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Task 2 Essays: 20 Questions and Model Answers

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ARTS AND MEDIA

Some people feel that entertainers such as film stars, pop musicians or sports stars are paid too much money.

Do you agree or disagree?

Which other types of job should be highly paid?

Comments about the task:

1. [A two question essay](#)
2. Note that it is not about whether they are paid a lot of money; rather, that it is <u>too much</u> money.
3. film stars, pop musicians or sports stars are only given as examples and you can talk about other types of entertainers

Plan:

Question ONE: 1. too high for the effort; 2. relatively unimportant to society

Question TWO: 1. contribution to society = doctors; 2. bear large responsibilities = teachers

Model Answer:

It is often said that people who work in the entertainment industry such as movie stars, musicians, and sports stars are being overpaid. This essay discusses why I think they are paid too much money and then I will describe other occupations that I think should receive higher salaries.

The main reason I feel the salaries are too high is because the entertainers' income does not *reflect* the amount of work they do. For instance, a top star movie like Angelina Jolie can easily make one million dollars by acting in a single film. This amount may never be reached by many people during their life no matter how hard working they are. In addition, if we base a person's income according to their *relative contribution* to society the incomes of entertainers seem too high. This is because entertainment is not as important to our society as much as other *fields* such as science and technology.

There are other professions that are worthy to be paid more for their work. More specifically, people who make a big contribution to society should be rewarded more. For instance, since doctors can save lives and give people hope, they should receive a high amount to reflect the *meaningful contributions* they make. Another type of occupation deserving to receive a good salary is those who bear large responsibilities. For example, teachers who contribute to the education of the next generation seem to be underpaid.

In summary, entertainers do not offer anything greater than other people who are working in other industries. As a result, I agree that society is overpaying the people in the entertainment industry. Finally, it is recommended that people who work hard should be rewarded appropriately and the gap in benefits between different types of jobs should not be too significant. [301 words]

Language:

reflect the low amount of work =*reveal and show* the low amount of work

relative contribution=comparative impact

fields such as science and technology =*work areas* such as science and technology

meaningful contributions=real assistance and help

gap in benefits =*difference* in benefits

Some museums and art galleries charge admission fees, while others have free entry.

Do you think the advantages of free admission outweigh the disadvantages?

Comments about the task:

1. An opinion Essay
2. The question is asking whether the advantages or disadvantages are stronger.

Plan:

advantages

1. maintaining costs
2. fund expansion

disadvantages

1.   poor members of society are unable to afford to visit these places

Model Answer:

With the increasing popularity of museums and art galleries, whether they should be free of charge or not has drawn much discussion amongst the general public. Whilst many *advocate* that people should be charged to enter these places, others argue otherwise. Personally, I am inclined to the view that the *merits* outweigh the *drawbacks*.

One of the *cogent reasons* for charging fees is that the building and the maintenance costs of any major museums and art galleries are *tremendous*. Undoubtedly, by charging a reasonable entry fee, it can help cover the cost incurred from day-to-day activities such as *utility bills*, repairing costs, *renovation*, and staff costs. Additionally, the entrance fees allow these places to expand quicker and they can buy in more exhibits to attract more people. Consequently, charging an admission fee seems very *utilitarian* to creating better museums and galleries.

However, the major drawback to charging *admission fees* is that it may reduce the number of visitors. This is particularly disadvantageous if poor members of society are unable to afford to visit these places. It seems a great pity if children and economically disadvantaged people are unable to benefit from the cultural experiences these *venues* provide.

In conclusion, I would like to *reiterate* that the benefits of an entry fee to museums and art galleries *prevail* over the downsides. However, it is recommended that they can provide concessions to special groups such as students, disabled people and so on. Only by doing so can we ensure that people are still willing to pay a visit. [256 words]

Language:

advocate = recommend or support

merits = advantages

drawbacks = disadvantages

cogent reasons =clear and logical reasons

tremendous = incredible, wonderful

utility bills= bills for things like power and water

utilitarian = functional, practical

renovation = repair and decorate

admission fees =entrance fees

reiterate = repeat or restate

prevail = overcome, succeed

CRIME AND LAWS

Some people feel that the design of newly constructed buildings in big cities should be controlled by governments. Others believe those who finance the construction of a building should be free to design it as they see fit.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

Comments about the task:

1. A both sides and opinion essay
2. The topic is about who should design buildings rather than who should actually build them

Plan:

Builders can decide on their own:

1. They have the talent
2. It will lead to more diversity in city appearances

Governments should decide

1. Safety
2. Overall town planning

Model Answer:

Nowadays with the fast-growing economy of some major cities in the world, more and more modern buildings are being erected to accommodate the *burgeoning* population that economic growth brings. However, there has been debate over whether local governments or construction companies should be responsible for the design of buildings. This essay discusses both sides of this *contentious argument* and then I will give my own *perspective*.

Many people argue that companies building the projects should be free to design buildings as they wish. One of the reasons for this is that they often have the expertise to design buildings well. For instance, they often employee leading *architects* to design stylish buildings for them. Another reason is to allow buildings in an area to have a *distinctive flavour* and to not be *constrained* by governmental *regulation*s that may result in a *cookie-cutter approach* to building. An example of this style of building is in Beijing where whole suburbs look identical.

Others argue that governments should *safeguard* the general public's interests and design buildings accordingly. More often than not, they have records of areas affected by disasters throughout history and will design buildings that can usually withstand just about every natural disaster such as earthquakes, floods and tornados. In addition, if governments make the decisions about a building's design, the whole *town planning* can be considered in the decision. More specifically they consider how the design of a particular building fits in with the other buildings and facilities in an area.

In conclusion, I believe both sides of the argument have their merits. However, on balance I believe that governmental involvement is essential to ensure safety issues are not being *violated* and whole cities have some sort of overall plan in their design. [292 words]

Language:

burgeoning = increasing
contentious argument = controversial or heated argument
perspective = viewpoint
architects = designers of buildings
distinctive flavour = unique flavour
constrained = limited
regulations = rules
cookie-cutter approach = an approach of designing things exactly the same
safeguard = protect
town planning = design of a whole town or city
violated =disobeyed

Some people think that there should be strict laws to control the amount of noise a person makes because of the disturbance it causes to people.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.

Comments about the task:

1. This is best written as a two question essay but it can also be written as a both sides and opinion essay
2. The topic is about laws and not just about whether a person should or should not make noise

Plan:

<u>Advantages</u>:

1. protect people's health
2. enable people to concentrate on their work or study

<u>Disadvantages</u>:

1. against people's human rights
2. unnecessary due to advances in technology

Model Answer:

High levels of noise can be a cause of discomfort and so some people believe that there should
be strict *legislation* regarding the level of noise a person can make. This essay discusses the
merits and *drawbacks* of controlling the amount of noise a person makes.

There are several reasons why the government should strictly control the amount of noise a
person produces. The main reason is that *exposure* to too much noise can be *detrimental* to
people's health. For instance, loud noises cause headaches and *anxiety*, which can decrease the
health levels of people, especially the elderly. Additionally, noise can disturb people's work or
study. For example, when I was a university student I had difficulty concentrating while studying
for exams because my neighbours often had loud parties.

However, there are some drawbacks to having strict laws against making noise. The main one is
that people should have the right to make noise. More specifically people should be free to live
their lives without the fear of *violating laws*. For instance, people should be allowed to have
parties and celebrations without the need to *look over their shoulder*. Secondly, laws against
noise may not be needed due to technology providing ways to deal with the problem of noise.
For example, scientists have invented walls and windows that can block out the noise, and there
are also headphones that can reduce noise.

In conclusion, the merits of controlling noise are that we can safeguard people's health against
loud sounds, and enable people to fully concentrate on their work or study; while the drawbacks
are that it may violate people's human rights and be unnecessary due to advances in technology.
Overall, it seems that laws should only be applied in *extreme circumstances*.

Language:

legislation =laws
merits = advantages
drawbacks=disadvantages
disturb= to interrupt somebody
detrimental (causing harm and damage
anxiety=stress
exposure to noise =experiencing noise
violating laws = breaking laws
look over their shoulder= be worried about others
extreme circumstances=unusual situations

CULTURE

A country becomes more interesting and develops more quickly when its population includes a mixture of nationalities.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Comments about the task:

1. an opinion essay
2. You must say how much you agree or disagree
3. You must address both interesting and develops quickly

Plan:

Interesting due to things like different cultural aspects like types of cuisine

Develops quickly due to a diverse workforce

Model Answer:

Some people argue that a nation where there are people from various countries and cultures benefits from these characteristics as it becomes more *fascinating* and grows at a faster pace. I totally agree with this opinion and I will elaborate on the reasons below.

The main reason why I believe that the mixture of individuals from other nationalities represents an advantage for a country is because a culturally and *ethnically diverse* country is more interesting as there are many different lifestyles reflecting different ethnic origins in it. More specifically, in a multi-cultural society, one can enjoy a variety of unique traditions and customs which is very exciting and *adds spice to life*. For instance, I live in a highly diverse area and the options when eating out are *outstanding* as there are so many styles of *cuisine* to choose from.

Moreover, I believe that progress in multicultural nations is much quicker due to the diversity of the workforce. The reason for this is that different nationalities have different strengths which can be *harnessed* in the workplace. For instance, Europeans have high levels of creativity and *artistic flair*, while Asians have *outstanding* skills in math and science. Therefore, companies can draw on these respective strengths of the population, and as a consequence, the economy of the country will prosper.

In summary, I totally agree that a combination of immigrants from different nationalities and with different traditions provide advantages for a nation. This is due to the more interesting society it creates, along with the diversity in it which the workforce allows. Therefore, it seems that countries should *embrace* higher levels of cultural diversity.

(271words)

Language:

Fascinating =interesting

ethnically diverse = wide range of nationalities

adds spice to life =makes life more interesting

outstanding =exceptional

harnessed = utilised

artistic flair = talent for art

embraced =adopted

It's generally believed that success in fields such as art and sport can only be achieved if a person has natural talent. However, it's sometimes claimed that any child can be taught to become a good sports person or artist.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

Comments about the task:

1. A both sides and opinion essay
2. This is an extremely difficult topic because it is often difficult to identify whether something is due to the genes a person is born with or the education and development they have received after birth. When a topic is difficult to explain it is a good idea to use illustrative examples.
3. When the task information includes "**such as**" **[such as art and sport] these are only examples and other aspects can be discussed …for instance with this topic, the writer can also mention aspects such as music or business talent**

Plan:

natural talent

Key point 1: having better genes than others

Illustrative example 1: Michael Phelps who wins Olympic medals in swimming due to having a wider arm span

Key point 2: child geniuses.

Illustrative example 2: Mozart was already a gifted pianist giving public performances when he was just five years old.

learning

Key point 1: training

Illustrative example 1: Tiger Woods exhausting training schedule

Key point 2: skilled teachers

Illustrative example 2: After working hard with my tutor for three years I rose from being one of the weakest math students in my class to achieving first place in the final exams.

Model Answer:

One of the highly *controversial* issues today relates to whether artists and sportspeople can only be successful if they are born with natural talent or whether talent can be *nurtured*. This essay examines this question from both points of view and then gives my own perspective.

There are people who argue that success can only be achieved by people with natural talent. The main reason for believing this is that success requires having better *genes* than others. One good illustration of this is Michael Phelps who wins Olympic medals in swimming due to having a wider arm span than the average person. We can also see evidence of natural talent in child *geniuses* whose natural talent shows at a young age. For instance, Mozart was already a *gifted pianist* giving public performances when he was just five years old.

However, it can also be argued that anyone can achieve success if they have dedication and motivation. A good example of success due to long hours of training is Tiger Woods. He claims that he only become the number one golfer in the world due to his exhausting training schedule. Moreover, there is the concept of a *mentor* whose skill develops their students in outstanding ways. For instance, I was terrible at mathematics all through primary school, and in secondary school my parents hired an amazing tutor. After working hard with my tutor for three years I rose from being one of the weakest math students in my class to first place in the final exams.

In conclusion, I believe that both arguments have their merits. On balance, however, I tend to believe that true success only occurs when both conditions are present. Consequently, true *brilliance* requires a good set of genes as well as the right nurturing of that natural talent and hard work and dedication to one's field. **[308 words]**

Language:

Controversial issues: highly debated issues

nurtured: cultivated, reared, developed

genes: DNA, genetic material

geniuses: masterminds, people with exceptional talent

gifted pianist: talented piano player

mentor: guru, very special teacher

brilliance: cleverness, talented

ECONOMY

Some people think that we live in a society where money and possessions are given too much importance. Others believe that this is improving our lives.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Comments about the task:

1. This is a both sides and opinion essay
2. For the first side, you must mention both money and possessions

Plan:

Side A

1. Too much focus on money
2. Loss of values

Side B

1. Creates wealth
2. Creates jobs

Model Answer:

Some people argue that *consumerism* causes people to place too much importance on *material goods* and wealth. While others think that a consumer culture is beneficial for improving people's *standard of living*. This essay discusses both sides of this argument and then I will give my own perspective.

The negative aspect of a consumer culture is that it causes people to consider wealth as the most important factor that can make them happy. Therefore, people might spend too much time on earning money and very little time with their families and friends. In addition to this, the traditional values such as *frugality* might be lost in the consumer society. This might cause a *throw-away culture* and *overconsumption* problems. As a consequence, a *depletion* of natural resources and excessive disposal of waste might cause the environment to be damaged. Eventually, *inhabitants* will suffer from pollution and inadequacy of resources.

On the other hand, the most significant advantage of a consumer culture is that it generates wealth for a country. The taxes paid for goods will increase the revenue for the whole society. Afterwards, the government can reinvest the revenue into education and healthcare to benefit the citizens. Furthermore, the jobs created for manufacturing, advertising and retailing can offer more employment opportunities for the local residents and reduce poverty, which is also an advantage for the welfare of a country.

To conclude, I believe that consumerism does provide some benefits. However, I am *inclined* to believe that the drawbacks of a greedy, materialistic society far outweigh the advantages because the level of consumption is not sustainable and future generations will inherit a planet with fewer resources and higher levels of pollution. [279 words]

Language:

consumerism = increasing consumption of goods

material goods =long lasting products

standard of living = level of life quality

frugality = care with spending money

throw-away culture = culture where people throw away products instead of trying to repair them

overconsumption = using too much

depletion = reduction

inhabitants = people living in an area

inclined to believe =more likely to believe

Rich countries often give money to poorer countries, but it does not solve poverty. Therefore, developed countries should give other types of help to the poor countries rather than financial aid.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Comments about the task:

1. An opinion essay
2. You must say how much you agree or disagree

Plan:

Totally agree

1. Corruption
2. Bad economic policies

Model Answer:

Developed countries have been providing *financial aid* to the *third world* countries for decades, but it has not changed the economic situation of the poor countries. I totally agree that this aid should be replaced by other more effective types of help and I will discuss the reasons in the paragraphs below.

The primary reason why the financial aid provided by the first world countries is not being effective in achieving the results they are intended to achieve is because of the level of *corruption prevalent* in these poor countries. The major portion of the aid is taken by the officials before it trickles down to the people. As most of these leaders are not democratically elected and have a strong *grip on power*, people have little *leverage* to change this and hence they benefit less and their situations remain unchanged.

The second reason why this financial aid is not effective is because the governments which are the *recipients* of this assistance do not have sound economic policies and good governance in place. This means that these governments are not capable of managing the funds properly and the aid will be lost or misused before it reaches the people. Therefore, ensuring governments are capable of managing the funds before they receive them is *crucial* in achieving positive outcomes from this financial aid.

In conclusion, I believe financial aid is often misused by recipient countries due to corruption and financial mismanagement. Therefore, other types of support should be given to these countries. [251 words]

Language:

developed countries =rich countries

financial aid = money for support

third world countries= countries

 corruption = dishonesty

 prevalent= common

 grip on power=control

 leverage = power

recipients = receivers

 crucial = vital, important

EDUCATION

Learning about the past has no value for those of us living in the present.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Comments about the task:

1. An opinion essay
2. You need to state how much you agree or disagree

Plan:

Totally agree

1. Learn from the past
2. Avoid past mistakes

Model Answer:

Some people believe that studying history is of no benefit in the current *era* in which we live in. I totally disagree with the statement above that learning about the past has no value because the achievements made by humankind are only possible because people always learnt from their past.

The main reason for this is that human evolution is possible only because people accumulate experience and knowledge based on the historical events of their *ancestors*. This helps people make better decisions by reflecting on historical outcomes involving similar decisions and situations. For example, buildings are constructed in places that are free from floods and other *natural disasters*. People improve their life by learning from their mistakes and trying to avoid them next time. For instance, we are now experiencing a relatively peaceful world due to people learning form the past that wars are just too costly.

Another important aspect is that future discoveries are always based on past knowledge. Take for example the Internet. This discovery is really based upon *telephony*. In the past, we learned how to carry voices over telephones and then later on someone thought of the idea of carrying data over telephones. Therefore, the Internet would not exist if it weren't for the invention of the telephone.

To summarise, I think that learning from the past is essential to our lives because we can prevent remaking past mistakes and we can make technological advancements based on past inventions. Therefore, I believe that history lessons should form a critical part of our education.

[259 words]

Language:

era = period in time

ancestors = predecessor

natural disasters = disasters caused by nature such as floods and earthquakes

telephony = technology associated with the electronic transmission of voice and data

Some people think that a sense of competition in children should be encouraged. Others believe that children who are taught to co-operate rather than compete become more useful adults.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Comments about the task:

1. A both sides and opinion essay

Plan:

Competing

1. motivation
2. prepare for future competitive life

Cooperating

1. Team work
2. Future life needs cooperation

Model Answer:

The way to bring up a child is a *contentious topic* for many adults. While some parents and teachers persuade youths to compete, others think that it is better to teach *juveniles* about the importance of cooperation. The debate over this question seems to consist of *two irreconcilable poles*. Both sides of the argument will be analysed before my own perspective is given.

Teaching children to compete can be immensely beneficial. The main benefit of *rivalry* is that it motivates children to do their best. This is because *youths* will compare themselves to others and try to be better than them. More specifically, students will work harder when competitive goals have been set. Furthermore, it prepares youths for competition in areas such as their future working lives. Many *innovative* corporations such as Google and Facebook embrace the spirit of competition and often set various challenges among their staff.

In spite of these considerations, cooperation is undoubtedly an essential part of everyday life. Firstly, *collaboration* is vital to success in many areas of life. Team sports are an excellent example of this and many failures have been attributed to poor teamwork, such as the American basketball team's failure to win at the 2004 Olympic Games. In addition, our everyday life depends on an ability to get on well and communicate with people. For instance, it would be impossible for people to even buy food if they do not cooperate with other people
   In conclusion, in my opinion, both sides of the argument have merit. However, after analysing the *opposite camps*, my personal view is that a competitive environment can have a more positive effect on children. This is because they would be more motivated to study hard and better prepared for everyday struggles in the future. [297 words]

Language:

contentious topic = heavily argued topic

juveniles = young people

two irreconcilable poles= two opposing extremes

rivalry= competition

youths= young people

innovative = inventive

collaboration = working together

opposite camps = two different sides in an argument

ENVIRONMENT

Nowadays we are producing more and more rubbish.

