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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficiently address all parts of the task - Present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sequence information and ideas logically - Manage all aspects of cohesion well - Use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a wide range of structures - Write a majority of error-free sentences - Make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
Band 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fully address all parts of the task - Present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention - Skilfully manage paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 your 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.

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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

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	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

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	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 that 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

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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 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

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	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

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	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

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	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

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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

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	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

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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 untrodden 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 countries 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: