IELTS 7

Writing (Task 2)

Including 50
Model Essays

50 Model
Essays
277 Additional
Topics

Zandi
English

Tian Hattingh

IELTS — 7 — WRITING

(Task 2)

Including 50 Model Essays

Tian Hattingh

Dedicated to my father:

Charel Dawid Naudé Hattingh

(1929–2003)

And to my mother:

Margaret Dagmar Hattingh (née Botha),

who spoke English to me.

Learning is like rowing upstream: not to advance is to drop back.

—Chinese saying

Education is the best provision for old age.

—Aristotle

Intelligence plus character: that is the goal of true education.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

I am still learning.

—Michelangelo

CONTENTS

IELTS BAND SCORE DESCRIPTIONS

BAND 9: EXPERT USER

The candidate has a fully operational command of the language. In other words, the language is appropriate, accurate, and fluent and accompanied by complete understanding.

BAND 8: VERY GOOD USER

The candidate has an operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies. Misunderstandings do occur in unfamiliar situations. The candidate is able to handle complex, detailed argumentation as well.

BAND 7: GOOD USER

The candidate has an operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies, and misunderstandings in some situations. The candidate generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

BAND 6: COMPETENT USER

The candidate has a generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies, and misunderstandings. The candidate is able to use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.

BAND 5: MODEST USER

The candidate has a partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though he or she is likely to make many mistakes. The candidate should be able to handle basic communication in his or her own field.

BAND 4: LIMITED USER

The candidate has a basic competence that is limited to familiar situations. He or she has frequent problems in understanding and expression. The candidate is not able to use complex language.

BAND 3: EXTREMELY LIMITED USER

The candidate is able to convey and understand only general meanings in very familiar situations, but frequent breakdowns in communication will occur.

BAND 2: INTERMITTENT USER

No real communication is possible except for the most basic information using isolated words or short formulae in familiar situations and to meet immediate needs. The candidate has great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.

BAND 1: NONUSER

The candidate essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words.

BAND 0

The candidate did not attempt the test, and no assessable information was provided.

PREFACE

The International English Language Testing System, or IELTS, is an international standardized test of English-language proficiency for nonnative English language speakers. It is jointly managed by the British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia, and Cambridge English Language Assessment and was established in 1989. IELTS is one of the major English-language tests in the world. In 2016, three million tests were taken in more than 140 countries.

IELTS is accepted by most Australian, British, Canadian, and New Zealand academic institutions, by more than three thousand academic institutions in the United States, and by various professional organizations across the world.

IELTS is the only secure English language test approved by UK Visas and Immigration for visa customers applying both outside and inside the UK. It is also a requirement for immigration to Australia and New Zealand. In Canada, IELTS is accepted by the immigration authority.

No minimum score is required to pass the test. An IELTS result or Test Report Form is issued to all test takers. Test takers receive a score for each test component: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. The individual scores are then averaged and rounded to produce an overall band score.

Institutions are advised not to consider a report older than two years to be valid unless the user proves that he or she has worked to maintain that level.

The IELTS test has four parts: Listening, thirty minutes (plus ten minutes' transfer time); Reading, sixty minutes; Writing, sixty minutes; and Speaking, eleven to fourteen minutes. The total test time is therefore two hours and fifty-five minutes.

Listening, Reading, and Writing are completed in one sitting. The Speaking test may be taken on the same day or up to seven days before or after the other tests.

All test takers take the same Listening and Speaking tests, while the Reading and Writing tests differ depending on whether the test taker is taking the

Academic or General Training versions of the test.

On Friday afternoon, October 25, 2002, I stepped off a plane at the Hongqiao Airport in Shanghai. Before accepting a job offer in the People's Republic of China, I had only a vague idea of where China was. Until then, I had never been to a Chinese restaurant and had only heard of chopsticks. I had never noticed a Chinese character before and had certainly never heard someone speak Mandarin and/or Cantonese.

That was fifteen years ago. Somehow I virtually never experienced the "culture shock" monster so notoriously dreaded by expats. I simply accepted all things strange and amazing (and even annoying) as they were.

Like many a rookie ESL teacher before and after me, I too in good faith attempted to reform the Chinese educational system in its entirety. But that also soon faded away into the much calmer waters of "When in Rome . . ."

For two years, I was in a learning mode career-wise. I discovered a whole new world of millions of people willing to go to unbelievable lengths to master the language that my mother spoke to me from childhood. I was fortunate to be working in an IELTS training center, where the management procured the services of the chief IELTS examiner in that area. Not only was I able to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be an IELTS Tutor, but I was also privy to what examiners regarded as worthy of an increase in a band score when evaluating the Speaking and Writing components of the test.

Early in 2016, I relocated to Vietnam. Seeing that IELTS is an international testing system and they go to great lengths to ensure that their standards are maintained globally, I had no problem adapting my knowledge and experience in a new cultural setting. IELTS students in Vietnam have the same goals as their peers in other non-English-speaking countries.

Over the years, I have spent time with a myriad of students, listened to an infinite number of speeches, and read more essays than traditional language teachers do in a lifetime. And I still enjoy it. The reason is that students studying "IELTS for Academic Purposes" have an unwavering desire to be accepted by a foreign tertiary institution and are generally speaking much

more committed to their studies than their counterparts who aspire to know the language for other reasons.

To me, this makes the job of being an IELTS tutor much more satisfying than teaching a class of thirty to seventy school and/or college students. Others, undoubtedly with much more guts and character than me, are well suited for the latter.

The objective of this publication is to give those students studying IELTS for academic purposes a myriad of IELTS topics that they could face in the Speaking test. These are accompanied by suggested answers that will provide them with some fresh ideas that they can use when taking the test.

I would like this publication to be known as a "no-nonsense" book, only presenting information that is essential in improving skills and band scores. The target population are those students aiming to achieve a IELTS band score between 5 and 7 in the Writing component of the test. The level of the language used in the suggested answers and essays reflect this aim.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To those students in both China and Vietnam with whom I have had the privilege to spend time in and out of the classroom: Over the years, you have been instrumental in my development as a teacher and as a person. I salute you.

To those who took time and effort and, with much patience, guided me into the wonderful world of ESL and IELTS, including Language Training Centre owners and managers, administrators, and colleagues: I thank you.

To all my friends in China and Vietnam: You unselfishly spent your time to share your knowledge of your country, its history, its people, its culture, and its places near and far. You are friends indeed.

To the management and staff at Scribe Inc.: David Rech (CEO), Jason Hughes (Book Developer and Manager), Jen Boeree and Megan Grande (Editors), Tim Durning (Cover Designer), and Steve Ushioda (Sales Director).

To the management and staff at Troubador Publishing Ltd.: Jeremy Thompson (Managing Director), Lauren Bailey (Group Customer Services Manager), Jonathan White (Sales and Marketing Manager), Joe Shillito (Production Controller), Megan Lockwood-Jones (Ebook Manager), Hannah Dakin (Customer Service Assistant), Kerry McKay (Accounts Assistant).

My thanks go to both the above-mentioned companies and individuals for making all my dreams come true. Your professionalism, assistance, and integrity have made this path so much easier. You are simply the best.

IELTS — 7 — WRITING

Task 2

Including 50 Model Essays

1 GRADING AN ESSAY

1.1 TASK DESCRIPTION

The IELTS test is designed as a tool to determine the ability of nonnative speakers to use the English language in all ways possible. Band scores ranging from 1 to 9 are given in each module, and these four scores are converted into an overall band score. This overall score is used by tertiary and other institutions to stipulate admission standards. In other words, there is no "pass/fail," as the overall score is only used as an indicator. Each band corresponds to a level of English competence. All parts of the test and the overall band score can be reported in whole and half bands—for example, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, or 8.0.

Due to its high quality controls, IELTS is the world's proven test, and IELTS is accepted by thousands of organizations in more than 135 countries, including

- universities, schools, training colleges, and tertiary institutes
- government departments and agencies
- professional and industry bodies
- multinational companies and employers

The IELTS for Academic Purposes test consists of four components—namely,

- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking

The Writing component of the test consists of two tasks. In task 1, candidates are expected to analyze / describe / explain / summarize the given information by writing at least 150 words. The writing could be, but does not have to be, in the form of an essay. The information is presented visually in the form of one or more of the following:

- line graphs
- pie charts

- both line graphs and pie charts
- tables
- tables and pie charts
- column graphs
- bar graphs
- diagrams
- flowcharts
- maps

In task 2, the candidate is given a topic and asked to write an essay of no less than 250 words.

TIME ALLOCATION

It is strongly suggested that students start by doing task 2. There are two reasons for this:

1. Task 2 carries much more weight in the grading than task 1.
2. Students often get bogged down in task 1 and then find themselves with insufficient time to finish task 2, which carries much more weight.

It is also strongly suggested that students spend ten to fifteen minutes carefully reading the given topic and planning their essays. This includes deciding on the content and planning the paragraphing.

It is common knowledge that to write a good IELTS essay, you need to make the examiner feel good about your essay. In other words, you've got to know what will let you gain points and/or what will let you lose points.

How does the examiner grade your essay? You receive points for the following aspects:

- task response
- coherence and cohesion
- lexical resource
- grammatical range and accuracy

These four criteria are equally weighted, so you should pay attention to all of them.

1.2 TASK RESPONSE

This means that your essay must show that you understand the given topic correctly and completely. In other words, you have to do what they are asking you to do. That is why it is so important to spend a few minutes to make sure that you fully understand what is required.

1.3 COHERENCE AND COHESION

This means how well you are able to connect your paragraphs to each other and how well your sentences inside each paragraph are connected. For example, if paragraph 1 explains the advantages of tourism and paragraph 2 explains the disadvantages of tourism, then the last sentence in paragraph 1 should say something like "In spite of tourism being to the advantage of the economy, its negative effects should not be overlooked." This sentence will create the connection between the first and second paragraphs. If you do not do this, the examiner might think that you jumped from advantages to disadvantages without a reason. The same applies to sentences inside the paragraph. Every sentence should lead to the next one. We use the "sentence starters" to do this.

HOW TO ACHIEVE A 7 BAND SCORE

1. Manage your paragraphing skillfully by preplanning.
2. Logically organize your ideas and the information you are presenting so that there is a clear progression throughout the essay.

1.4 LEXICAL RESOURCE

This refers to the range of vocabulary you are using and the different types of simple and complex sentences you are able to use. Use your best vocabulary, but do not go overboard and show off, become pedantic, or make mistakes that could be prevented by using simpler vocabulary that you know well.

HOW TO ACHIEVE A 7 BAND SCORE

1. Use a wide variety of vocabulary to convey the meaning clearly.

2. It is better to use a simpler word correctly than a more complicated word incorrectly.

1.5 GRAMMATICAL RANGE AND ACCURACY

This refers to your spelling and grammar in sentences. Grammar skills are acquired by reading. By reading, you will get the "feel" of the language. You should of course be able to spell the words correctly. It is better to use a simpler word whose spelling you are sure about than a complicated word that you might spell incorrectly. Do not forget to use the articles "a" and "the." Punctuation is also part of grammar and should be correctly used.

2 SENTENCE STARTERS

2.1 GENERAL SENTENCES

I would like to mention . . .

If I had to describe (topic), . . .

I would start by saying that . . .

If I had to express my view about (topic), I would say . . .

Of all the (topic), I would like to state . . .

Of course there are many (topic), but I would like to mention that . . .

On the positive side . . .

On the negative side . . .

2.2 FIRST REASON

First, . . .

First of all, . . .

The first / main reason why . . .

In my opinion . . .

I believe / think . . .

With regard to why . . .

One of the aspects I could mention regarding this topic is that . . .

If I had to highlight the main reason why . . .

2.3 EXAMPLES

For example . . .

For instance . . .

That is to say . . .

What I mean (to say) is . . .

To the extent that (reason) . . .

The fact that . . .

In other words . . .

To put it simply / better / in another way, . . .

To be more specific, . . .

2.4 SECOND REASON

Second, . . .

Furthermore, . . .

The second reason why . . .

Second, in my opinion . . .

Second, I believe / I think . . .

Second, with regard to why . . .

The second aspect I could mention regarding (topic) is . . .

The second reason by which I could highlight why . . .

Another point I would like to mention is . . .

An additional reason I would like to mention is . . .

One more reason I would mention is . . .

2.5 LAST REASON

Lastly, . . .

Finally, . . .

The last aspect I could mention regarding (topic) is . . .

The last reason I could highlight is . . .

The last point I would like to mention is . . .

2.6 GENERAL

As far as (topic) is concerned . . .

Insofar as (topic) is concerned . . .

In terms of . . .

One of the differences would be . . .

The main difference is . . .

It depends on a couple of things. First, . . .

2.7 COMPARING (ONE WITH ANOTHER)

One of the main differences/advantages is that . . .

2.8 SUGGESTING (SOLVING A PROBLEM)

I think/believe we should . . .

One solution that I can think of is to . . .

One of the possible solutions would be to . . .

2.9 CONNECTIVES

. . . , and . . .

. . . , but . . .

. . . , but generally speaking, . . .

. . . , but from what I know, . . .

Anyhow, . . .

Anyway, . . .

At any rate, . . .

In any case, . . .

Not only . . . , but also . . .

3 STEPS IN ESSAY WRITING

STEP 1: ANALYZE THE TASK AND DETERMINE THE PURPOSE

I. PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Describe and explain a situation.
2. For example:

> a. "Write a report on the state of the roads in your province."
> b. "What do you understand by the term *global warming*"?

II. EXAMINE CAUSE AND EFFECT

1. Active construction: Cause-effect
2. Passive construction: Effect-cause
3. For example:

> a. "Examine the causes of global warming."
> b. "Examine the causes of road accidents in your country."

III. OUTLINE A PROBLEM AND PRESENT A SOLUTION

1. Identify the problem.
2. Describe the problem.
3. Suggest some solutions to the problem.
4. For example:

> a. "What problems does your country face, and how can they be overcome?"
> b. "What are the most important transportation problems in your country, and how can they be solved?"

IV. GIVE AND JUSTIFY AN OPINION

1. State your position.
2. Support your position with relevant facts.
3. For example:

a. "Do you think computer games are a good hobby?"
b. "What is your opinion about the disadvantages of fast food?"

V. AGREE/DISAGREE WITH AN ARGUMENT

1. Express opinions either way.
2. For example:

   a. "Computer games are a good hobby. Do you agree?"
   b. "People should not be allowed to keep pets in the city. Do you agree?"

VI. EVALUATE IDEAS, EVIDENCE, OR AN ARGUMENT

1. Evaluating something is assessing its worth or deciding if it is good or bad.
2. An argument is a reason given to support or disprove something.
3. For example:

   a. "Do you think computer games are good or bad as a hobby?"
   b. "Evaluate the influence that computers have had on our lives."

VII. COMPARE AND CONTRAST EVIDENCE OR AN OPINION

1. Evidence is something that proves an idea or supports an opinion.
2. For example:

   a. "Compare an office chair to an armchair."
   b. "Compare traditional food to fast food."

STEP 2: PREPARE A PLAN

i. Brainstorm and note as many ideas as possible. Do not organize these ideas until you have written as many as you possibly can.
ii. Organize the ideas according to the pattern.

STEP 3: WRITE THE ESSAY

Add variety to your writing by using

• a mixture of simple, compound, and complex sentences;

- sentences of different lengths;
- some sentences that are not in the normal subject-verb-object pattern;
- passive voice in a few sentences;
- varied vocabulary.

STEP 4: PROOFREAD

Check for any grammar or spelling mistakes.

4 STANDARD ESSAY PATTERN

INTRODUCTION (30–40 WORDS)

1. Make a general statement about the topic. Use something interesting/fresh, like "Confucius said, . . ."
2. Indicate what you are going to cover in the body of the essay. The key words indicating the topic of each paragraph should be present here.

BODY (180 WORDS)

Describe more fully the ideas mentioned in the introduction.

FIRST PARAGRAPH

3. Use a topic sentence, usually in the form of a statement. The first key word from the introduction should be present in this sentence.
4. Use supporting sentences (examples / reasons / explanations / connectors). *Optional:* Provide a solution.

SECOND PARAGRAPH

5. Use a topic sentence, usually in the form of a statement. The second key word from the introduction should be present in this sentence.
6. Use supporting sentences (examples / reasons / explanations / connectors). *Optional:* Provide a solution.

THIRD PARAGRAPH

7. Use a topic sentence, usually in the form of a statement. The third key word from the introduction should be present in this sentence.
8. Use supporting sentences (examples / reasons / explanations / connectors). *Optional:* Provide a solution.

CONCLUSION (30–40 WORDS)

No new information or facts are added here.

9. Summarize what has been said. The three key words from the introduction should be repeated here.

10. Provide a conclusion or result. *Optional:* Provide a solution.

5 USEFUL LANGUAGE FOR TASK 2

A. PROVIDING GENERAL FACTUAL INFORMATION

I want to . . .

I would like to . . .

I wish to . . .

B. PRESENTING A SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM

. . . could . . .

. . . should . . .

. . . suggest . . .

. . . perhaps . . .

. . . might be able to . . .

. . . it should be possible to . . .

C. GIVING YOUR OPINION

I think . . .

I believe . . .

I am sure that . . .

It is my opinion that . . .

. . . it seems to me that . . .

. . . it is evident that . . .

. . . it is obvious/clear that . . .

D. AGREEING OR DISAGREEING

. . . however . . .

. . . but . . .

. . . although . . .

. . . concur . . .

E. CREATING RELATIVE STATEMENTS

Academic writing rarely involves absolute certainty. To change an absolute statement like, for example, "The sky is blue" into a statement where the certainty is reduced (a relative statement), the following techniques can be used.

I. TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF A GROUP

Uncountable items:

Some of . . .

A little of . . .

Much of . . .

Most of . . .

Countable items:

Some of . . .

A few of . . .

Many of . . .

Most of . . .

II. TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TIMES SOMETHING OCCURS

Often . . .

Frequently . . .

Sometimes . . .

Occasionally . . .

III. TO SAY SOMETHING IS POSSIBLE

. . . may . . .

. . . might . . .

. . . maybe . . .

. . . can . . .

. . . could . . .

. . . perhaps . . .

. . . possibly . . .

IV. TO EXPRESS DOUBT

. . . seems that . . .

. . . appears to . . .

. . . appears that . . .

F. USING WORDS AND PHRASES TO LINK SENTENCES

I. TO ADD MORE INFORMATION

. . . and also . . .

. . . furthermore . . .

. . . as well as . . .

II. TO INDICATE A CAUSE-AND-EFFECT RELATIONSHIPS

. . . because of . . .

. . . caused by . . .

. . . subsequently . . .

. . . therefore . . .

. . . the result of . . .

. . . as a consequence of . . .

III. TO INDICATE TIME

. . . then . . .

. . . recently . . .

. . . when . . .

. . . now . . .

. . . while . . .

IV. TO LINK GENERAL AND PARTICULAR STATEMENTS

. . . for example . . .

. . . such as . . .

. . . in the case of . . .

V. TO COMPARE/CONTRAST INFORMATION

. . . however . . .

. . . despite . . .

. . . although . . .

6 MODEL ESSAYS

6.1 ROAD ACCIDENTS

A large number of deaths are caused by road accidents. Why do so many road accidents occur? Make recommendations that would help reduce the number of road accidents.

STEP 1: ANALYZE THE TASK

1. Look for topic words: "Large number of deaths," "road accidents"
2. Look for task words: "Why . . . occur?"

   "Make recommendations . . . help reduce . . . road accidents"

3. Determine the purpose of the essay: outlining a problem and presenting a solution.

STEP 2: PREPARE A PLAN

1. Brainstorm and note as many ideas as possible. Do not organize these ideas until you have written as many as you possibly can.

   "drunk drivers," "road conditions," "penalties," "government," "advertising," "vehicles," "brakes, lights, steering, tires," "speeding," "fines"

2. Now organize the ideas according to the pattern that follows.

INTRODUCTION

1. General statement "many deaths," "road accidents"
2. Indication of body "vehicles," "roads," "humans"

BODY

FIRST PARAGRAPH

3. Topic sentence "bad vehicle maintenance"
4. Supporting sentences "tires, lights"

   Solution (optional) "regular testing"

SECOND PARAGRAPH

5. Topic sentence "road conditions"
6. Supporting sentences "potholes, curves"

   Solution (optional) "money"

THIRD PARAGRAPH

7. Topic sentence "driver errors"
8. Supporting sentences "drunken driving, speeding"

   Solution (optional) "fines, suspension of permit"

CONCLUSION

9. Summary "test vehicles, improve roads, suspensions"
10. Conclusion "traveling by road can be made safer"

STEP 3: WRITE THE ESSAY

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. Confucius said, "People getting killed in road accidents is a curse placed on us by ourselves."
2. In this essay, I will focus on three possible causes—namely, the roadworthiness of vehicles, the condition of our roads, and the errors made by humans.

BODY

FIRST PARAGRAPH

3. Many accidents are caused by bad (inadequate) vehicle maintenance and repairs.
4. For example, bald tires and defective brakes will dramatically increase the stopping time of a vehicle. Regular mechanical inspections would reduce the number of unroadworthy vehicles.

SECOND PARAGRAPH

5. Road conditions also contribute to road accidents.

6. Road surfaces that are in a bad state of repair and have many potholes are dangerous. In addition, narrow roads with sharp curves can cause accidents. Lastly, snow and rain make the road surfaces slippery and difficult to drive on. The government will have to spend more money on road maintenance and so improve the condition of our road surfaces. More care will have to be taken when designing roads to get rid of (eliminate) hazardous road features.

THIRD PARAGRAPH

7. The third cause of road accidents is driver errors.
8. Drunken driving and excessive speed frequently result in drivers misjudging distances and losing control of their vehicles. Other examples are drivers who pass without the necessary care and fail to use their indicators when turning. Although the problems associated with driver errors are the most difficult to solve, advertising campaigns have proved to be effective in educating drivers about road safety. Furthermore, harsher penalties such as heavy fines and the suspension of driver's licenses could be applied to discourage such dangerous behavior.

CONCLUSION

9. In conclusion, although it is inevitable that some accidents will occur, there are ways to reduce their frequency. Stricter and more regular vehicle testing by the authorities and more severe penalties for careless drivers are needed. In addition, more funds will have to be allocated to maintain and upgrade roads and launch advertising campaigns.

STEP 4: PROOFREAD

Check for any grammar or spelling mistakes.

6.2 GARBAGE SOCIETY

Someone said our society is becoming a garbage society. What are the reasons for this, and how do you think we should deal with it?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. Confucius said, "I love the bugs in my home, but I hate litterbugs."
2. In this essay, I will focus on the reasons for all the garbage, the types of waste, and one possible solution. (34 words)

BODY

FIRST PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

3. Technological developments have resulted in products becoming useless (obsolete) much faster than before.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

4. Consumers have been brainwashed by the advertising industry to believe that they should buy the latest models of cars, computers, and household appliances. For example, new-generation computers containing improved hardware and software are replacing old ones at an astonishing rate. Car manufacturers are bringing out new models every year (annually) in order to boost their sales.

SECOND PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

5. Waste is classified into two major categories—namely, biodegradable and undegradable.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

6. Biodegradable wastes are those that can be broken down by bacteria. Undegradables like plastics and rubber, however, cannot be broken down and have an everlasting (infinite) lifespan. For example, waste

paper and wood can be absorbed by the soil in the form of compost. Compost is useful in commercial nurseries and private gardens.

THIRD PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

7. One of the solutions to at least reduce the garbage problem is to recycle.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

8. For example, many types of plastic and rubber can be melted down and used again as useful products. Plastic shopping bags have been used in new applications. (171 words)

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

9. I have briefly looked at the origins and types of waste and recycling as a solution.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

10. In conclusion, by educating the public and with more research into recycling methods, I believe our waste problems can be reduced. (37 words) (Total words: 242)

6.3 TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

Technology has developed rapidly in recent times, but there are still many questions that scientists have not been able to answer to ensure our survival. Do you agree or disagree?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL STATEMENT

1. Confucius said, "Philosophers, and not scientists, will provide the world with answers to questions that are important for our survival."

VIEW OF BODY

2. In this essay, I will focus on two aspects—namely, water supplies and global warming—and see that scientists have, to date, not been successful. (45 words)

BODY

FIRST PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

3. The supply of freshwater fit for consumption by man and beast is dwindling at such an alarming rate that it is threatening our very existence on this planet.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

4. To be more specific, the sources of underground water are being exhausted by ever-growing populations and industries. In addition, in many parts of the world, the annual rainfall is constantly dropping. To date, scientists have not been able to manufacture water on a large scale and at acceptable costs. The harvesting of icebergs is only a temporary solution.

SECOND PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

5. Scientists have only recently become aware of the phenomenon called global warming.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

6. The initial indications are that if we do not take care of global warming, it will make life on earth miserable and even impossible. For example, if the earth's temperature rises to the extent that the polar ice caps begin to melt, the oceans will submerge large parts of the landmass. This would mean that coastal cities like New York, Hong Kong, and London, to name a few, will be completely covered by the ocean. (173 words)

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

9. In this essay, I looked at water and global warming as aspects where scientists cannot provide sufficient answers.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

10. To conclude, I would agree that there are many unsolved mysteries that threaten us. (32 words) (Total words: 250)

6.4 ROBOTS

Robots can free people from difficult or dangerous work. However, some people are worried about the possible dangers. What's your opinion?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. A robot is defined as an "intelligent and obedient but impersonal machine."
2. In this essay, I will briefly look at robots in terms of their nature, their special uses (functions), and their shortcomings. (33 words)

BODY

FIRST PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

3. Because robots are not human, they are useful and effective in many actions that are impossible for human beings to handle.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

4. For example, they do not get tired or bored. So they are able to do repetitive tasks for as long as we want them to. In addition, when properly maintained, they do not get ill. They do not need a vacation and do not need to look after (tend to) a family.

SECOND PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

5. Robots are suitable for tasks that are too complicated or dangerous (risky) to be done (executed) by humans.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

6. For instance, they are able to work in situations where radiation from nuclear material would kill (harm) humans. They have been used for work at great depths in the ocean, like finding and surveying the wreck of the *Titanic*.

THIRD PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

7. Robots cannot assume responsibility. They can only do what they are programmed for.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

8. In other words, they constantly need a human being to program and guide them. To be more specific, they cannot solve problems that might crop up or adapt to changing circumstances that might arise while working. When left unattended, they could cause much damage and could produce large quantities of waste before being reprogrammed. (192 words)

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

9. In this essay, I have described the characteristics of robots, how they could serve humans, and what their weaknesses are.

10. To conclude, it is my opinion that robots cannot threaten humans yet. (32 words) (Total words: 257)

6.5 WEAPONS AND THE POOR

Should governments spend more money on weapons or on improving the lives of the poor? Give your opinion in the form of an essay.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. Confucius said, "Every country in the world has weapons and people living in poverty."
2. In this essay, I will focus on the need for spending money on both weapons and the poor and also on the need to find a balance. (41 words)

BODY

FIRST PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

3. First, countries need weapons to defend themselves against aggressors.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

4. Some of these weapons are extremely expensive to develop and manufacture. In addition, the training of personnel to use these weapons is costly. For example, nuclear weapons take years to develop, design, and build. Many countries are forced to acquire nuclear weapons because their enemies or possible (potential) enemies have developed them.

SECOND PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

5. Second, governments need to spend money on the poor.

SUPPORTING SENTENCE

6. Jobs have to be created, and then the poor need to be educated and trained to do those jobs. For example, the rural poor have to be

educated in sound agricultural practices, soil and water conservation, and the utilization of resources. Then they have to be trained to use farming equipment like tractors and other vehicles. Only then can they be placed on (designated to) farms.

THIRD PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

7. Lastly, however, I am of the opinion that there has to be balance in the way governments spend the money available to them.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

8. For example, poor people who have become trained workers have to be looked after (protected) in the event of an invasion from a neighboring country. (180 words)

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

9. We need weapons; the poor have to be helped. To achieve this, a balance has to be found.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

10. To conclude, I believe my opinion is moderate and should be followed. (30 words) (Total words: 251)

6.6 COLLEGES

Should the courses that colleges present be more theoretical or more practical? Give your opinion.

Note: The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL STATEMENT

1. Universities worldwide are being criticized by commerce and industry that they are producing "nerds" and "bookworms."

VIEW OF BODY

2. Let us look at the topic in terms of the subjects in the courses and the careers involved. (34 words)

BODY

FIRST PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

3. First, the subjects covered in a course will determine the nature of the study material and the activities in which the students will have to partake.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

4. For example, arts and drama courses will have to contain mainly practical subjects. The students need to practice and eventually master certain skills under the guidance of their lecturers and professors. When studying philosophy, history, or theology, however, a student would have to read many prescribed books, articles, and papers in order to acquire a broad theoretical background of the subject.

SECOND PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

5. Second, the nature of the career for which a student is preparing will largely determine how many practical and/or theoretical sessions the college course will contain.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

6. For instance, when training a medical doctor, a nurse, a hotel manager, or an engineer, the courses would have to contain many practical modules. These students need to get "hands-on" experience in the skills they are going to need in their jobs. Teachers and lecturers, on the other hand, need as much knowledge as possible about the particular subjects that they will be teaching. (177 words)

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

9. I have looked at course content and career paths as the factors determining how practical or theoretical a course should be.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

10. To conclude, in my opinion, it is impossible to make a sweeping statement in this regard. (37 words) (Total words: 248)

6.7 BIGGER CITIES

Modern cities are becoming bigger and bigger. What are the reasons for this? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of large cities.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. The number of very large cities (also called megacities) in the world is steadily increasing.
2. In this essay, I will deal with some reasons for and advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon. (32 words)

BODY

FIRST PARAGRAPH

3. The main reason why cities are becoming bigger (rapidly expanding) is that people are moving there in search of jobs (employment opportunities).
4. For example, the main activities of commerce and industry are usually located in and around a very large city (metropolis). Rural people are under the impression (have the perception) that life in the city will be easier (more affluent) than in the villages and on the farms.

SECOND PARAGRAPH

5. There are some advantages to large cities.
6. For instance, more people can use the same facilities (infrastructure) like roads, railways, water distribution, electricity supplies, telephone lines, and public transportation services like buses and subways. In addition, large cities result in the creation of many small businesses in the informal sector.

THIRD PARAGRAPH

7. Large cities, however, have some definite (distinct) disadvantages.
8. For instance, there often is an increase in crime (criminal activities). Poor (destitute) people resort to mugging, housebreaking, and theft in an attempt to survive. Gangs and syndicates make use of (utilize) the situation for organized crime. In addition, housing, medical, and educational standards often worsen (deteriorate), as existing structures cannot cope with the sudden increase (influx) of large numbers of people. The massive slum area in Mexico City is a good example of this. (184 words)

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

9. I have discussed the reasons why the world's populations are becoming more urbanized and some advantages and disadvantages.
10. To close, it should be mentioned that this is a worldwide phenomenon with many consequences (repercussions). (33 words) (Total words: 249)

6.8 WORKING WOMEN

More and more women are working outside their homes. Should the government focus on the education of children or not? Discuss your opinion.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. Confucius said, "Women should stay at home, tend to their babies, and forget about working."
2. This essay will deal with the issue in terms of the importance of the family, problems when mothers do not educate their children, and one possible solution. (42 words)

BODY

3. I believe that the family is the hub (nucleus) of a society and that mothers should be the (primary) educators of children.
4. Because mothers carry and give birth to the children, the relationship between a mother and her child cannot be duplicated by any other means. Research (clinical studies) done with baby monkeys has provided valuable information about the psychological effects foster mothers have on siblings.
5. Attempts to place the education of children in the hands of foster parents, the broader society, or the state have failed dismally in the past.
6. For example, during the formation of the state of Israel, a communal system was adopted on the "kibbutzim." Appointed educators raised the children while the mothers worked on the commune. These children soon developed serious (psychological and emotional) problems in society, and the system was changed.
7. One way of finding a "win-win" solution would be to have fewer schooling hours and to allow mothers of young children to work half

days only.

8. This would not trouble (hinder) the schooling process, and children would be able to spend quality time with their mothers in the afternoons and evenings. (180 words)

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

9. It is clear from the above that family is important in educating children, and working mothers should realize that their needs could be met.

10. In closing, we should remember that our children are the future of our world. (38 words) (Total words: 260)

6.9 BOYS AND GIRLS

In many countries, boys and girls have to study in separate schools and colleges. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this policy.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Roman Catholic Church was the first to create one-gender schools.
2. In this essay, I will briefly look at (investigate) one advantage and two disadvantages of this type of school. (29 words)

BODY

FIRST PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

3. First, teachers can initiate and maintain high levels of discipline when dealing with an unmixed (homogeneous) group of students.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

4. For example, maintaining control over students while in their classes, dormitories, and playgrounds or on outings (excursions) is less complex than with mixed groups.

SECOND PARAGRAPH TOPIC SENTENCE

5. Second, separating students from those of the opposite sex has one major disadvantage in that it robs (deprives) students of gaining experience in having relationships across the gender line.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

6. The human race consists of males and females. The sooner a person becomes familiar with the differences between males and females, the better. This includes physical, emotional, and psychological

differences. These differences have to be learned and experienced in order for students to attain the necessary respect for each other.

THIRD PARAGRAPH TOPIC STATEMENT

7. Lastly, another disadvantage of these schools is that they are not able to partake in the same range of (extramural) activities as mixed schools.

SUPPORTING SENTENCES

8. To be more specific, mixed schools can present a greater variety of activities in which boys and girls are needed—for example, theatrical plays and dancing performances. (169 words)

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

9. Some educational policy makers have thought it advisable and established a number of one-gender schools. I believe they have no real advantages in an open society but very definite disadvantages.

10. The tendency worldwide these days is not to establish more schools of this nature. (44 words) (Total words: 242)

6.10 ANIMALS IN EXPERIMENTS

In schools, some live animals are used in biological experiments or research projects. Some people think this practice is cruel and unnecessary, while others believe it to be in the interest of human beings. Explain the two views.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. Scholars studying animals need to investigate the organs and body systems of animals like frogs and mice in practical experiments.
2. In this essay, I will briefly look at the arguments for and against this practice. (35 words)

BODY

3. People caring about the welfare of animals (animal rights activists) feel those animals should not be used for these experiments and research.
4. The extremists in this group would argue, for example, that all animals should have the same rights as humans and that we certainly would not use humans in these experiments. A more moderate view is that animals could be used, but with great care taken not to let them suffer in any way.
5. Scientists and educators, however, feel there is a need to conduct these experiments if scholars and students are to be educated properly.
6. They are of the opinion that the animals that are used are not being treated in cruel ways. The animals either have undeveloped nervous systems and cannot actually feel pain or are drugged (sedated) or killed (put down) before being used.
7. Both sides feel that their arguments are justified. It is impossible to reconcile with the extremists, so the more moderate views are

considered when educators and governments formulate their policies on the matter.

8. But until further facts can be gathered, the present situation (status quo) will remain in our schools, colleges, and universities. (183 words)

CONCLUSION

9. Both views have been explained in this essay without favoring one.

10. From the discussion, I have to conclude that this is a complicated (complex) issue for which there are still no definite (clear-cut) answers. (32 words) (Total words: 250)

6.11 STRESS VERSUS LEISURE TIME

Many people think that life nowadays is more stressful and there is less leisure time than in the past. What is your opinion?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. Stress and the lack of leisure time have become the number-one dangers in the lives of modern people.
2. In this essay, I will look at two aspects—namely, city life and financial pressure—as two reasons why people do not have time to relax. (44 words)

BODY

3. These days, many more people live in urban environments. City life has much more stress than life in the country.
4. For example, going to work by car or bus in the morning rush hour is always very stressful. In addition, because populations are growing and economies are slowing down (going into recessions), the competition for jobs (employment opportunities) is becoming fiercer by the day. This places people under constant stress.
5. Today the banks and financial institutions are making it easier for people to make more debt. This forces them to work longer and harder in order to make ends meet. Some even resort to the practice of having two jobs at the same time (moonlighting). The result is that they have very little leisure time.
6. For instance, in many Western countries, an expensive car and a large house are two very important status symbols among young couples. Therefore, it is considered normal for these young people to have large monthly payments on a car or mortgage payments on a house. It places them under great financial pressure, resulting in high levels of stress. (177 words)

CONCLUSION

9. By looking at the stress brought about by life in the city and financial burdens,
10. I conclude that modern people don't have sufficient leisure time. (25 words) (Total words: 246)

VOCABULARY

CAPITALISM: Ideology in which private capital is used for the production and distribution of goods and services.

IDEOLOGIES: A manner of thinking characteristic of a class of people or individual; ideas that form the basis of some economic or political systems.

SOCIALISM: Ideology that advocates that the society as a whole should control the production and distribution of goods and services.

6.12 OLDER PEOPLE

Some people say that older people should live with their adult children, while others think they should live in homes specially built for old people. Which do you think is a better practice?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. A reality in life is that elderly people have to spend their last days somewhere.
2. Let us look at the issue in terms of the priorities of the adult children and why this practice is undesirable and unacceptable, in my opinion. (41 words)

BODY

3. In today's society, adult children often consider their elderly parents to be a nuisance that should be dealt with in the most acceptable (amicable) way possible. That is the reason why so many retirement villages and old-age homes are being built these days. The old people (elderly) and pensioners are put (placed) there so as not to be in the way of their adult children.
4. For example, the adults concerned now have children of their own to provide for and educate, and they feel their own children are their highest priority.
5. I believe this is a very (extremely) selfish and foolish practice. First, the old people have most probably made many sacrifices and endured many hardships to ensure that their children received a good upbringing, education, and training.
6. They would, for instance, have worked very hard for many years to pay for their children's class (tuition) fees at school or college—more so if they have given their children the chance (opportunity) to

study abroad. To be pushed aside in their old age by their adult children is unthankful, selfish, and even cruel. (177 words)

CONCLUSION

9. To sum up, I could say that adult children have other priorities but should not become selfish and unthankful in the process.
10. To me, there is only one conclusion: elderly people should live with their adult children. (37 words) (Total words: 255)

VOCABULARY

AMICABLE: Not hostile; done in a friendly manner. *Example:* The ambassador of China was received amicably when he arrived on his visit to the foreign country.

6.13 ENVIRONMENT

Damage to the environment is an inevitable consequence of the improvement in the standard of living. What are your ideas?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. The idea (perception) that damage to the environment is an inevitable result (consequence) of the development needed to raise our standards of living has to be changed urgently.
2. I will look at the issue in terms of natural resources, recycling, and pollution. (40 words)

BODY

3. First, some of our natural resources are irreplaceable and should be used (utilized) with great care. This includes, for example, crude oil, coal, and metal ores. However, we can replace other resources like trees, animals, fish, and plants.
4. For example, when an area has been deforested, we are able to raise seedlings and replant the area with the same kinds (species) that were found there before.
5. Second, the extent to which we are using natural resources can be limited if we pay more attention to recycling. It is known that businesspeople are interested in developing industries that use garbage (waste) as their raw material.
6. For example, in Japan, housewives have been educated to sort their household waste into glass, plastics, and biodegradables. The waste then has a money (monetary) value and can be marketed.
7. Lastly, at the moment, it is accepted that development inevitably causes more pollution. This trend will have to be reversed in the future.

8. For instance, scientists and industrialists have to realize that they have to limit the amount of pollution that will result from the development of new manufacturing processes. (180 words)

CONCLUSION

9. From the above, it is clear that there are ways to improve our standard of living and at the same time limit (curb) the damage to the environment.
10. To conclude, I would say, "Where there is a will, there is a way." (41 words) (Total words: 261)

ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH

For instance, scientists will have to find an acceptable alternative for the internal combustion engine. These engines are simply producing too much pollution. In addition, they are only about 30 percent efficient, using three times more resources for the work they are producing.

6.14 ANIMALS AS PETS

People regard animals as the source of food or clothes, and others think that they should be treated like pets. State your opinion from both sides.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. There are differences in the way that people see (perceive) animals. Some see them only (solely) as a source of food or clothes, while others regard them as pets.
2. I will look at these differences in terms of man's position on the food chain and in terms of cultural differences. (48 words)

BODY

3. On this planet, human beings are at the top of the food chain. In other words, we have no one that feeds on us (no predators). The result of this is that we, in order to survive, have to utilize animals and plants that are lower down on the food chain than we are.
4. For example, in most parts of the world, a balanced human diet would be considered one that includes the necessary proteins obtained from the meat of animals.
5. In the different cultures of the world, the description (definition) of which animals are considered to be a source of food and clothing, on the one hand, and those that are considered to be pets, on the other, often differ considerably.
6. For instance, in many countries, pigs, cattle, and sheep are raised for the sole purpose of being sold to the general public for consumption in their homes (domestic use). There are, however, some people who consider these same animals to be wonderful pets. In addition, some birds and snakes are considered a highly sought-after (exclusive) delicacy in some countries but will be kept as pets in others. (183 words)

CONCLUSION

9. I have had a look at our position in the world and our differences.
10. To conclude, we could say that humans will carry on using animals to survive (be carnivorous) and as pets as well. (33 words) (Total words: 264)

ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSIONS

9. After looking at the present position in terms of the existing differences,
10. I have to state, in conclusion, that unless something unforeseen happens, we will keep on eating animals as well as keeping them as pets.
9. In this essay, I have briefly looked at the situation as it exists in the world today as well as the big (vast) differences that exist between different cultures.
10. The only conclusion is that this will be the case for many years to come.

6.15 TRANSLATING MACHINES

Some people think that machine translations are highly developed in today's society. Therefore, it is not necessary for children to learn a foreign language. What is your opinion?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. Confucius said, "Communication consists of much more than words."
2. The above opinion will be looked at in terms of how meaning is communicated and the role of culture in communication. (30 words)

BODY

3. It is usually said that "words have meanings." However, today the scientists studying languages (linguists) agree that it is considered much more advisable to say, "Meanings have words." What they mean is that the same meaning / concept / idea can be communicated by different words and even in different ways.
4. For example, the same word can have different meanings. *Bank* can mean "a place where money is kept" but also "the side of a river." In the same way, one meaning can be communicated by using (a) a specific word or phrase, (b) another word or phrase in a different context, and (c) a completely different word accompanied by certain body language and/or emotions. Machines would not be able to distinguish between all these possibilities.
5. People use many languages. In addition, even within the same language, different dialects are used. For example, Chinese has many dialects. Furthermore, the culture of people influences the way in which they use language.
6. For instance, the saying "As white as snow" is meaningless to an African person who has never seen or heard of snow before. Machines cannot appreciate this. (186 words)

CONCLUSION

9. In this essay, I looked at the issue in terms of communication and culture.
10. From the above, it's clear, in conclusion, that children should be encouraged to learn a foreign language. (31 words) (Total words: 247)

ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSIONS

9. In this essay, I have dealt with the issue by looking at communication and differences in cultures.
10. To conclude, it is clear that children should be encouraged to learn one or even more foreign languages.

9. We all would like to make ourselves understood by as many people as possible. This is more so when we come into contact with foreigners.
10. This forces us to conclude that children should be motivated to learn as many languages as possible.

6.16 TRADITIONS

Some people think that strong traditions can civilize a country and the government should subsidize musicians, artists, actors and drama companies. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Note: The numbers refer to the standard essay pattern given in chapter 4.

INTRODUCTION

1. Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Do traditions civilize people, or do civilized people have traditions?
2. Let us investigate the issue in terms of the historical evidence and the legacy societies have produced. (35 words)

BODY

3. Throughout history, all the successful civilizations had well-developed cultural traditions, which convinces me to agree with the position.
4. For example, the Romans and Greeks had a high regard for their artists, poets, writers, and philosophers. Famous people like Plato, Socrates, Copernicus, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and so on come to mind.
5. I believe that the extent to which a society has left a legacy in the world is an indication of how civilized it was.
6. For instance, warring nations like the Vikings and Mongols have little effect on our world today. The Chinese, however, have excelled in many fields, like printing, poetry, theater, and philosophy. The teachings of Confucius (Kong Fuzi) have an effect on societies and governments in large parts of Asia to this day.
7. Lastly, although I often fail to understand what artists are trying to say, I believe that governments should allow artists to express themselves freely and assist them financially if need be.
8. To be more specific, governments should have sufficient vision, courage, and self-confidence to even allow artists to criticize their

actions and policies. (179 words)

CONCLUSION

9. The historical evidence and legacies are only two aspects of this complex issue.
10. To conclude, I believe it should be said that most modern societies and governments could spend less on weapons and more on paintbrushes. (36 words) (Total words: 250)

ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH

7. Lastly, I believe that public funds should not be wasted on things like music, the arts, and culture. Governments should not be expected to assist artists, as the money should instead be used for more pressing needs, like schools and hospitals.

6.17 TOURISM

What are the advantages of tourism to your country?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives. In this and the following essays, the pattern numbers are not shown, as students should by now be familiar with these.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is the largest, richest, and fastest growing industry in the world. In this essay, I will look at the advantages of tourism in terms of foreign currency and the income it generates. (33 words)

BODY

Tourism has very few disadvantages. There are, however, many advantages to tourism.

First, tourists bring foreign currency into the country, resulting in the creation (generation) of jobs in the traveling and hospitality industries. For instance, more tourists means more aircraft, buses, trains, and taxis are needed, resulting in more jobs for flight attendants, pilots, and drivers. In addition, the tourists stay (overnight) in hotels and eat in restaurants. This means more waiters, porters, chefs, receptionists, cleaners, and managers will be able to find jobs in present (existing) businesses. Even more advantageous is the fact that more businesses will be started in the tourism industry, employing even more people.

Second, the money generated could be used to develop the existing facilities and infrastructure further, making the country even more desirable as a tourist destination. Some of the money might be invested in other projects, like the restoration of historical sites and buildings or research into historical events. The money could be used to develop specific communities associated with a particular traditional skill or historical site. For example, a farmer using traditional farming skills could be assisted in starting a guesthouse or a B&B in his local area. (193 words)

CONCLUSION

Those, then, were two advantages of tourism resulting from the money coming into the country. The only conclusion one could reach is that tourism has to be encouraged in the future. (31 words) (Total words: 257)

EDUCATIONAL NOTE

The exchange rate of the currencies of two countries will make a big difference in people deciding to visit a specific country or not. For example, for many years, the rate between the US dollar and smaller currencies has been in favor of the smaller currencies. This fact should be exploited to a larger extent by the smaller and developing countries by marketing their tourism potential.

6.18 PROFESSIONAL SALARIES

Is it fair that some successful sports professionals earn a great deal more money than people in other important professions? What is your opinion?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

It is widely accepted that when sports professionals play a game, it is a job (vocation) for which they have to be paid (receive remuneration). In this essay, I will look at the lifespan, training needed, and importance of their professions. (38 words)

BODY

First, in defending their large salaries, sportsmen and women argue that the time in which they are physically able to play is relatively short. They too have financial needs and often have families to tend to. Therefore they have to make (generate) as much money as possible in order to ensure a secure future when retiring. Those against these high salaries argue that other professionals run the same risks. A surgeon, for example, could contract arthritis and not be able to perform complicated operations any longer.

Second, those opposed to these salaries argue that other professionals have studied for many years at a high cost to obtain their qualifications. Sportsmen and women, on the other hand, say (contend) that they not only have a specific talent but also have to train for long hours and in fact have to keep on training to stay competitive.

Lastly, it is said that the sports person's job is not as important as those of other professionals, like doctors, engineers, scientists, and so on. Sports people disagree and say that they provide a necessary service to the community when they help (assist) people relax. (187 words)

CONCLUSION

After looking at the time they can play, the amount of training they have to undergo, and the service they provide to their fans (supporters), I would conclude that their salaries are justified. (32 words) (Total words: 257)

ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH

Lastly, it is said that the skills that sports people have to master cannot be compared to the skills that other professionals, like doctors, engineers, scientists, and so on, have to master. The sports people counter this by challenging their critics to have a go at the skills needed in their different sports.

6.19 REDUCING STRESS

Modern society has brought about more stress in people's daily lives and jobs. Some read, some exercise, and others work in their gardens. What do you think are the best ways to reduce stress?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Stress and stress-related illnesses, like heart attacks (cardiac arrest), have become major causes of suicide and death in modern societies. Three ways to reduce stress—namely, physical exercise, traveling, and positive thinking—will be discussed in this essay. (36 words)

BODY

First, I am of the opinion that any physical exercise is a good way to reduce stress. Stress is a condition affecting a person's nervous system. Therefore the bodies of fit and healthy people can handle stress better. However, care should be taken not to partake (indulge) in exercise so hard (strenuous) that it leads to or causes injuries.

Second, I believe that traveling is a good way to reduce stress. Traveling allows one to get away from the source of the stress from time to time (occasionally). The unknown environment encountered will be pleasing (soothing) to the nervous system, and in addition, the different people and sites will be stimulating. This will surely take one's mind off the stressful situation.

Lastly, I believe the best way to reduce stress is to change your thinking patterns. Negative thoughts are counterproductive and usually develop into a never-ending cycle (spiral). This could result in severe fear (anxiety) and even depression. The saying "Every dark cloud has a silver lining" is applicable. It is possible to see something positive in each and every situation or circumstance. But this needs (requires) a definite decision and effort from us. (187 words)

CONCLUSION

Physical exercise, traveling, and positive thinking have been highlighted as ways to reduce stress. It should be clear, in conclusion, that there are a number of ways to reduce stress. (30 words) (Total words: 253)

ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH

First, I am of the opinion that any physical exercise is a good way to reduce stress. When you are busy with exercises, you are thinking of the moves you make, and this usually takes your mind off the things that would cause stress. Becoming physically tired and sweating are good for your blood circulation and breathing (respiratory) system.

6.20 TOURISM AND ENGLISH

Tourism is developing quickly in many countries, and English is becoming the most popular language in the world. Will the great numbers of English-speaking tourists affect other languages and cultures?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Like so many things in life, unfortunately, tourism not only has positive effects. In this essay, I will look at this issue in terms of language and moral (ethical) standards. (29 words)

BODY

Slang is defined as "words or phrases, or particular meanings of these, that are in common informal use but are generally considered not to form part of the standard language and are often used deliberately for novelty or unconventionality." For example, *bro* is used instead of *brother*. One possible negative effect of a greater number of English-speaking tourists visiting a region might be that they influence local people to use more slang in their language.

Second, tourists may have a negative influence on the moral standards and ethical standards (principles) of communities. Crime, drugs, pornography, prostitution, and alcoholism might increase among locals in the presence of large numbers (masses) of tourists (visitors). For instance, the young people (youngsters / younger generation) in a community might want to copy the customs of other countries and in the process leave (abandon) the traditions and principles taught to them. For example, Americanism has become a threat to communities desperately in need of foreign money (currency). A good (excellent) case in point is the way in which Hawaii has changed since it has become a famous tourist destination. (174 words)

CONCLUSION

To summarize, large numbers of English-speaking tourists could affect communities negatively. In conclusion, one could say that communities have to be careful (aware) of this and take the steps needed (necessary) to keep the effects to a minimum without discouraging tourists from visiting them. (42 words) (Total words: 245)

ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSION

In this essay, I have discussed the influence of tourists on the language and morals of the local people (locals). In conclusion, I have shown that all communities that are visited by large numbers of tourists should be aware of the possible negative effects that this might have on them and their communities.

6.21 COUNTRY SUCCESS

Should the success of a country be measured in terms of the standard of living of its people or in terms of its economic development? State your opinion.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Different governments have different priorities when determining whether the country involved is a success or not. In this essay, I will look at these differences by referring to first-world and third-world countries. (32 words)

BODY

First, one would normally (instinctively) think that economic development in a country automatically means that its people enjoy a high standard of living. Unfortunately, this situation (scenario) is not found all over the world.

Second, most first-world countries regard the improvement in the standard of living of their people as their highest (top) priority. They are not obsessed with producing impressive (flamboyant) technological projects and schemes. Most western European countries, for example, are spending large (substantial) parts of their national budgets on the subsidization of social services like medical aid and pension funds.

Lastly, many developing countries, or third-world countries, place a higher priority on economic and technological development than on the improvement of the standard of living of their people. For example, because of the massive income gained from the sale of crude oil, some Arab and African countries have been able to develop impressive technological projects and glamorous cities. However, large parts (segments) of their populations continue to live in miserable poverty. Other countries are known to spend massive amounts on developing nuclear weapons while the greatest part (majority) of their populations do not have access to basic goods and services. (186 words)

CONCLUSION

So I have noted the difference in approach in two types of countries. In conclusion, I believe developing countries should change their priorities. (23 words) (Total words: 241)

ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSION

To summarize, in this essay, I have shown that developed countries have a different approach to what "civilized" means as opposed to developing countries. In conclusion, one could say that developing countries have to be made aware of the alternative meaning of "civilized."

6.22 DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS

Disruptive students have a negative influence on others. These students should be taught separately. Do you agree or disagree? State your opinion.

INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that some students behave badly and cause difficulties for other students. In this essay, I will deal with the effects that separation will have on the education of the students and on society as a whole. (40 words)

BODY

When disruptive students are removed to separate classes, their future educational opportunities will become severely limited. For instance, there will not be sufficiently qualified teachers to cope with the additional classes required for these students. In addition, they will not have the opportunity to interact with well-behaved students on a daily basis.

These separate classes will be seen as a sort of "prison" in which problematic students are placed if they do not respond to warnings. These "prison" classes will certainly acquire a negative reputation in the education system, and students placed there will be ridiculed and looked down upon by their peers.

Students placed in these classes, for whatever reason, will never recover from the experience. They will have serious emotional problems and find it extremely difficult to maintain positive self-images.

When eventually leaving school, these people will be at a disadvantage, as institutions of higher education will not accept them. Furthermore, employers will be reluctant to employ them, and these former students might even choose to turn to a life of crime. (174 words)

CONCLUSION

The negative results of such punitive actions will be seen in the educational, emotional, and vocational lives of these students. Therefore, it should be considered thoroughly before we condemn students to a "prison" class. (34 words) (Total words: 248)

ALTERNATIVE INTRODUCTION

Students are humans and behave in certain ways for a reason. By looking at the root of the problem, a lasting solution can be found. This essay will deal with the effects that separation will have on the education of the students and on society as a whole.

6.23 HEALTHY PEOPLE

A healthy person is often described as one who has a good diet, gets lots of exercise, and avoids stress. What do people do in your country to stay healthy?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

As elsewhere in the world, my people have become more health conscious in recent years. The three main aspects of a healthy life—namely, diet, exercise, and stress reduction—will be dealt with in terms of a typical lifestyle. (39 words)

BODY

The traditional customs and dishes in my culture are generally good for (beneficial to) a balanced diet. For example, rice is the staple food and is complemented by a wide variety of vegetables and fruit. Fish, seafood, and white meat are generally preferred to red meat. Alcohol is consumed in very moderate quantities, and when it is consumed, it is mostly beer.

As far as exercise is concerned, my people, in general, get higher than average amounts of exercise as part of their daily routines. That is to say, those in the cities seldom own cars or motorcycles. They often go to work and back (commute) on foot or by bicycle, and are not unwilling (reluctant) to walk long distances or do manual labor.

An easygoing temperament is a national characteristic among my people. For instance, foreigners are amazed to find that road rage and public violence are virtually nonexistent in my country. In addition, because of the social position of women, domestic violence has never reached disturbing levels. Lastly, my people love to partake in one of the popular sports, like ping-pong (table tennis) and basketball. (181 words)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it could be said that my people keep (maintain) healthy lifestyles as far as their diet, exercise patterns, and stress levels are concerned. The future will show to what extent a more Westernized lifestyle will change the status quo (present situation). (40 words) (Total words: 260)

ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSION

In this essay, I have looked at the average diet, exercise patterns, and stress levels of my people, and I cannot help but conclude that generally they are healthy because of the daily activities they engage in as part of their normal living patterns.

6.24 THE AUTOMOBILE

The automobile has had a profound effect on modern life. Some of these effects have been positive and others negative. Discuss these effects in the form of an essay.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

The automobile has brought about changes in almost all aspects (spheres) of human life. Many of the effects were good (wholesome) and contributed greatly to the development of societies. However, automobiles have created some serious problems too. (35 words)

BODY

On the positive side, automobiles have opened up whole new worlds previously unknown to man. For example, new industries in manufacturing, repairing, maintaining, selling, insuring, and driving vehicles were created. The paving of roads was improved, and tunnels, highways, and better bridges were built (constructed). All this resulted in millions of new careers being formed and jobs created. In addition, the ideas (concepts) of commuting and private long-distance traveling were introduced, giving rise to the tourism industry and the formation of suburbs around cities.

On the negative side, automobiles created social and environmental problems not known to humans before. For instance, young people could leave their homes more easily in search of entertainment and excitement and so reduce the time spent with their families. Second, ecologically sensitive areas like deserts, wilderness areas, and rainforests were now easily accessible to those seeking to use (exploit) the natural resources found there. Lastly, automobiles burn fossil fuels, producing large quantities of harmful (poisonous) exhaust gases, which in turn are polluting the earth's atmosphere and threatening our very existence on this planet. (174 words)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, except for the wheel, the automobile has had a greater effect on our lives than any other invention. Thus it is difficult to decide if we should thank or curse Mr. Ford for his legacy. (37 words) (Total words: 146)

EDUCATIONAL NOTE

It is generally accepted that Henry Ford was the first man to produce automobiles on a large scale. Other pioneers were the gentlemen Daimler and Benz from Germany. Mr. Benz named his automobile after his daughter Mercedes, and the Mercedes-Benz was born. Also in Germany, the Bavarian Motor Works became famous as the BMW Company.

6.25 LIVING IN ONE PLACE

Some people live in one community for their entire lives. Others move around to different parts of the country. Compare and contrast living in one place your entire life to moving around to different places.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Some people choose to live in one community all their lives, while others choose a nomadic lifestyle. In this essay, staying and moving will be compared in terms of family and cultural stability and in terms of worldviews. (38 words)

BODY

First of all, living in one place ensures a well-established and stable family structure. For instance, the family circle provides a source of self-identity and becomes a safe haven in times of trouble. In addition, households consisting of three or even four generations living together are known to produce emotionally stable citizens, and they also look after traditional customs and skills.

In contrast, nomads leave family and friends behind and have to establish new relationships at every new place. Unfamiliar neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, churches, cultures, customs, climates, and so on may be stressful, especially in the lives of children and teenagers.

Second, people with limited exposure to other communities may become stagnated and narrow-minded and find it difficult to understand the cultural, racial, ethnic, or religious backgrounds found in other communities.

On the other hand, moving to a new environment enables you and your family to come into contact with and appreciate new ideas, customs, and traditions. This develops a wide range (variety) of worldviews from which to choose the one most preferred. As the saying goes, "Variety is the spice of life." (182 words)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it has to be said that both lifestyles have advantages and disadvantages in terms of family structures and worldviews. People differ, and therefore there will always be those who choose one or the other. (36 words) (Total words: 256)

VOCABULARY

NOMAD: A member of a people having no permanent abode and who travel from place to place to find fresh pasture for their livestock.

6.26 POVERTY

Every country has poor people, and every country has different ways of dealing with the poor and poverty. What are some of the reasons for world poverty? What can be done to assist the poor?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Confucius said, "Poverty and the poor can be found all over the world." The lack of basic goods and services and food and shelter make their lives miserable. Overpopulation and underdevelopment will be discussed as reasons for poverty, and schooling (educational) programs will be presented as a way to assist the poor. (51 words)

BODY

First, all over the world, overpopulation has been seen (identified) as one of the main reasons for poverty. For example, China and Africa have had exceptionally high population growth rates for many decades. The former has taken the drastic (harsh) measure of the "one-child policy" to change the situation, but the latter has not made any difference yet.

Second, underdevelopment is another major reason. Many countries do not have sufficient economic growth to support their growing populations. These countries often go to war with their neighbors to settle arguments (disputes) over the few (limited) resources in their region, causing further misery and hardship to the people involved. When natural disasters like droughts occur, the situation worsens. A recent example is the ongoing drought in Ethiopia.

Lastly, educating people about the advantages of family planning and training them to become self-sufficient have proved to reduce poverty. For instance, in Africa, the perception is that large families are an investment for one's old age. In addition, using the available land to support your family is a skill that has to be acquired. (176 words)

CONCLUSION

In this essay, I looked at overpopulation and underdevelopment as reasons for poverty and education as one solution to the problem. We should accept that the solutions would require much time, effort, and money. (34 words) (Total words: 261)

ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSION

In this essay, I have seen that without overpopulation and underdevelopment, poverty is not easily found. I have looked at education as one solution to the problem. We should accept that the solutions would require much time, effort, and money.

6.27 THE TELEPHONE

Discuss the following statement. Before the advent of computers, the telephone was regarded as the most significant invention.

INTRODUCTION

There are many opinions on what should be regarded as the most significant invention before the computer. Let us look at the telephone in terms of a time-saving device and as a catalyst in the development of modern telecommunications. (39 words)

BODY

First, long-distance communication constitutes a substantial as well as indispensable part of the daily activities of modern man. For example, the time, and therefore money, saved by any business, irrespective of type or size, by using an effective telephone system is simply incalculable. From the housewife on a lonely farm in the Australian Outback to the greatest government, from workers and students to tycoons, all of us would get a great deal less done if not for the simple telephone.

Second, except for the wheel, the telephone, more than any other invention ever in history, has served as a catalyst for the development of an array of devices. For instance, the greatest phenomenon of all times, the internet, came about as a result of service providers using telephones to connect with each other. In addition, new technology will soon result in videophones becoming a common piece of equipment in modern society. Lastly, the mobile phone, to name but one, has led to the birth of a number of complete industries, generating unprecedented wealth and in the process providing a livelihood for millions. (182 words)

CONCLUSION

Because those tiny instruments are now taken for granted, we seldom realize the significance of what Mr. Bell did. To conclude, the telephone is

undoubtedly the most significant invention before the computer. (32 words)
(Total words: 253)

ALTERNATIVE INTRODUCTIONS

There are many things that can be regarded as the most significant invention before the computer. In this essay, I will look at the telephone in terms of it being a time-saving device and a catalyst in the development of modern telecommunications. (42 words)

There have been many significant inventions before the computer. In this essay, I will look at the telephone in terms of it being a time-saving device and a catalyst in the development of modern telecommunications. (35 words)

6.28 GARDENS AND ROADS

There are more and more vehicles in front of our houses, which is very dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. Besides, many gardens have to make way for highways or expressways. How can we make everyone satisfied?

INTRODUCTION

Murphy's law says, "If you try to satisfy everyone, somebody will be dissatisfied." In this essay, the above issue will be dealt with in terms of people's needs, developmental requirements, and the planning of cities. (35 words)

BODY

First, environmental psychologists have proved that people living in cities need to experience nature in some way or another. For example, it was found that children who are born and grow up in "concrete jungles" and do not have the opportunity to play on lawns, climb trees, or see and smell flowers and plants once in a while develop higher levels of aggression than those kids who do have such opportunities.

Second, cities are places where commerce and industry are concentrated. This results in the need for many vehicles to move around and to do so quickly. For this, a network of roads, highways, freeways, and bypasses needs to be built. These take up a lot of space in our cities.

Lastly, it is always difficult to change situations in existing cities. When planning new cities, however, we are able to ensure that the needs of the people as well as commerce and industry are met. When they are educated at universities, city planners should be made aware of everyone's needs and trained to solve problems. (176 words)

CONCLUSION

So I have briefly looked at the needs of people and business and what has to be done in the future. To conclude, it could be said that we have to learn from the mistakes of the past to build better cities in the future. (45 words) (Total words: 256)

EDUCATIONAL NOTE

In 1949, an American captain, Edward A. Murphy, was working on a project for the military and, because of many setbacks, said, "If anything can go wrong, it will." This "law" (like Newton's law) became known worldwide as "Murphy's law," and since then, many more "laws" have been formulated on every subject imaginable. For example, "When I am early, the boss is late, but when I am late, the boss is early"; "If you try to satisfy everyone, somebody will be dissatisfied"; and "Nothing is as easy as it looks."

6.29 SCIENCE IN THE FUTURE

Science and technology created modern society. However, some people think that scientists will no longer create anything from now on. What is your opinion?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

All of us would like to know what the future has in store for us. This might become possible in the future, as will be shown in this essay, in terms of computers, satellites, and cloning. (36 words)

BODY

First, with the help of computers, tasks that were impossible in the past can now be done relatively easily and quickly. This is opening up more and more possibilities for scientists. For example, with the development of the electron microscope, scientists can now observe and study the individual parts of a single cell with ease.

Second, satellites and space technology have made the impossible possible. For instance, by placing a homing device on an animal or bird, it can be followed wherever it goes, and the migratory routes of birds like penguins or storks can be followed constantly.

Lastly, scientists are breaking new ground (making new discoveries) every day. They are moving the borders of our knowledge further and further afield. In addition, it seems that scientists are becoming braver in moving into unknown areas and territories. Cloning, for example, is fast becoming a reality. In many other fields, there are developments that we, in our wildest dreams, would not have thought possible a few years ago. At the moment, there is no indication that the present situation will change in the near future. (181 words)

CONCLUSION

To summarize, I have had a look at computers, satellites, and cloning as examples of the present situation. So it can be seen, in conclusion, that the opposite of the above statement would be truer. Scientists will be able to create almost anything in the future. (46 words) (Total words: 263)

EDUCATIONAL NOTE

By using satellites, two adult male penguins called Peter and Paul were followed as they moved to their breeding sites along the coast of South Africa. The migration routes of storks have been plotted from South Africa, through Africa and the Middle East, to their breeding sites in Europe. Their positions at the end of every day can be seen on a map on the internet.

6.30 VACATION TIME

People doing different kinds of work enjoy different amounts of vacation time. Should all people have the same amount of leisure time? Give your opinion using some of your own experiences as examples.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Workers (blue-collar staff) feel it is unfair when office (white-collar) staff have a vacation while they have to work. I will look at the issue in terms of a basic principle and remuneration packages. (31 words)

BODY

First, I believe that there is a basic principle involved here, which people in general do not like to adhere to. I call it the "Be thankful and pleased" principle. It states, "Be thankful for what you have and pleased for what others have." All of us get vacations, for which we should be thankful. We should be pleased, and not jealous, disgruntled, or angry, if someone else gets more time off. For example, in high school, a friend of mine who had the same grades as I had received a scholarship to attend a math training camp. It was only human for me to feel cheated, but I was thankful that I was still healthy and still able to get good grades. I congratulated him and wished him the best of luck.

Second, when you are offered a job and an accompanying wage package, it states the amount of vacation time that you will receive. If you are not happy with this, it is your right to turn down the offer. It is wrong to accept the offer and then later, when you find out what others are receiving, feel cheated. (192 words)

CONCLUSION

I have looked at a principle and wage packages. In conclusion, we should remind ourselves that life in general is unfair. There is always someone who

is better off than you. (31 words) (Total words: 254)

VOCABULARY

DISGRUNTLED: To be unhappy, sulky, moody, discontented. *Example:* When my parents treat me strictly, I am disgruntled and complain to them.

REMUNERATION: Reward or pay for services rendered to a company or organization. *Example:* I am happy for the remuneration that I receive for the work that I do.

SCHOLARSHIP: Payment received for tuition fees to study at a particular school or college. Usually awarded to a top student or athlete. *Example:* At our school, the best student in math received a scholarship of US$10,000 to study engineering at Liaoning University.

6.31 KIDS AND TV

Some parents in the United Kingdom decided not to have televisions in their homes. They believe that by doing this, their children will spend their leisure time more creatively. To what extent do you agree or disagree with their decision?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Confucius said, "Television is an extremely strong medium." I disagree with those UK parents and will support my opinion in terms of an educational principle and the advantages of television. (30 words)

BODY

First, when educating our children, it is more productive to teach them to make good (healthy) decisions on their own rather than keep on making decisions for them (on their behalf). The former strategy helps them become independent. The case in point is a good example. When grown up, they will have to decide for themselves how much time they are going to spend per day watching TV and what programs they are going to choose. This brings me to my next point.

Second, television has advantages as well. First, there are good (wholesome) programs that are advantageous in educating children. For example, documentary programs broaden their general knowledge on subjects that are not easy to study otherwise. To be more specific, National Geographic and Discovery Channel programs will give them insights into nature and world cultures in the best possible way.

In addition, news programs keep children informed on local and worldwide (global) events, while documentary programs could provide them with background information explaining the causes and/or results of events. To ensure that these programs are of high repute, the journalists and TV stations have spent many hours in preparing them. (186 words)

CONCLUSION

I have briefly looked at the issue in terms of an educational principle and two advantages of TV. Parents who decide not to have a television in their homes are taking an easy way out to the disadvantage (detriment) of their children. (41 words) (Total words: 257)

ALTERNATIVE TO SECOND-TO-LAST PARAGRAPH

In addition, there is no guarantee that when removing the TV from a home, the affected children will spend their leisure time more creatively. This might, in fact, result in children leaving the home to find alternative and potentially negative means of relaxing. Rather, parents should advise their children on how a balance can be found between watching TV and engaging in more creative forms of leisure time activities.

6.32 COMPUTERS

The computer is widely used in modern society. What are the disadvantages if one cannot use a computer? What should the government do?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

For many, living in a modern society implies that they can use computers to some extent (are computer literate). Let's consider the question in terms of the career paths of some professions and look at what governments can do in the schools. (39 words)

BODY

First, the number of career paths in which one needs to be able to use computers on a daily basis is growing by the day. Not very long ago, it was the case in only a few specialized jobs that computers were needed (indispensable). Today, however, even blue-collar workers have to know their way around the keyboard at work. For instance, more and more manufacturing processes are becoming computerized, receptionists are using word processors instead of typewriters, and filing clerks don't work in rooms full of shelves and files anymore but consult the databases on their computers for information.

Second, I am of the opinion that future governments will be forced to look at their education systems and make some adjustments. In the past, math (mathematics) was considered a must, especially in the education of boys. Children will have to be introduced to computers at an early age, and a subject like computer science will have to become just as important as math. This will mean spending large amounts of money in the training of teachers and buying (acquiring) the necessary equipment. (179 words)

CONCLUSION

Education and some career paths have been discussed as examples of why one should be computer literate in the workplace today and what governments will have to do in the future. (31 words) (Total words: 249)

ALTERNATIVE TO THE FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS

For many, living in a modern society implies that they can use computers to some extent (are computer literate). Let's consider the question in terms of the role the internet plays in modern society and look at what governments can do in the schools.

First, although computers in themselves have changed our world dramatically, the internet is becoming an even greater source of change. For example, buying and selling goods and services electronically (e-commerce) by means of the internet is fast becoming standard practice in the business world. In addition, more universities are reverting to online education as opposed to normal (conventional) teaching methods.

6.33 SCHOOL SPORTS

Some people say that sports should not be encouraged at school, as it causes competition rather than cooperation among students. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

INTRODUCTION

Confucius said, "Competition is a fact of life." I believe school sports are essential to prepare children for adult life. By referring to team sports, the essay will show that a balance is indeed possible. (35 words)

BODY

When partaking in team sports like basketball, soccer, or volleyball, scholars have the opportunity to gain experience in what cooperation for the benefit of the team is like. For example, individual players may have their own ideas but have to adhere to the game plan to reach the objectives of the team as set out by the coach.

At the same time, the individual players as a team are able to compete with other teams. This should teach them the benefits of not being selfish and to still have the desire and motivation to win. To be more specific, when the team wins, this can be just as rewarding as when an individual athlete is triumphant.

In addition, even within the context of the objectives of the team and the game plan, individuals can excel by displaying specific skills. For example, in soccer, players like Pelé and Diego Maradona became legends because of their exceptional skills. However, at all times throughout their careers, they had the self-discipline to keep in mind what was best for the team as a whole. (180 words)

CONCLUSION

I could summarize by saying that team sports are one way of achieving a balance in teaching children cooperation as well as competition. In

conclusion, we should note that school sports have a vital part to play in education. (39 words) (Total words: 254)

VOCABULARY

ESSENTIAL: Very important, indispensable, something cannot be without it. *Example:* To make dumplings, it is essential to have flour and water.

WHOLESOME: Promoting physical or moral health. *Example:* Fresh vegetables are part of a wholesome diet. Regular exercise is an essential part of a wholesome lifestyle.

6.34 CREATIVITY

Creative artists should be given more freedom to express their ideas in the form of words, pictures, music, or films, and the government should not place any restrictions on them. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Although I personally often fail to understand what artists are trying to say (express), I fully agree with the statement. I will support this by referring to criticism of the government by artists and the funding of the arts. (38 words)

BODY

In the first place, artists are known to be critical of any wrongdoings (injustices) in society. They often are not afraid to express their views through their art. In other words, they use their art to protest. When they criticize the government because of one or more of its policies, they become very unpopular. For example, in the United States, artists criticized the government for the war in Vietnam. In South Africa, many artists were against the system called "Apartheid" and were often harassed and persecuted to the extent that they had to flee the country and live in exile elsewhere.

Second, generally speaking, artists are performing their art not in order to make money but rather to express their views and feelings. Therefore, they often need financial help (assistance) to keep on performing their art. Governments are reluctant to help someone who is critical of what they are doing. I am of the opinion that this is not a healthy (desirable) situation and should be changed wherever it occurs. To be more specific, governments should have enough (sufficient) vision, courage, and self-confidence to allow artists to criticize their actions and policies. (188 words)

CONCLUSION

I have looked at this issue in terms of artists being critics of governments and needing (requiring) money (funds). The conclusion can be made (drawn) that it is hard to expect a government to fund such artists. (34 words) (Total words: 260)

EDUCATIONAL NOTE

Apartheid was a system of government imposed on the population of South Africa in 1948. It was based on racial discrimination against the black African nations of the country. These people were restricted to certain areas called "homelands," where living conditions were poor. In the "white areas," these people had no voting rights, and apartheid laws ruled all aspects of their daily lives. The system was widely condemned by the international community and led to UN sanctions, resulting in the South African government having normal diplomatic relations only with Britain, Taiwan, and Israel. The system was abolished by the prime minister at the time, Mr. F. W. de Klerk. He freed all political prisoners, including Mr. Nelson Mandela, who became the first black president in 1994.

6.35 TRAVELING

People worldwide are increasingly traveling abroad to work for periods of months or even years. This phenomenon brings about both advantages and disadvantages. Give your opinion.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Migrant workers leave home in search of work in other parts of their own country or in another country. I will look at this phenomenon in terms of the advantages and disadvantages and then decide on (formulate) an opinion. (38 words)

BODY

There are many disadvantages to working abroad. First, it is difficult to leave family and friends behind for months or years. Second, the "culture shock" might be too severe to endure. Third, if the migrant worker does not know the language spoken in the foreign country, it will result in much frustration and misunderstanding.

The most obvious advantage of working abroad is that one is able to search for a job with the remuneration package, environment, and working conditions that one likes best. For example, a teacher who wants to travel to Asia would love a teaching position in an interesting country like China. If the job, in addition, offers a reasonable salary and free housing, meals, and transportation, it would be hard to resist.

In my opinion, each person has to consider the advantages and disadvantages and then decide if he or she would want to work abroad. Young people and bachelors, for example, do not have families to think of and would go and work abroad more easily. Unemployed people unable to find jobs will go even if the working conditions will not be easy. (187 words)

CONCLUSION

To summarize, then, I have noted some advantages and disadvantages of working abroad for long times (extended periods). To conclude, we could say that each person has to consider his or her own circumstances and then decide. (35 words) (Total words: 260)

EDUCATIONAL NOTE

Migration is the phenomenon by which some animals, birds, insects, and fishes come and go according to the seasons. In other words, they move in response to natural forces like temperature or food supply. Swallows, for example, migrate from Europe and Asia to southern Africa. They use the same routes, called migratory routes, and have the same destinations in the north and south. Many mysteries still occur around migration in nature.

6.36 FEMALE CRIME

It is found by a survey that the crime rate among young women is increasing. Spell out the possible reasons and solutions.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Crime is defined as "acts that are punishable by the law." I will discuss why young women act in this way by referring to their childhoods and their circumstances and also present one possible solution. (35 words)

BODY

From their childhood days, many young people are not educated strictly about what is right and what is wrong. Their parents allow them to do almost anything, so when they leave their homes, they tend to disregard the rules of society in general and the laws of the communities they live in. For example, if a parent does not teach a child to respect the possessions of others, the child will not consider theft as a crime.