Why do you think this is happening?

What can governments do to help reduce the amount of rubbish produced?

Comments about the task:

1. [A two question essay](#)

Plan:

causes

1. growth of industrial areas in developing countries
2. changing lifestyles

solutions

1. regulate business
2. introduce laws to encourage more environmentally friendly practices

Model Answer:

More than any time in history, human beings are producing more waste products and this is increasing at a very alarming rate. This essay discusses why this is happening and explores the measures governments need to take to bring this under control.

There are several reasons that can be attributed to the increase of rubbish in modern life. The primary reason is the growth of industrial areas in developing countries. Many countries in Asia and Africa are building more and more factories every day to meet the demands of their ever increasing population and for export purposes. The second reason is the change of people's lifestyles, especially those who live in cities. For instance, more and more people are eating outside in restaurants and eating takeaway foods, which *translates into* the usage of more plastic products to be used as food containers which will inevitably increase the amount of plastic.

There are several measures governments can take to *remedy* this challenging issue. The most effective measure is for governments to reduce the amount of industrial waste by passing laws to *curtail harmful activities* such as waste disposal and encourage environmentally friendly activities such as using green energy. Secondly, governments can introduce *regulations* which limit the usage of polluting products such as plastics. For example, several countries in Europe are banning the use of plastic bags in supermarkets. This has helped reduce the amount of plastic people use.

In conclusion, more garbage is being created due to harmful business practices and changing lifestyles. However, if governments *regulate* business and introduce laws to encourage more environmentally friendly practices, this can be reduced to a manageable level. [273 words]

Language:

translates into = changes into

remedy = fix or resolve

curtail = stop

waste disposal = get rid of garbage

regulations = rules

banning = not allowing

regulate = control

There is growing evidence that man-made activities are making global temperatures higher.

What are the causes of temperatures rising?

How should we deal with this problem?

Comments about the task:

1. [two question essay](#)

Plan:

Causes

1. cutting down trees
2. more factories

Solutions

1. preserving our remaining forests
2. switching to cleaner energy sources

Model Answer:

There are many signs that the activities of mankind are leading to global warming. This essay will discuss the reasons why this problem is occurring, and make some suggestions about how this problem can be *tackled*.

Perhaps the main cause of global warming is that populations are rising in almost every country, and this is causing trees to be constantly cut-down to provide shelter and also food. Trees are important because they absorb CO2 and rising levels of CO2 have been linked to higher temperature levels. Another factor that is causing CO2 to rise is the industrialisation of our societies. Today, we have more and more factories and they are causing high levels of pollution in our *atmosphere*. Industrialisation is also leading to the burning of *fossil fuels* to power the factories and this is also another source of *carbon emissions*. Therefore, economic activities are another cause of our planet warming.

Urgent attention is required to deal with the problem of global warming. The main way to *tackle* this is for forests to be protected and new trees grown. This can be achieved by the government making laws to protect the remaining forests. *Grass root programs* could also be started to plant new trees. In addition, the government should create *incentives* for factories to adopt *clean energy programs* to reduce the pollution they are emitting.

In conclusion, the earth's temperature is rising because of deforestation and industrialisation. The solutions are to start *preserving* our remaining forests, plant new ones and to switch to cleaner energy sources.

Language:

tackled = dealt with, managed

atmosphere = air

fossil fuels = fuels formed by natural processes over a long time such as coal and oil

carbon emissions = discharges of carbon dioxide (CO2)

grass root programs = programs using the local people of an area

incentives = a thing that motivates or encourages one to do something

clean energy =energy creation that does not cause pollution

preserving = protecting

ETHICAL ISSUES

Universities should accept equal numbers of male and female students in every subject.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Comments about the task:

1. An opinion essay

2. The topic is not about FORCING equal numbers, just ACCEPTING.

3. It's easier to agree with accepting and I think I would choose to totally agree. Note that it is easy to sound sexist when disagreeing with accepting equal numbers of students.

Plan: Potential Ideas

ACCEPTING

-gender equality/human rights

- Chances of gender discrimination in society will greatly reduce if men and women study together more.

-allow people to follow their passion

-let people choose their career paths

NOT ACCEPTING

-Each gender is suited to different kinds of subjects/careers

-men should have priority because they are the main breadwinner (I would NOT write this though as it is extremely sexist and you may anger the examiner).

More women than men should be accepted as part of affirmative action programs to address the disadvantages women face in society

Model Answer:

It has been proposed that tertiary institutions should accept the same proportion of students to each course. I totally agree with this notion as it is in accordance with the principles of *gender equality* and it will also serve to create a more *harmonious society* and reduce *gender discrimination*.

I believe that universities must accept equal numbers of students from each gender for a particular course that they wish to apply to. The reason for this is because favouring one sex over the other is a form of discrimination, which should not be accepted in any civilised society. This is because it influences the ability for people to pursue careers and have *equal rights* in society. For example, in Cambodia, where women are not allowed to study at university, they are severely disadvantaged in the workforce and very few are able to establish satisfactory careers.

Another benefit off accepting a similar number of students from each gender is that it will lead to a society with less gender discrimination. The basic logic here is that if tertiary students have a chance to study with members of the opposite sex they will be more likely to be able to interact and communicate with the opposite gender outside of school. For instance, my cousin studied engineering in an almost exclusively male class and as a result, he is very shy of the opposite sex and gets nervous every time he has to talk to a girl.

In conclusion, I absolutely believe that *tertiary institutions* should accept equal numbers of male and female students in order to avoid sexual discrimination and assure a harmonious society. Therefore, a policy of equal acceptance should be instituted in every country of the world, and any kind of gender-based quotas should be *abolished*. [297 words]

Language:

Gender = sexuality as a male/female

Equality = people being equal regardless of sex, race, and religion

harmonious society = a peaceful society

gender discrimination = policies that favour one gender or the other

equal rights = having equal chances to things like education and employment

tertiary institutions = universities and technical institutes

abolished: eliminated, eradicated

Teenagers who commit serious crimes, such as burglary or murder, should be treated in the same way as adults who commit crimes.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this and give your own opinion?

Comments about the task:

1. [Both sides and opinion essay](#)

Plan:

advantages

1. Deterrent
2. Justice for victims

disadvantages

1. Less mature
2. Second chance

Model Answer:

There is an opinion that young *offenders* who *commit* severe criminal actions should be held *accountable* for their actions just the same as adults. This essay discusses the advantages and disadvantages of this and then I will give my own perspective on the issue.

On the one hand, arguments can be made as to why age should not be a factor when dealing with serious crimes. The strongest reason is that if these *juvenile delinquents* are given the same strict punishments as adults, it will act as a powerful *deterrent* against doing serious crimes. As well as this, when young *perpetrators* receive lighter sentences than they deserve, it is an injustice to the victims. For instance, if a youth kills his classmate, the parents of the murdered child will feel the situation is unjust if the perpetrator is not at least *incarcerated*.

On the other hand, treating both young and mature lawbreakers equally may have adverse effects. The main reason is because children may not have sufficient intellectual or moral capacity to fully understand the outcomes of their *misdeeds*; it can be argued that they should receive *lighter sentences* than adults. Secondly, because of their long life ahead of them, many people argue that youths should be given a second chance, and an opportunity to successfully *rehabilitate* and learn a valuable lesson. Many believe that young offenders can often turn into good citizens when they mature into adulthood.

In conclusion, in my opinion there are merits and drawbacks to treating youths differently to adults. However, overall I think that young offenders should be dealt with more *leniently* than adults due to their potential lower level of understanding about the crimes they commit. [284]

Language:

offenders = people who do crimes

commit crime=do a crime

accountable = responsible for decisions or actions

juvenile = a person who is under 18

delinquents= criminals

deterrent = a thing that makes somebody less likely to do something

perpetrators= a person who commits a crime

incarcerated = put into prison

misdeeds= bad things like crimes

lighter sentences = small punishments

rehabilitate = to make better

leniently = not strictly

HEALTH

Many people say that cooking and eating at home is better for the individual and the family than eating out in restaurants.

Do you agree or disagree?

Comments about the task:

1. Opinion essay
2. You are not required to say how much you agree but it is still a good idea to do this
3. Consider the cooking and eating of food
4. You must state whether it is better for both individuals and the family

Plan:

Somewhat agree

1. healthier
2. cheaper

Disagree

1. family-bonding
2. save time for busy people

Model Answer:

Some people believe that eating home-cooked food is more beneficial for people in general and also for families. I strongly agree with this.

The main reason I agree is that cooking and eating at home gives people control over the *ingredients* they use to make the food. People can ensure they use fresh and healthy ingredients to maintain a better diet and focus on their health. As well as this they can avoid the additives restaurants often add to their food such as monosodium glutamate.

Additionally, it is generally less expensive to eat home cooked meals as restaurants need to not only cover their expenses such as staff wages, but also charge *premiums* for *signatory dishes* or *ambience*. This is a great benefit to family budgets, and families can reduce their expenses by eating at home.

On the other hand, a family making a trip to a restaurant can be a good *family-bonding* experience. It can help the family to enjoy the ambience and food, without any family member having to go through the entire cooking and cleaning process. Furthermore, due to the busy lives we have, it can sometimes be helpful for someone to enjoy a quick lunch at a canteen during their working day to save considerable time and effort in preparing meals beforehand.

In conclusion, I somewhat agree that eating at home is better because eating home-made food is beneficial to the health of people and it reduces the expenses of families. However, occasional meals at restaurants allow an individual or a family to take a break and to socialise.

[263 words]

Language:

ingredients = materials used to make food

premiums = higher prices

signatory dishes = most famous dish of a restaurant

ambience = environment

family-bonding = families socialising together

In some countries, the average weight of children is increasing and their level of health and fitness is decreasing.

What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?

Comments about the task:

1. This is a two question essay
2. You must address both weight and fitness. These are not exactly the same as some fat people can still be fit, for example, sumo wrestlers.
3. Two main causes and two main solutions is the ideal number

Plan:

Causes

1. Poor diet

2. Less exercise

Solutions

1. Education about diet

2. Force and encourage to do more exercise

Model Answer:

In many countries, youths are increasingly becoming *obese* and their health and fitness are *deteriorating*. This essay will look at the possible reasons for these developments and will suggest solutions to overcome them.

There are two main causes of obesity and the deterioration of physical health. The main reason for obesity and the related adverse health effects can be found in the changing eating patterns of the population. Cooking with fresh ingredients is becoming less popular and many people *consume* too much fast food or convenience food from supermarkets. But these kinds of food, on average, contain significantly higher amounts of fat and sugar than freshly prepared meals and, therefore, are an important contributing factor to obesity. Secondly, there is a trend that young people are doing less sport in their free time. These *sedentary lifestyles* are due to the increase of activities like watching TV or surfing on the internet.

Solutions to this problem have to start at a very early age. Both parents and the school have to put a high emphasis on explaining to children the importance of a healthy and *balanced diet*. The role of the school should be primarily to educate children about the merits of a healthy diet and the dangers of unhealthy food, whereas the parents should provide their children with *nutritious*, freshly prepared meals and should restrict their consumption of sweets and fast food. In a similar way, early childhood education should also emphasise the benefits of doing sufficient sports. At schools there should be *mandatory* sports classes and children should be encouraged to become members of a sports club.

In summary, the main reasons for obesity and low level of fitness are poor nutrition and insufficient physical exercise. The best solutions are for education regarding nutrition as well as forcing and encouraging students to participate in sports. [311 words]

Language:

obese = severely overweight

deteriorating = getting worse

consume = eat or use up

sedentary lifestyles =inactive lifestyles

balanced diet = A diet that contains the proper proportions of food to maintain good health

mandatory = compulsory

TECHNOLOGY

Title: The Internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before.

What are the most serious problems associated with the Internet?

What are the best ways to solve them?

Comments about the task:

1. This is a [two-question essay](#).
2. It is unlikely with this task that the problems can be 100% solved so it is better to talk about reducing the problems rather than actually solving them.

Plan:

This essay includes the following main ideas:

Problems: crime, addiction

Solutions: enforcement, education

Model Answer:

The Internet is one the most outstanding innovations in the digital age. Although the Internet has the potential to make human lives simple and convenient, it also creates issues. This essay discusses the Internet's two primary problems and proposes solutions.

One of the main problems caused by the internet is a lack of security for personal information. For instance, online banking transactions or other online services often make private information vulnerable to theft. Needless to say, the damage caused by *cyber-crimes* is often irreparable. Another annoying problem with the Internet is its ability to create *rifts* between the real and virtual world. More specifically, the virtual world is so *alluring* that once *hooked* it can become an addiction creating both physical and mental issues.

However, there are solutions to *alleviate* these problems. To address cyber-crime *rigorous* government regulations on a global scale are needed. In addition, cooperation is needed amongst law enforcement agencies around the world in order to track down and apprehend these criminals who operate across multiple borders. Dealing with addiction requires *intertwined* cooperation between parents and schools, as most addicted Internet consumers are children. Children should be educated to realise the implications of Internet addictions and also should be encouraged to engage in outdoor activities

In conclusion, the main problems caused by the Internet are related to crime and addiction. To solve these parents, teachers and governments should participate in eradicating the problems *stemming* from the Internet. By addressing these issues, people can *harness* the Internet's unlimited potential and *steer clear* of its adverse impacts. [258 words]

Language:

cyber-crimes: illegal activities are committed through the use of a computer or the Internet.

create rifts: create gaps

hooked: addicted or caught by something

alleviate: relieve

rigorous: harsh, severe, difficult

intertwined: interwoven, interconnected

stemming from: coming from

harness: to gain or gather

steer clear: keep away from

Some people believe that time spent on television and computer games can be valuable for children. Others believe this has negative effects on a child.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Comments about the task:

1. [Both sides and opinion essay](#)

Plan:

Advantages

1. developing intelligence
2. ability to use a computer

Disadvantages

1. addiction
2. physical health problem

Model Answer:

Electronic games such as TV, video and computer games are *prevalent* among young people. However, whether these games benefit or cause problems to them is a difficult question to answer. This essay discusses the question from both points of view and then I will give my own perspective on the matter.

On one side of the argument there are people who argue that the merits of electronic games for a child considerably outweigh the disadvantages. The main reason for believing this is that electronic games may increase the intelligence of a child. This is because many intelligent games such as puzzles and strategy games involve extensive thinking and other brain activities. Another benefit of electronic games is that they are helpful in developing children's *computer literacy*, which may play an important role in their future academic or career development. In fact, for many people, their mastering of computer applications starts from their interest in computer games at an early age.

On the other hand, it is also possible to make an opposing case. It is argued that children are often found to be addicted to electronic games, which could negatively affect their study. Since teenagers usually lack *self-control*, addiction to games may cause them to give up study completely. Not only this but spending a long time on electronic games may negatively affect their physical development. For example, when they sit in front of a computer or TV for hours with an *improper* posture, their physical fitness can be harmed. Also, staring at a screen can cause *short-sightedness*.

In my opinion, both arguments have their merits. On balance, however, I tend to believe that electronic games are more beneficial to children than harmful. This is because the merits of them developing intelligence and the ability to use a computer outweigh the side effects of game addiction and physical health problems. [310 words]

Language:

prevalent = widespread

computer literacy = knowledge of computers

self-control = ability to control oneself without the need for help from others

improper posture = incorrect way of sitting or standing

short-sightedness = inability to see far away objects clearly

TRAVEL AND LANGUAGES

Many people believe children should begin learning a foreign language in primary school instead of secondary school.

Do you think the advantages of learning a foreign language in primary school outweigh the disadvantages?

Comments about the task:

1. An opinion essay
2. You should say whether the advantages are greater than the disadvantages in the introduction and conclusion

Plan:

advantages

more efficiently learning a new language

being able to pronounce it well,

disadvantages

potentially interfering with the learning of the first language

Model Answer:

In many nations, *elementary*-aged students are being taught foreign languages. This essay discusses the reasons why the merits of this *phenomenon* in terms of more efficiently learning a new language and being able to pronounce it well, outweigh the drawback of it potentially interfering with the learning of the first language.

There are numerous *pedagogical merits* of learning a second language in elementary school. The main one is that this has been identified as a *golden age* for learning languages by *neuroscientists*. It seems that at this age the brain is *hardwired* for learning new languages. It has been reported in the media that children of this age can learn new words three times quicker than students in high school. In addition, the pronunciation of a new language is easier at this age. The reason for this is because there is less interference from the *native language*, due to less exposure to it.

However, the main drawback of learning a language at this age is that it may interfere with the learning of the native language of that country. The primary reason is that every hour spent on learning a second language could be spent on learning the first language. Additionally, the student may become confused by the difference in grammatical rules of the two languages, and consequently may struggle to understand the grammar of the native language.

In conclusion, the benefits of learning a new language quickly and with better pronunciation seem to outweigh the disadvantage of the potential interference with learning the first language.

[256 Words]

Language

elementary-aged = primary aged

phenomenon = event or thing that occurs

pedagogical merits = teaching advantages

golden age = best age

neuroscientists= people who study the brain

hardwired = genetically determined

native language = first language

Some people believe that visitors to other countries should follow local customs and behaviour. Others think that the host country should welcome cultural differences.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Comments about the task:

1. This is a both sides and opinion essay

Plan:

Follow customs of locals

1. Polite
2. Less danger

Locals accepting visitors' customs

1. Rights of visitors
2. Promote tourism

Model Answer:

Some people are *calling into question* how tourists should behave when they visit a new country. While some argue visitors should follow local customs and *etiquette*, others believe the host country should welcome other cultures with *open arms*. This essay will discuss both views, and then I will give my own perspective on the matter.

On the one hand, there are people who claim that visitors should follow a host country's customs. The main reason is that this shows respect and promotes understanding between people. If a visitor retains their country's behaviour and does not *acclimate* themselves into the new environment, then the locals might think they are *inconsiderate*, *discourteous* or odd and do not want to associate with them. In addition, it can be dangerous to not follow customs. For instance, the British drive on the left side of the road, so Americans must follow this when visiting the U.K. or they will have a traffic accident.

On the other hand, there are those who believe that locals should *embrace* other cultures. The main reason for this is that people should have a right to follow their own ways. They argue that no culture is better than another, and the host country has no right to oblige their visitors to behave like their own citizens. As well as this, the tourism of the host country will be enhanced by allowing visitors freedom to follow their own ways. For instance, many people do not visit Muslim countries due to *strict dress codes* and not being able to drink alcohol.

In my opinion, both arguments have their merits. On balance, however, I tend to believe that the host country should give their visitors a heart-warming welcome as it is at times difficult to change and adapt to new lifestyles when someone has only just arrived in a new country, whereas accepting differences is a lot easier for the hosts who are in the comfort of their own country. [308 words]

Language:

calling into question

etiquette = politeness

open arms = accepting

acclimate = get used to

inconsiderate = not considerate of others

discourteous = impolite

embrace other cultures=accepting of other cultures

strict dress codes = many rules about how people can dress themselves

heart-warming = friendly

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