two hours every day. Whatever these celebs earn is during these few years and after that they face struggle. Of course, there are exceptions such as the great legend Amitabh Bachhan, but such examples can be counted on fingertips.

My final argument is that these celebs sacrifice their personal life completely, and so they do deserve these high salaries. They cannot enjoy the common things of life like the common man does. They are always followed by the paparazzi, and their children also always need security. This is too much price to pay, and so the high salaries they receive are fully justified.

Summing up, people in the field of sports and entertainment, well deserve their high incomes. Their services to the society are as important as, if not more, the services of doctors, teachers and nurses.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: disagree
Para 1: Points in favour of higher salaries for celebs
contribution of these celebrities is also no less - They provide us entertainment and inspiration - bring name and fame to our country – are role models
Para 2: More points
they have a very short career span
Para 3: these celebs sacrifice their personal life completely and so they do deserve these high salaries
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

315. *Some countries have introduced a law to limit working hours for employees. Why is this law introduced? Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?*

There are countries in the world, such as USA, Canada, Australia and many more, where a person cannot work for more than 40 hours a week. In my opinion, it is a positive development. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss, why this law was introduced, and my arguments to support my views.

This law was mainly introduced with a view to protecting the economic rights of the workers, and preventing exploitation. It is seen that in places where there is no such law, employees are exploited, and instead of a normal working from 9am to 5pm, they are made to sit in offices from 9am to 9pm at no extra pay. Many other benefits of this law, such as improvement in the physical and mental health of the employees, and better family relationships automatically followed.

This law is beneficial because, in this fast moving world of today, people have become workaholics. In order to satisfy their material desires, they are forgetting to draw a line between work and family. If working hours are fixed, then they have enough time for their family life and leisure. Secondly, overworking leads to stress and can lead to nervous breakdown in extreme cases. People also find time for their regular exercise if working hours are fixed.

Furthermore, having a limit on working hours also helps solve the problem of unemployment. More number of people working for a fixed number of hours is better than lesser number of people working more number of hours. What is more, it has been proved by researches that having a limit on the working hours increases the output and productivity of employees. This could be a win-win situation for both, the employers and employees.

Some people oppose this law by saying that it is an infringement of rights. They say that if a person has the ability to work more, he should be allowed to work. Nonetheless, it has been seen that in countries where such laws are there, people have a better life, better working conditions, lesser degree of unemployment and better productivity of employees.

Summing up, this law was imposed in the benefit of employees and employers and it has many advantages.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: This essay shall discuss why this law was imposed. It is a positive development
Para 1: why this law was imposed
To protect economic rights and prevent exploitation
Para 2: why it is a positive development
people have enough time for their family life and leisure
there is lesser stress
Para 3: Opponents view and then refute them
Conclusion:

316. *In some countries, it is illegal for companies to reject job applicant for their age. Is this a positive or a negative development?*

Age discrimination occurs when a decision to hire is made on the basis of a person's age. There could be a reluctance to hire young workers on the basis of lack of experience, or there could be a bias against older workers. I believe that a law against rejecting a job applicant on the basis of his age, is a positive development. In the following paragraphs, I intend to support my views with my arguments.

My first argument is that age is not necessarily an indication of inferior ability or potential. Therefore, treating a person less favourably purely on the basis of his age is very unreasonable and unfair. There are many examples in our day-to-day life, when we see that the elderly are better even at handling the latest technology than some youngsters. Therefore, talent, and not age should be considered. If a particular elderly worker truly has, say, less concentration or manual strength than a younger worker, and this makes him less qualified for the particular job, and then employers can still make their decisions based on his relative lack of suitability for the job – not on the basis of his age. Age by itself should not be a determinant.

Secondly, if the elderly were discriminated against on the basis of age, then it would cause a strain on public resources because the ageing population is largely a dependent population. Demographic trends show that today we belong to a graying society and people are living increasingly longer lives. Therefore, if this population is without jobs just because they are older, then it will be a strain on the younger population also to provide everything to them. This population forms a majority today, and we can all imagine what would happen if the majority does not pay taxes.

Finally, discrimination discourages potentially talented job seekers from applying. As a result, employers lose by having a smaller pool of workers to choose from. In societies that celebrate youthfulness above all else, even highly qualified professionals resist from applying for new openings after the age of 50. In some cases, the fear of age discrimination has led to an increasing demand for cosmetic surgery.

Summing up, having legislation against age discrimination while hiring, is a positive development because it is fair, it adds to economy and employers have more choices while recruiting.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: It is a positive development
Para 1: Age is not a determinant of talent
Para 2: We belong to a greying society and rejecting elderly workers would lead to a strain on government
Para 3: Age discrimination would deter talented job seekers from applying
This has also led to the need for cosmetic surgeries
Conclusion: reiterate opinion

317. *Nowadays, some workplaces tend to employ equal numbers of men and women workers. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?*

Traditional male dominated workplaces are decreasing nowadays, and some workplaces are giving jobs to equal number of men and women. I believe that this is a negative development. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

My first argument is that reserving half the seats for women could lead to negative discrimination against men. Both men and women should have the same right to choose their profession. People should be chosen for jobs based on their skills, qualification and character. Gender should not come in the way of the selection process. Having a fixed quota would mean that some qualified men might be denied a job, while some unqualified women would be given one.

Secondly, considering today's scenario, this quota might go against women. It has been seen in the recent years that more and more women are opting for higher education. For example, thirty years ago, in a typical class of any medical college, girls were far less as compared to boys. Today, the situation is reversed. This means, that today some workplaces could be dominated by women. So, having a reservation in the workplace could mar the chances of deserving women. With high levels of education, even the highest positions in science, politics or law, for example, can be held successfully by women. Women have proved their mettle in many jobs traditionally thought to be the domain of men. Who has not heard of our IPS officer Kiran Bedi? Therefore, such a quota is not needed by the women of today.

Finally, it could be said that having a quota would not ensure moving towards an egalitarian society, where all are considered equal. Those who tend to discriminate against women would find some other ways to discriminate, such as by underpaying the women at the same posts as men.

Summing up, the trend of employing an equal number of men and women in the workplace is a negative development, because it could lead to negative discrimination against men, it may boomerang against women, and it is not needed by the women of today.

PLAN FOLLOWED
Intro: it is a negative development
Para 1: it may result in negative discrimination against men
Para 2: It may boomerang against women
Para 3: It would not lead to an egalitarian society
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

318. Men are placed in most high-level jobs. Some people say that the government should encourage a certain percentage of these jobs to be reserved for women. Do you agree or disagree?

Since the beginning of twentieth century, women have fought for equal rights and opportunities in society. As a result, in many countries these days, women make up 50% of the workforce. However, it is still a fact that high positions, such as CEO jobs are still dominated by men. Although this is not desirable, I do not personally believe that imposing a quota is the solution.

Firstly, I believe that companies have a right to choose the best person for the job, whatever their gender, in order to contribute to the success of their business. Forcing companies to hire, promote and appoint women could negatively affect businesses in the short term and even in the long term. Reserving a few seats for women may also result in negative discrimination against deserving men.

Furthermore, I believe that this problem should be solved outside the workplace. Girls need to be encouraged to take more male-dominated subjects at school and later at university, and to aspire to do well in their careers. Girls and boys also need to be taught equality from an early age. This education can take place in schools, career programmes and in homes.

Finally, it has been seen that artificially imposing rules has not always had the desired effect. In places where governments required males and females to receive the same pay for the same job, employers simply changed job titles to ensure that women were still paid less than men. It is my belief that employers will simply find loopholes to get around any such law.

Summing up, forcing companies to allocate jobs to women is not the best way to address this imbalance. Rather it is a question of education and of changing mindsets, so that those who deserve to be at the top, will earn it and be appropriately appointed.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree. Imposing quota is not the solution
Para 1:
Promotion should be on merit and not related to gender
Quota could result in negative discrimination against deserving men
Para 2: This problem should be tackled outside the workplace – in schools and homes
Para 3: Earlier records show that people find loopholes against quotas
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

319. *What are the benefits of requiring young people to serve the army? Does participation in community work qualify as an alternative?*

Military service is voluntary in most of the world. However, it is compulsory in some countries like Mexico and Iran. Although it has many benefits, some people argue its mandatory nature. Therefore, some alternatives, such as community service, can be taken into account.

There are many advantages of military conscription. First of all, young people can raise their physical fitness and enjoy better health. They also develop a sense of team spirit and improve abilities to get along well with others. They learn to cope with problems independently, and gain self-confidence. What is more, they expand their social circle, as people from different corners of the country are together in the army camps. This can prove an invaluable asset when they return to civilian life.

It is irrefutable that army officers are very efficient, disciplined and excellent time managers. They are highly respected by the civilians. Some of them may join the army permanently if they like that life. It is also considered a positive point when they look for other jobs. It also instills a sense of patriotism among the youth. However, despite all these benefits, its mandatory nature is arguable. Many young people cannot cope with the high level of stress in the army. That's why community service is suggested as an alternative in most countries.

Community service requires young people to contribute part of their time, energy and skills only. Moreover, community service tends to offer a direct assistance to participants in preparing for the workforce. By volunteering, young adults develop skills, gain work experience and explore career options. They can also acquire practical knowledge through community service.

Summing up, military service is helpful only when it is voluntary. Mandatory military service does not suit all young people, whereas community service benefits every young person. Therefore, community service is better than military conscription.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Balanced approach
Para 1: Advantages of military conscription
Para 2: More advantages of military conscription
Para 3: Advantages of community service
Conclusion: Compulsory military service is not good. Community service is better.

320. The traditional life style of local people in developing countries is attracting and increasing the number of tourists to the countries, which has the effect of preventing local people changing to modern ways. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Recent years have witnessed a marked interest in international tourism, and the traditional lifestyles of people in the developing countries are acting as magnets to the tourists. I firmly believe that this is deterring the local people to change their customs and traditions and adopt modern ways of life. A number of arguments support my opinion.

The most convincing argument to support this view is that the presence of visitors who continually praise the host culture gives people a kind of confidence and pride in their traditions, and makes them truly believe that their culture is glorious and thus worthy of this praise and therefore justly admired. This realization removes any possibility in the people's mind that their lifestyle is in any way inferior to that of advanced nations, and plays an important role in retaining their lifestyle in general. For example, when tribal people of Rajasthan, India are appreciated for their clothing style and their dances, such as the 'Snake Charmer's Dance', they put even more effort to practice those art forms and present them to the tourists.

Secondly, it is a well-known fact that nothing destroys culture faster than poverty. This poverty of the tribal people is alleviated when the tourists visit them for what they are. They come to realise and accept the fact that their bread and butter will be lost if they change to modern lifestyles and therefore they stick to their culture and traditions. Today, even in this era of globalisation, it is irrefutable that 'culture' sells. When there is recession all around and people in the modern world are finding it difficult to make both ends meet, these people are just living their life and the tourist dollar is flowing in. An interesting example where people are retaining to their old ways of life even in the developed country such as the USA can be seen in the Amish village Philadelphia. It is a very popular tourist destination and people go there to see how those people are living without what are considered the basic necessities of modern life.

The final reason for people retaining their traditional life style is that the facilities developed for tourists benefits them eventually and they know very well that if the inflow of tourists stops then government will not invest in those areas and they will be the losers in the long run. Benefits can include upgraded infrastructure, health and transport improvements, new sport and recreational facilities, restaurants, and public spaces as well as an influx of better-quality commodities and food.

To summarise, I side with the view that tourism is motivating people to retain their culture and tradition and not be lured into following the modern ways of life.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Agree

Para 1: presence of visitors who continually praise the host culture gives people a kind of confidence and pride in their traditions

Para 2: Culture sells

Para 3: facilities developed for tourists benefits them eventually and they know very well that if the inflow of tourists stops then government will not invest in those areas and they will be the losers in the long run

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

321. *The traditional life style of local people in developing countries is attracting and increasing the number of tourists to the countries, which has the effect of preventing local people changing to modern ways. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Recent years have witnessed a marked interest in international tourism and the traditional lifestyles of people in the developing countries are acting as magnets to the tourists. However, I disagree that this is deterring the local people to change their customs and traditions and adopt modern ways of life. A number of arguments support my opinion.

The most convincing argument to support this view is that the local people that come in contact with these tourists may develop a sort of copying behaviour, as they want to live and behave in the same way. This is because many tourists come from societies with different consumption patterns and lifestyles, which may seem more attractive to the locals especially in the less developed countries. To add to it, tourism can force the local people to alter their cultures, such as religious rituals and festivals to conform to tourist expectations, which may take them away from their traditional lifestyles.

Furthermore, tourists want souvenirs, arts, crafts, and cultural things, and in many tourist destinations, craftsmen have responded to the growing demand, and have made changes in design of their products to bring them more in line with the new customers' tastes. Another important reason why local people are not interested in sticking to their traditional lifestyles is that they feel they are being exploited to attract tourism, whereas the major chunk of profits goes to those who have the modern lifestyles. This is because, in developing countries, many jobs occupied by local people in the tourist industry are at a lower level, such as housemaids, waiters, gardeners and other practical work, while higher-paying and more prestigious managerial jobs go to foreigners or urbanized nationals.

A final reason to disagree with the given statement is that most tourists just want a glimpse of new things, and are mainly looking for familiar things in unfamiliar surroundings such as fast food outlets and well-known hotel chains. When such places are made for the tourists, the local people also use them and eventually a transition to the modern lifestyle occurs.

To summarise, I disagree with the view that tourism is motivating people to retain their culture and tradition. In fact tourism thrusts traditional communities into the modern world, threatening their distinct lifestyles and cultural products.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: local people that come in contact with these tourists may develop a sort of copying behaviour
Para 2: tourists want souvenirs - changes in design of their products to bring them more in line with the new customers' tastes. They feel they are being exploited to attract tourism whereas the major chunk of profits goes to those who have the modern lifestyles
Para 3: most tourists just want a glimpse of new things and are mainly looking for familiar things in unfamiliar surroundings such as fast food outlets and wellknown hotel chains
Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

322. *A lot of charities and organisations have to publicize their activities by setting up a number of days to name the special day like National Children's day and National nonsmoking day. Why do they do so? What are the effects?*

Charities and organisations are formed to help the needy sections of society. Generally, they are NPOs or non-profit organisations. Nowadays, it has been seen that they set up a number of days like 'Mother's Day' and 'No Smoking Day'. In this essay I shall discuss the causes and effects of this phenomenon.

The main reason why these NPOs do so is to raise funds for their working. This is very essential, because for every activity they do to help others, they need money and other resources. When they publicize their activities, they get people's attention and so people contribute whole-heartedly. Sometimes, in times of calamities, they need a lot of funds and manual help. They need voluntary workers. For example, recently in Ladakh, a cloudburst caused havoc. Many people lost their lives and there was a lot of damage of property. The Rotary Club and Jaycee Club of my hometown sent many volunteers to help. The government alone cannot be at all places. Because of such organisations, people get timely help and a lot of burden is eased from the government's shoulders.

When these organisations name special days, it brings people together. With more activities opened and more days named, more and more people focus their attention and put their time and energy and realise the importance of doing for others. As a consequence, community spirit increases in society. As it is nowadays, people are getting self-centered and alienated from each other. So, such days are the need of the day.

Such days also, keep our youth in touch with our culture and traditions. With the exposure to global culture, youth today are forgetting their traditions. To establish some days may help the young people understand the importance of such events. Such days also increase awareness of offering help selflessly. Hence, some virtuous habits may pass from one generation to the other. Finally, such days deter people from bad habits. For e.g., on National No Smoking Day, people are made aware about the harmful effects of smoking.

To summarise, charities and NPOs publicize their activities because they need funds, and they name certain days so that people come together and celebrate and realize the importance of their culture and tradition

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: In this essay I shall discuss the causes and effects of this phenomenon.
Para 1: The main reason why these NPOs do so is to raise funds for their working
Para 2: Secondly, it brings people together
Para 3: Such days keep our youth in touch with our culture and traditions. Such days deter people from bad habits
Conclusion:

323. *Rich countries should not employ skilled labour from poor countries, as poor countries need the workers more. Do you agree or disagree?*

Rich countries depend heavily on cheap imported labour to increase their profit margin. This demand for outsourcing increased further during recession faced by USA. Although poor countries may need their skilled workers to help them develop as a nation, it is felt that overall greater benefit is seen when rich countries employ their skilled workers. This essay shall analyze how the employment of cheap foreign labour helps the developing countries also by giving them chances for skill development and economic growth.

Firstly, when developed countries outsource work, requiring skilled labour from developing countries, a demand is created in those poor countries, which leads to the development of higher education in those poorer nations. For example, in the late twentieth century India saw a huge influx of software development work from the United States, and this corresponded positively with an equal growth in the Indian tech-related education sector. This example shows that if developing countries make their skilled labour available for hire to the world, they also develop their internal infrastructure such as good educational institutes. Thus, developing countries are also benefited when an openness to foreign employment is embraced.

In addition to this, the economies of developing countries are given new avenues in which to grow when a working partnership with developed countries is established. Again, take the relationship between the United States and India as an example. Currently, English-speaking youth in India handle telephone support for many different American products. These employment options encourage more and more Indians to study English, which in turn creates all sorts of new opportunities for business relationships between the two countries. Thus, the idea that poor countries should close their doors to foreign interest in their skilled labour is not supported.

It has also been seen that workers from poor countries earn more from rich countries than they would from employment within their country. Most of them invest that money in their own country and this improves the overall economy of the poor countries. These workers also learn better methods of work and impart their cost-effective ideas to the rich nations, which proves to be a win-win situation for both, the developing and developed nations.

Summing up, poorer countries are in most cases bettered by making their skilled labour available to developed countries. This trend is in no way detrimental to their own development.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree.
Para 1: First advantage - a demand is created in those poor countries, which leads to the development of higher education in those poorer nations
Para 2: Second advantage - the economies of developing countries are given new avenues in which to grow when a working partnership with developed countries is established
Para 3: Third advantage - Most of them invest that money in their own country and this improves the overall economy of the poor countries
Conclusion:

324. With the increase in the use of mobile phones and computers, fewer people are writing letters. Some people think that the traditional skill of writing letters will disappear completely. To what extent do you agree or disagree? How important do you think is letter-writing?

It is irrefutable that in today's era of modern technology, many people struggle to produce letters and often avoid writing letters altogether. Nevertheless, I don't agree that this skill will die completely. In this essay I shall put forth arguments to support my view, and also discuss the importance of letter writing.

Firstly, let us consider the reasons why writing letters is less frequent nowadays. This is because of modern technology. These days we are much more likely to email someone than write a letter. In addition, our business communications have become more informal than in the past. As a result, a less formal style of writing is more acceptable. Other forms of communication such as text messaging have reduced our need to write letters even more.

However, in my opinion, there are times when there is no alternative to writing a letter. Letters are generally more formal and carefully composed than emails. This makes them more suitable for occasions when they are likely to be kept and re-read, perhaps several times, by the recipient, as with formal letters of thanks or sympathy. Letters provide a written record, unlike telephone calls, so they are also a better way of setting out an important or complex argument, as in the official complaints or legal matters. Moreover, that time is still very far when everyone will have a computer and Internet connection. Till that time letter writing can never disappear.

So, it can be seen that letter writing is a very important skill to learn because there are many parts of the world where it is very important to be formal. This is particularly true if you are involved in international business. Because of globalization the business world is becoming more and more international, and it is not always possible to pick up the telephone to talk to people. Consequently, I believe that letter writing will never die out completely. And even though these letters may be written on computers rather than by hand, we still need to learn and practise this skill.

To sum up, there are fewer times when we need to write letters than in the past. On the other hand, I feel there are still some important occasions when a letter is the most appropriate form of communication.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: Disagree
Para 1: Why the traditional letter writing skill is declining
Para 2: Instances where the skill of letter writing is still important
Para 3: Importance of letter writing
Conclusion:

325. Society is based on rules and laws. If individuals were free to do whatever they wanted to do, it could not function. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that laws are made to maintain order and provide justice and security to the citizens of a society. I completely agree with the given statement that if the people of any society were given freedom to do whatever they want to, then there will be utter chaos and confusion, leading to the downfall of civilization. In this essay, I will give some arguments to support my view.

To begin with, laws are made for the humans to function in an orderly manner. No doubt, right to freedom is everyone's birthright. However, a civilized society exists only if the people respect each other's rights, lives and property. This can only be achieved if they are given a set of rules or orders to follow. Without these rules or laws, any society is deemed to fail. To add to it, it is human nature to pursue personal interests. If given absolute freedom to do whatever people want to do, there will be too many people who would certainly fall into bad habits and vices. With a majority of the people disrespecting others' lives, rights or property, we will never have a civil society.

In addition to the above mentioned points, laws are made for the people to feel secure in their homes, at their workplaces, or while they are out enjoying with family and friends. There are different types of laws, like corporate law, criminal law, civil law, constitutional law and so on. All these rules and laws help the society on the whole, to feel safe and secure, and at the same time, deter those who have a tendency to harm others or commit frauds of any kind. For instance, if there were no traffic rules, there will be a huge number of casualties in road accidents, and there will be too much chaos and confusion on roads. Also, no one will be afraid of speeding or jumping a traffic light.

Admittedly, law cannot be absolute and needs to be amended with the changing world and the societal demands and values. In the complex and global society of today's world, a law written fifty years ago may not be applicable. For example, till the first half of the 20th century, women in many countries didn't have the right to vote. In today's world, we cannot even think of having such laws. Moreover, laws are there not to judge people on the basis of their gender, occupation, religion or race. They are there to make people realize their moral and social obligation, and to respect another person's rights and freedom.

In conclusion, I would reiterate that law is needed in any society to maintain order, ensure safety and to make people respect other members of the society. Also, in the absence of law, the wrongdoers will go unpunished, and it will lead to more chaos and crime in any society.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: agree.
Para 1: Rules are for orderly functioning of society
Para 2: Rules are for our safety
Para 3: Some rules are not befitting for today
Conclusion: the rules that we have are not too many but essential for the smooth functioning of any civil society

326. *Some people think that economic progress is the only way to measure a country's success, while others think that there are other factors, which can be used to measure a country's success. What are these factors? And among them, which one is more important than others?*

It is irrefutable that economic progress is one yardstick of determining a country's success, but there is a range of other non economic factors such as Literacy Rate (LR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Life Expectancy at Birth (LEB), and Environment Performance Index (EPI), which can be used to judge the well being of a nation. This essay shall delve into all such factors and also pick out the most significant one.

Economic progress, or in other words, the GDP has traditionally been the benchmark for determining the growth of a country. The true measure of success, however, is to determine how much of this economic growth is reaching the weakest sections of the society. A successful measure of development should represent the life of an average person in a country. It should measure the quality of life of all citizens.

One important factor is the Literacy Rate. For example, a country like Cuba has low GDP but less than 1% of its population is illiterate. As a consequence, there is less crime and hence people enjoy a peaceful existence. Another factor is the Primary Health Care. This can be judged by the Infant Mortality Rate, and the Life Expectancy at Birth. If people receive good healthcare at the primary level, they are happier. Their productivity of work increases, and they lead a comfortable life.

Furthermore, the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is also an index of mapping the success. For instance, Costa Rica has a low GDP, but its people are considered to be the happiest in the world. This is perhaps because it ranks 5th in the world in the EPI.

Summing up, 'Literacy Rate' is the most important factor to measure the success of a nation. GDP is just a mathematical value, and does not take into consideration many of the factors that affect a person's well-being and thus a nation's well being.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: This essay shall delve into all such factors and also pick out the most significant one.
Para 1: How economic progress is used to judge progress
Para 2: Literacy Rate and Infant Mortality Rate and Life Expectancy at Birth
Para 3: Environment Performance Index
Conclusion: Literacy Rate' is the most important factor

327. *History tells that people have often thought about creating an ideal society, but most of the times fail in making this happen. What is your opinion about an ideal society? How can we create an ideal society?*

If we look at history, it is clear that since time immemorial, people have always wanted to create an ideal society, but have been unsuccessful. In the following essay, I intend to discuss what makes an ideal society, and how we can create one.

An ideal society is a society where needs of the people regardless of their race, religion or wealth are met. Many great thinkers, such as Plato, Thomas More and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have offered their opinions on this to the public over the years. However, these dreams failed because different people have different ideals about a perfect society. To make it happen, either the ideals of all the people have to be fulfilled, or all the people would have to have the same ideals.

Imagine a society with no crime, no terrorism, no warfare, no conflicts of cultures, no racism, no gender discrimination, no poisoned tongues, no killing, no lying, no stealing, no adultery and no excuses. Such a society can never exist. It would be wrong even to think of one. A perfect society needs some kind of social inequality, or as I call it, a distinction in ability. Those, in the higher strata of society would be there because of their superior abilities and have greater responsibilities, and therefore, a higher social standing. An ideal society should have some struggle. If you had no struggle in life would you be happy? No, because that takes all the fun and enjoyment out of the difficulty, the losing, the failures, and the overcoming, the victory, the success.

There are many ways in which we can make an ideal society. First of all, there must be democracy and a strong government, which has the ability to rule over the country. It should try to make the citizens life better, by making better social and financial conditions to live. There should be no corruption in the government. Finally, I believe, one of the most necessary things of ideal society is freedom. No people and no society are happy and ideal when they are not free. However, we must remember that – 'One's freedom ends there where other's starts'. If we will feel free and do not disturb others freedom we will have ideal society. An ideal society would allow complete freedom to everybody and complete individuality.

To sum up, a perfect society is difficult to attain as everyone has different concepts of an ideal society. However, if we all respect our freedom, and in doing so know our limitations, so that others can enjoy their freedom, then it can be called an ideal society.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: In the following essay, I intend to discuss what makes an ideal society and how we can create one
Para 1: An ideal society is not possible
Para 2: A perfect society needs some kind of social inequality, or as I call it, a distinction in ability
Para 3: ways in which we can make an ideal society
Conclusion:

328. Throughout the history, male leaders always lead us to violence and conflict. If a society is governed by female leaders, it will be more peaceful. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

In the history of mankind, there have been many records of violence and conflicts in the form of wars. Some people think that if female leaders governed the society, it would be more peaceful. However, if we look into the past history, we can get numerous examples when there have been wars and conflicts even during the rule of women rulers. So, I disagree with the statement.

If we had female only rulers, we probably wouldn't be alive today. Surely, most wars happened during the reign of men, but that is only because more than 90% of rulers were men. Female rulers have also caused wars, and their fraction is a lot higher than that of male rulers. For example, during the Tang Dynasty, the first female ruler of China, Wu Zetian who was well-known for her tyranny and cruelty, launched a series of wars to expand the territory of the empire. This didn't happen only in China. It was Queen Victoria who invaded India, China and many other countries in close succession. Even our late Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, led India in a war against neighbouring Pakistan, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan.

It is understandable if you say that generally, women are more affectionate, thoughtful and gentle as compared with men. They are also less ambitious and aggressive. However, politics is decided by the interest. If you are the leader of a society, you surely have the required leadership qualities regardless of the gender. Apparently, leaders, male or female, will have to make a decision according to special interest.

Summing up, a society will not necessarily become more peaceful merely because a female leader is governing it, because essentially, there is no difference between genders, when it comes to politics.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: disagree

Para 1: Female rulers have also caused wars and their fraction is a lot higher than male rulers. Give examples

Para 2: politics is decided by the interest - leaders, male or female, will have to make a decision according to special interest.

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

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

Nature versus nurture debate has been around for ages, and has been supported well by both sides. Nature, referring to heredity, and nurture, referring to the environment, are two very reasonable explanations as to why we are the people we are today. It would be worthwhile to look at both sides of the issue before forming an opinion.

Nature is believed to be what determines our personalities, looks, and other things because it's all genetically passed down. It has been concluded that a newborn doesn't have a blank slate of personality, but does have a set of inherited traits. Identical twins reared apart are far more similar in personality than randomly selected pairs of people. Likewise, identical twins are more similar than fraternal twins. Also, biological siblings are more similar in personality than adopted siblings. Each observation suggests that personality is heritable to a certain extent.

The other side of the debate says that nurture is the cause to our behavior as well as characteristics. Even though genes are what give us those certain traits to our personality, the environment has the power to alter them, and make us into the exact opposite. Even the way that certain children are brought up can change how they turn out. If environment didn't play a part in determining an individual's traits and behaviors, then identical twins should, theoretically, be exactly the same in all respects, even if reared apart. But a number of studies show that they are never exactly alike, even though they are remarkably similar in most aspects.

The more we delve into the topic, the more the evidence reveals that the answer is "BOTH". Genes are the foundation of who we are, but the nurture we receive in our lives is what we finally turn out to be. Even the best of inborn talents can go unrecognized if not given proper training and education. But it would seem that "Nurture complements Nature, and that Nature's gift of rich human potential is realized through socialization and education.

To conclude, although both nature and nurture play a role in human personality and development, the influence of our upbringing and life experiences gets an edge over the genetic influences.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro: It would be worthwhile to look at both sides of the issue before forming an opinion.
Para 1: Role of nature in determining personalities
Para 2: Role of nurture in determining personalities.
Para 3: Role of both
Conclusion: although both nature and nurture play a role in human personality and development, the influence of our upbringing and life experiences gets an edge over the genetic influences

330. *People aim to achieve a balance between their work and lives, but few people achieve it. What are the causes of this problem? How to overcome it?*

An incredible amount of energy has been spent chasing the ideal work life balance, but most people fail to achieve it. This essay intends to discuss the possible reasons for this, and also suggest ways to overpower this problem.

The first reason for the inability to achieve a work life balance is the technology of today. We are more reachable than ever in the past. Work has gone global, and competition has gone stiffer. The cell-phone has thinned the line between personal and professional lives. The second blame goes to the materialistic society of today. People want to avail all the luxuries of life, and in that quest they become workaholics and then that attitude becomes a way of life, because the desires go on increasing and increasing.

Furthermore, people cannot achieve a work-life balance because the definition of a work-life balance is different for different people. People weave together their personal life with their professional life to get the best of life. What works for one person may not work for another. Making choices is what the balance between work and life is all about. There may be times when the choice between moving ahead with your career takes a back seat to your health or happiness at home. The priorities you identify as important keep changing and that is why achieving a perfect work-life balance is difficult.

The solutions are not simple. We must try to introspect and see what makes us happy and then set priorities in life. When we come home from work, we must learn to switch the office button off. Another key is adopting some flexibility. It never works if we are too rigid with the goals we set for ourselves. Last but not least, there is a beautiful term, 'downshifting', which means we should learn when enough is enough and then we all begin to enjoy life in its true form.

To sum up, work life balance is perceived in a different light by us all, and so achieving a perfect work life balance is difficult. However, we must all realise that contentment is the key to a perfect work-life balance.

PLAN FOLLOWED:

Intro:
Para 1: Reasons why we don't achieve a perfect work-life balance
Para 2: More reasons
Para 3: Solutions
Conclusion:

331. *A hundred years ago, people think that human race is steadily improving in every area of life. Now it seems this is not certain in that situation. In which areas do you think we have made important progress nowadays? In which areas do you think we still need to make progress?*

It is irrefutable that the world we live in today has changed beyond recognizable limits to what it was a hundred years ago. It has all been possible due to the growth of science and technology. This essay shall look into some areas in which we have made progress and the areas in which we still have a lot to do.

Let us first consider the growth in medical science. We have discovered newer cures and medicines for many diseases, which were earlier considered untreatable. Even the surgical techniques adopted today are safer and quicker. Organ transplantation surgeries have given life to many.

Furthermore, there have been revolutionary developments in the transport and communication sector. Air travel has become safer and faster. Road and rail transport have also achieved newer heights. Communication technology has shrunk the planet Earth to a global village. People are now constantly in touch with each other through the mobile phone and the Internet. The Internet is an ocean of knowledge. Even the manufacturing technology has made mass production available and everything is available to everyone in all corners of the world.

However, there are still many sectors where we have to work further. Treatments for many types of cancers and AIDS have yet to be found. Alternative sources of energy have yet to be widely recognized and adopted. Ways to reduce pollution, and thus put a halt to global warming have yet to be found. Many frontiers of outer space have yet to be explored. Effective ways to destroy nuclear waste have yet to be developed.

To conclude, we have made a lot of progress in the last hundred years but there are still many areas in which we have to work further.

PLAN FOLLOWED

Intro:

Para 1: Let us first consider the growth in medical science

Para 2: There have been revolutionary developments in the transport and communication sector

Para 3: there are still many sectors where we have to work further

Conclusion:

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About the book

I have been coaching IELTS students for over 10 years now. My passion for teaching landed me into IELTS coaching, although primarily I am a gynaecologist.

This book is a collection of 330 essays, which have been seen in the past IELTS exams. A few are those reproduced by my students after coming out of the examination hall and the rest are from the various forums on the net where students share their IELTS questions. Not a single essay has been taken from any book available in the market.

The essays have been written with the average student in mind. Each and every essay in the book is available on our Youtube Channel https://www.youtube.com/user/MakkarIelts/playlists

In the beginning sections of the book I have also provided information about IELTS Writing Task 2 Band Descriptors (for 6 bands to 9 bands). I have detailed what needs to be fulfilled for these band in each of the four areas, which are Lexical resource, Cohesion and coherence, Grammatical range and accuracy and task achievement Lastly, a lot of essays often get repeated in actual IELTS exams. The repeated essays are also posted on our facebook page https://www.facebook.com/makkarIELTS

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