Many young women in our cities are forced by circumstances to engage (get involved) in crime. They, for instance, leave their rural (countryside) hometowns in search of a better life in the city. Unable to find a job, they are forced to go (revert) to a life of crime. Streetwise criminals know they are vulnerable and exploit them, and many become prostitutes or drug addicts.

One solution would be for city councils to start (embark on) job creation programs with this group in mind. In general, these women have no qualifications or skills, but there are many possibilities in a city. For instance, they could assist in traffic control and act as temporary bus conductors during peak (rush) hours. (189 words)

CONCLUSION

There are many factors that contribute to young women getting involved in (engaging in) crime. I have looked at education and unforeseen circumstances and at a possible solution. The conclusion would be that it is a serious problem that could be solved. (40 words) (Total words: 264)

ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH

The moral standards of people in general are steadily decreasing. This is one reason why the crime rate is increasing on a worldwide scale. There should therefore be no reason why the rate would not increase for this particular group of the population called "young women."

VOCABULARY

STREETWISE: The ability to maintain oneself in a city environment.

6.37 STUDENT ATTITUDE

There are some serious problems in schools worldwide resulting from students' attitudes. Analyze the possible reasons for this growing phenomenon and give your solutions.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Teachers are finding it more and more (increasingly) difficult to control their classes. In this essay, I will look at human rights and parents' fears as reasons for this and suggest one possible solution. (33 words)

BODY

In the military and other forces, discipline is thought of (regarded as) a normal and essential way of life. In the rest of society, however, the idea (concept) of human rights is becoming more important. Schools find it difficult to maintain any level of discipline, fearing that when they discipline students, those students and/or their parents will take them to court (sue them) on a variety of charges. In addition, like in many schools in Britain, teachers fear for their safety and even their lives when attempting to instill (implement) some discipline in the classroom.

Fearing that they will estrange (alienate) their children, parents shy away from disciplining their children at home. Tough love (being tough / hard / strict on someone in his or her own best interest) is not a popular concept these days. Children are, for instance, left to make their own decisions on how much time and effort they will spend on their studies.

One possible solution would be to reward students who have undergone some type of disciplinary training. Students could be offered scholarships if they have attended a certain number of leadership camps or completed a specified amount of community service during their school careers. (179 words)

CONCLUSION

I have looked at society and the home for reasons, and I also suggested one solution to the problem. In conclusion, there are no easy solutions to this problem. The root of the problem is deeply fixed (embedded) in society, but we should keep on looking for answers. (48 words) (Total words: 260)

ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSION

I have looked at society and the home for reasons and suggested one solution to the problem. In conclusion, I could say that the problem is an indication of the attitude of people in general and not just that of scholars. Any possible solutions will have to reach far and wide into society. (53 words)

6.38 AGE OF THE BOOK

Some say the age of the book has passed: videos, computers, television, and films will present the information in the future. Others think that books and written words will still be necessary for spreading information and in completing education. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Printed books as we know them today have served us well for about five hundred years in spreading information and completing education. In this essay, I will look at two views and present an opinion. (35 words)

BODY

First, the number of tools used to replace conventional books is increasing by the day. These devices are becoming more convenient and cheaper. That is why many feel that written words printed on sheets of paper and made (bound) into a book simply cannot continue to exist.

Second, however, there are many people who would argue that books will remain in our lives in their present form. They believe that people will always want to keep shelves full of books at home and in the office or visit the local library from time to time. They love the smell and feel of old books or get excited when a new book is published.

Lastly, in my opinion, the evidence points to the book in its present form disappearing from our lives. I believe that in the future we will be calling some other devices "books." I don't know what they will look like, but you would still be able to carry them in your handbag, take them home and cuddle in bed with one, or buy one as a gift for a friend. (182 words)

CONCLUSION

To summarize, it seems that there are two sides to the story, but the chances (odds) are heavily in favor of the book disappearing. I cannot help but conclude that we will have to rewrite, rethink, rephrase, and redefine our definition of a "book" sometime soon. (45 words) (Total words: 262)

ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH

Paper is made (manufactured) from trees, which are going to become scarcer and more expensive in the future. In addition, the timber could be used for other purposes like building material than for paper. Even today books are becoming so expensive that many cannot afford to buy them. Students, for example, are now starting to download some of the information that they need from the internet.

6.39 DEVELOPMENT AID

Some people think that it is a moral obligation for developed countries to provide international aid to developing countries, while others worry that the aid might be misused by the governments of the poor countries and will not actually help the poor improve their living standards. What is your opinion?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Why should one country help another? What is happening to the aid? Is giving aid a solution to the problem? I will look at some aspects in terms of corruption and guilt and present one solution. (36 words)

It has been proved that in many cases, a developed country donates large amounts of money, food, and medicines to a poor country only to find that the local population has received no benefit from this. Instead, only corrupt governments and officials were enriched in the process. In Africa, for example, it was found that officials sold donated medicine to those who could afford it, and poor people were avoided and excluded.

BODY

There is a school of thought that believes (contends) that developed countries feel guilty for using (exploiting) the goods (resources) of poor countries in order to enrich themselves. According to them, development aid does not have the interest of the developing country in mind but is an attempt to soothe their troubled consciences. For example, during the colonial era, countries like Britain, France, Portugal, Spain, and Germany exploited the vast natural resources found in Africa and elsewhere.

I am of the opinion that development aid should result in countries improving the standard of living of the people it is meant for. This could be achieved by donating expertise instead of money. To be more specific, a country could

provide engineers, scientists, doctors, and so on to help the local people. (199 words)

CONCLUSION

The saying "Giving someone a fish is good, but showing him how to fish for himself is much better" applies. In conclusion, one could only speculate on what developed countries will do in the future. (35 words) (Total words: 270)

VOCABULARY

EXPERTISE: The opinion, skill, knowledge of an expert (a person who has specialized training and/or qualifications in a certain field: surgeon, engineer, etc.). *Example:* When you want a Chinese dish prepared, you have to get the expertise of a chef from that country.

6.40 STATUS OF THE YOUNG

Over the past fifty years, young people began to gain the status and power lost by older people. What are the issues? Is it a good or a bad development?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Today's youngsters have a sense of self-confidence that their parents lacked. In this essay, the issue will be dealt with in terms of the changes in the environment in which children grow up and an evaluation of the present situation. (40 words)

During the pioneering years of the nineteenth century, people became mature adults at an early age. They often had to leave school and start working in their teens. They got married and had children even before their twentieth birthdays. The largest part of the population was found in the rural (farming) areas. During the first half of the twentieth century, people started to move to the cities in search of a better life. Today 60 percent of the world's populations live in an urban (town and city) environment.

BODY

The children of this generation grew up in an industrialized and technologically rich (affluent) environment. They had more opportunities to study and were exposed to many more influences than their parents were. For example, they grew up with automobiles, television, computers, and so on.

This development has had positive and negative results (consequences). On the one hand, it is a good development in that youngsters are becoming independent and self-supportive earlier. On the other hand, however, many have not been able to handle this status and power, resulting, for example, in a more violent society. (177 words)

CONCLUSION

I could summarize by saying that changes taking place in demographics have positive and negative results. All that can be said for sure in conclusion, is that a great change has taken place in the status and power of the latest generation. (42 words) (Total words: 259)

VOCABULARY

DEMOGRAPHICS: Statistics of a wide range of factors indicating the quality of life in communities. These factors include births, deaths, age distribution, mean income, physical distribution, and so on. *Example:* The government will have a close look at the demographics of a province when they decide on the number of schools that have to be built in that province.

RURAL: Living or situated in a country, pastoral, or agricultural (farming) situation.

URBAN: Living or situated in a city or town. *Example:* In the rural areas, there is less pollution than in the urban areas.

6.41 WILD ANIMALS

Wild animals have no place in the twenty-first century, and their protection is a waste of resources. Do you agree or disagree?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

The natural environment on our planet is often called "Mother Nature." I completely disagree with the statement and will give three reasons for my view by referring to the psychological, social, and environmental aspects. (34 words)

BODY

Psychologists have shown that contact with wild animals has a healing effect on the human nervous system. They are even looking at the possibility that other illnesses can be healed (cured) in this way. For example, in America, Australia, Israel, and South Africa, bringing children into bodily (physical) contact with dolphins and so exposing them to the voices of the animals have reduced some disorders in children. The effect of physical contact with elephants by children who were born blind is presently being looked at (investigated).

It is said that people are socially better developed and can handle more stress when they have some contact with wild animals. For instance, visiting game reserves, wilderness areas, and zoos is becoming more and more popular among city dwellers. In addition, bird-watching (amateur ornithology) is fast becoming the most popular outdoor activity in the world.

Wild animals often play an important (crucial/vital) part in the protection of the environment. In India and Africa, for example, vultures are known to restrict the spread of diseases like anthrax among domestic cattle herds. (171 words)

CONCLUSION

We have seen that wild animals have a positive influence in fields like medicine, social development, and the environment. To remove wild animals from our lives not only would be harmful (detrimental) to our existence on this planet but could, in fact, be deadly (fatal). (43 words) (Total words: 248)

VOCABULARY

ORNITHOLOGY: The scientific study of birds.

EDUCATIONAL NOTE

Ornithology is the only science in the world that makes use of the services of amateur bird enthusiasts (called birders) to collect scientific data. This is done, for example, when compiling a "bird atlas."

6.42 TOBACCO

Although we are free to use tobacco, some people feel it should be made illegal like any other drug. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Note: The words in parentheses are more advanced alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Burning tobacco leaves in some way and inhaling the smoke is a habit that millions of people all over the world are practicing. The issue will be investigated by referring to freedom, restrictions, and the position of children. (38 words)

BODY

Like freedom of speech and religion, freedom of choice is a basic human right that all adult people should be able to enjoy. There is no reason (justification) for anyone to think that they can make better choices than everybody else. What I mean is that each and every adult person should be able to decide for him- or herself if he or she is going to use addictive materials (substances) like tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.

Policy makers should rather look at the reasons why people choose to use addictive substances. Restricting the use of a substance has never been an effective deterrent. For example, the prohibition laws during the 1920s in the US against the use of alcohol proved to have the opposite effect for which they were designed and were for that reason subsequently removed (abolished).

That children have to be protected against ruthless and greedy elements in our society is a principle that is generally accepted in all civilized communities. For example, the principles on which the laws concerning the sale of tobacco to children are based should differ considerably from those applied (pertaining) to adults. (185 words)

CONCLUSION

I have discussed the issue in terms of freedom of choice, restricting laws, and the special situation of children. It should be clear, in conclusion, that this is a complex issue with many unanswered (unresolved) questions. (35 words) (Total words: 258)

ALTERNATIVE VIEW

Tobacco is a drug, and it has been proven that it is dangerous to people's health. For example, it has been found beyond any doubt that smoking cigarettes is one of the main contributing factors causing heart diseases like cardiac arrest. Now it is generally accepted that smoking causes lung cancer and emphysema.

6.43 STUDENTS BEFORE COLLEGE

Some people believe that students who want to go to college after graduating from high school should either spend about one year doing a job to obtain some work experience or travel to enlarge their world vision. Do you agree or disagree?

INTRODUCTION

Limited experience and vision are common among college students. In this essay, immaturity, lack of goals, and high costs are mentioned as reasons why the present situation (status quo) cannot be accepted (tolerated) any longer. (32 words)

BODY

Students in general are still very immature when they graduate from high school and have not learned to work on their own (be independent). For example, they are more interested in playing computer games than studying.

When graduating from high school, many students have no idea what careers they will want to follow. They are unfamiliar with the different careers that are available and what certain jobs are about (involve). It means that they study without goals, and by the time they graduate, they often realize that they are not qualified (suited) for the jobs that they would then like to do.

The cost of keeping a student at college is high, and we cannot afford to have students who are immature and have no long-term goals. For instance, when a student fails an exam or changes his or her major, a lot of money that could be better used (for more useful purposes) is lost.

Traveling or doing a job (being employed) for a year before going to college will reduce the above-mentioned problems. Traveling will widen the students' vision, and they will learn to be independent, while a job will teach them some discipline. (186 words)

CONCLUSION

In short, I have seen that more-mature students with clear goals will save countries a lot of money and resources. I therefore conclude that students should travel or work for at least a year before enrolling at a college. (39 words) (Total words: 257)

ALTERNATIVE VIEW

When graduating from high school, students are familiar with the study environment and routine. If they are forced to go and work for a year, this routine will be broken, and students might not want to return to a study environment.

6.44 COUNTRY AND CITY

There is a huge gap in the standard of living in the rural areas and in the cities. What are the reasons for this in your country? How can the difference be reduced?

INTRODUCTION

Today 60 percent of the world's population lives in cities. In this essay, I will look at money made (generated) and government spending as reasons for this phenomenon and at decentralization as a possible way to reduce the gap. (38 words)

BODY

Rural areas consist mainly of farming communities that are usually not very rich. In the cities, however, shops (commerce) and factories (industry) generate large amounts of money. Manufacturing industries, for example, change (convert) raw materials into products that are sold all over the country and are even exported to other countries. The salaries of the workers are spent in the city, and the profits generated are used to expand the business, enlarging the city further.

As a result of the above, national, provincial, and local governments spend more money on the facilities (infrastructure) in the cities than in the countryside. Transportation systems, for example, have to deal (cope) with the demand set by the industries in the city.

The gap can be reduced by means of a process called decentralization. It means that activities that are now centralized in the cities are spread (distributed) more widely throughout a region. The government can give incentives to industries if they are prepared to move out of the city. For instance, available land can be given to them on the condition that they build factories on it and employ local people. (182 words)

We have seen that money generated and spent by the authorities is the main reason for urbanization and that by starting (promoting) decentralization, the

process can be reversed.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that the situation could be changed. (39 words)
(Total words: 259)

ALTERNATIVE VIEW

It depends on how *standard of living* is defined. The above essay was based on the assumption that standard of living is defined in materialistic and money (monetary) terms. However, standard of living can also be defined in terms of the emotional, physical, and social quality of life. For example, in the countryside, there is less pollution, stress, and crime than in the cities.

6.45 COMPUTER EDUCATION

The computer is widely used in education today. Some people believe that teachers will not play an important role in the classroom in the future. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

INTRODUCTION

Like many other jobs (professions), education is bound to change dramatically in the future. Computers replacing teachers will be discussed in terms of the advantages of computers and the reasons why fewer people think of (consider) a teaching career. (37 words)

BODY

First, it should be mentioned that a computer is a type of robot. It has many advantages that could be used (utilized) in classroom situations. To be more specific, computers do not have to be trained at great cost. As soon as a program has been written, the software can be copied to as many places as we want. Computers do not get tired (exhausted) and do not need to take a vacation. This makes them very cost effective. They are not moody on some days and bright-eyed and bushy-tailed on others. In addition, they do not need food (nourishment), housing (shelter), clothes, and so on.

Second, we have to take note that for many reasons, fewer people want to become teachers today. This is particularly so in the case of men (males). It is said, for example, that teachers do not receive good (satisfactory) salaries (compensation/remuneration) and instead look for other jobs (occupations) where they are able to earn much more. In addition, because of the changing attitude of students toward discipline, the working environment in the schools is becoming less attractive. In some countries, teachers nowadays do not feel safe in the classroom at all. (189 words)

CONCLUSION

I touched on the advantages of computers and the reasons for fewer people choosing education as a career. This leads us to conclude that computers are definitely going to play an important role in education in the future. (38 words) (Total words: 264)

ALTERNATIVE VIEW

Computers will never be able to replace conventional teachers. Teaching is an extremely human activity. The personal touch is absolutely necessary in many teaching situations. For example, when studying a famous play, the teacher will stimulate the students with his or her personal views and guide the students so that they are able to develop their own views.

6.46 LOSS OF CULTURES

What are the reasons why we are losing a variety of languages and cultures in the world today?

INTRODUCTION

In many countries, minority groups are swallowed up (being incorporated / assimilated) by other societies. Let us look at three reasons why the languages and cultures of these smaller groups are disappearing. (28 words)

BODY

First, smaller groups cannot maintain themselves against richer societies. The wealthy determine the language and culture in which business is done, and this spreads to all spheres of daily life. For example, Native Americans have been assimilated into the Caucasian society of the US, and their language and are is slowly but surely disappearing.

Second, as people move out of the countryside and become more urbanized, they tend to lose their cultural identity. For instance, the Aborigines of Australia are moving from the Outback (remote semidesert areas) into the cities in search of employment and a better life. Here they learn the language of the whites in order to survive, and later their children go to white schools and become completely alienated from their language and culture.

Lastly, as the members of these small communities are accepted into the larger communities, they usually start to intermarry with members of these larger communities and so gradually disappear as a nation. The position of the Flemish community in Holland could be mentioned as a possible example of this process. (174 words)

CONCLUSION

This essay has attempted to show that wealth, urbanization, and intermarriage are three reasons for cultures and languages disappearing. But it has to be

said, in conclusion, that there are many other factors that have to be considered. (38 words) (Total words: 240)

ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPHS

One of the "buzz words" used more and more today is *globalization*. It is defined as "the integration and democratization of the world's cultures, economies, and infrastructure through transnational investment, rapid proliferation of communication and information technologies, and the impact of free-market forces on local, regional, and national economies." Per the definition, globalization is responsible for a variety of languages and cultures disappearing off the face of the earth.

6.47 NATURAL FEATURES

Some people believe that one's character is fixed by nature. Others believe it is accumulated during the growth process. What view do you support?

INTRODUCTION

Each and every person is unique. There has never been, and never will be, another person like you or me again. In this essay, I will show that to answer this question, we have to distinguish between physical and other characteristics. (41 words)

BODY

In the first place, we have to know that our genes, which we inherit from our parents, determine our physical characteristics. Excluding cosmetic surgery, there is no way that we can change these features. Many people, especially women, find it hard to accept this fact. For example, some women spend countless (infinite) amounts of money, time, and effort in an attempt to change their physical features, and even more so as soon as they become older (start to age). Many of us, however, simply accept an unusual (peculiar) feature like a large nose, short legs, and so on and carry on with our lives.

Our ethical and social character, however, can be changed during the growth process. We usually refer to it as "growing up" or "becoming mature." For instance, as we grow older we learn to adapt to our circumstances, and the people we have to live and work with. This is in contrast to a baby, who has not learned to consider others and is only worried (concerned) about its own needs. Some people never develop their character and remain selfish (egocentric) human beings all their lives. (182 words)

CONCLUSION

To summarize, I have looked at physical features and other characteristics and have reached the conclusion that the first one (former) cannot be

changed, while the last (latter) is usually changed during the maturation process. (33 words) (Total words: 256)

NOTE

In his book *The Four Temperament Theory*, American author Tim LaHay makes the following distinctions:

Character: The set of ethical and social principles that you acquire from different sources, like your parents, teachers, university lecturers, older people, and friends, or develop yourself.

Personality: The social mask that we wear over this combination of temperament and character and show to the world in our everyday lives.

Temperament: The set of traits (features) that you are born with. These traits are determined by your genes, which you have inherited from your parents. They include physical features like the color of your eyes, hair, and skin and emotional features like temper.

6.48 RETIREMENT

Companies should encourage their senior staff to retire at age fifty-five in order to give more opportunities to the younger generation. Do you agree or disagree?

INTRODUCTION

After spending most of your adult life working, the decision to retire is not an easy one. Relevant factors like corporate movement, technology development, and dreams will be looked at in this essay. (33 words)

BODY

To start, we should think of (consider) the fact that every year more and more students are graduating and looking for jobs (entering the labor market). When people retire at the age of sixty or sixty-five they are blocking (restricting) youngsters from entering the market. That is to say, everyone working for that person (junior) has to wait so much longer before they are able to move up the corporate ladder.

Second, we have to remember that technology is changing at an ever-increasing pace. If a person has not been studying actively during his working life, his or her knowledge will be completely outdated at age fifty-five. For instance, the time to develop a new type (generation) of computers is reduced all the time. The members of the younger generation in an organization or company are usually familiar with these developments.

Lastly, at the age of fifty-five, employees have had enough (sufficient) opportunity to realize their dreams or fulfill their ambitions and should be content with what they have achieved. For instance, one should really not start chasing (pursuing) a new dream at this age or have many unfulfilled ambitions. (180 words)

CONCLUSION

I have discussed the question by mentioning (referring to) movement in the corporate structure, new technology, and dreams and ambitions. From this, it can be concluded that it would be very good (advantageous) if people were to retire at age fifty-five. (38 words) (Total words: 251)

6.49 EQUAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER SUBJECT

Universities should accept equal numbers of male and female students in every subject. Do you agree or disagree?

INTRODUCTION

Tertiary institutions worldwide are afraid of being accused of discriminatory practices and therefore are considering the above question. In this essay, I will focus on the subjects and industries involved and the overriding principle. (34 words)

BODY

First, I believe the answer to this question will depend on the particular subject involved. To be more specific, when talking about a subject like nursing, it would be advisable to accept more female than male students. Traditionally, it has been acceptable for female nurses to attend to male as well as female patients. This cannot be said of male nurses.

Second, we should consider what the needs of the particular industries are. For example, in the information technology industry, gender should not be a factor, but in the construction industry, there might be some jobs that are not suitable for females. In Western cultures today, this is not a popular view, as the females there believe that there is no job that they are not able to do.

Lastly, I believe that the overriding principle should be that the gender of a student can never be a reason to discriminate against any student ever. That is to say, as far as it is practically possible, a student should be able to decide what subject he or she wishes to study. (181 words)

CONCLUSION

It was shown that the subject and the industry have to be considered in this matter. That equal numbers of male and female students are not going to be practical is the only conclusion that can be reached. (38 words) (Total words: 253)

ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH

In some countries, certain subjects like mathematics, for example, are unpopular among students. There often are not sufficient students who want to enroll in these subjects. One of the results is that there are not a sufficient number of trained teachers in these subjects. It is my opinion that in cases like these, all the available students wanting to enroll have to be accepted irrespective of their gender.

6.50 MUSEUMS

What are the purposes of places such as museums and galleries, and how should they be funded?

INTRODUCTION

Museums, historical sites, classical art and music, and so on have no financial benefits in our society. In this essay, I will focus on the importance of roots and the dangers of technology. (33 words)

BODY

It is in museums and at historical sites that we are reminded of our history. History is the way in which we keep in contact with our roots, which in turn provides us with a sense of belonging. Then life and the future become more meaningful. For example, when people know the history of their country and nation, they have a better understanding of their present situation. They understand that they are part of something that is much greater than themselves.

Modern technology is rapidly replacing the things that were important to our societies in the past. Traditions and customs are disappearing at an alarming rate. That is to say, crafts and art forms are being practiced by fewer and fewer people.

To maintain museums and the like requires money. Governments should make it one of their priorities to provide the funds for the maintenance of existing places and for developing new ones. For instance, research into the past should be going on. In this way, more information about our history can be gathered and shared with the public. (179 words)

CONCLUSION

Aspects such as our background, the effect of modern technology, and the funding of museums have been dealt with in this essay. This leads us to

conclude that some of the taxpayers' money should be used for this worthy cause. (40 words) (Total words: 252)

ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH

Members of the younger generation are becoming less interested in and enthusiastic about celebrating the traditional festivals of their cultures. They are influenced by Western cultures and are becoming more interested in Western festivals like Christmas, Halloween, and Valentine's Day. When young people are taken to places like museums, it will help to instill in them a pride for what is theirs.

7 MORE TOPICS

Note: On the IELTS test sheet, the following instruction appears after the topic is given: *Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words*.

7.1 ADVERTISING

1. Today the high sales of popular consumer goods reflect the power of advertising and not the real needs of the society in which they are sold. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
2. Some people say that advertising encourages us to buy things that we really do not need. Others say that advertisements tell us about new products that may improve our lives. Which viewpoint do you agree with?
3. In a recent survey conducted in this country, it was found that up to 20 percent of twelve-year-olds in some schools were showing early signs of nicotine addiction. In the eighteen- to twenty-year age bracket, the percentage was as high as 70 percent. A large contributing factor to this high level of addiction was attributed to the uncensored TV advertising of cigarettes. For this reason, all cigarette advertising should be banned. Discuss.

7.2 ANIMALS

1. Zoos are sometimes seen as necessary but poor alternatives to a natural environment. Discuss some of the arguments for and against keeping animals in zoos.
2. Wild animals have no place in the twenty-first century, and trying to preserve these animals is a waste of resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
3. Animals also have emotions and feel pain equal to that of humans. Therefore we should stop pharmaceutical companies from doing trials on innocent animals. Do you agree or disagree?
4. Is animal testing necessary? Give your opinion with some examples.

5. To what extent is the use of animals in scientific research acceptable? Answer the question with some examples.
6. Are our zoos cruel to wild animals? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

7.3 BEHAVIOR

1. In many countries, schools have severe problems with student behavior. What do you think are the causes of this? What solutions can you suggest?
2. Antisocial behavior has increased in recent years. People generally believe that society is to blame. What do you think the causes are, and who is responsible for this?
3. Schools and parents should take the responsibility to introduce "right" or "wrong" behavior to young people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

7.4 BOOKS

1. It has been said that "not everything that is learned is contained in books." Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why?
2. Will modern technology such as the internet ever replace the book or the written word as the main source of information? Explain your view in the form of an essay.
3. Modern technology is making things easily available. The internet has provided us with downloadable versions of most of the books we need. Can the internet replace the world of books? Give your own views in the form of an essay.

7.5 CELEBRITIES

1. Successful sports professionals can earn a great deal more money than people in other important professions. Some people think this is fully justified, while others think it is unfair. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

2. "Professional sportsmen and women give millions of people a great deal of pleasure and fully deserve the extremely high salaries they earn." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
3. Should celebrities like sports and entertainment personalities be paid more than other professionals like doctors and architects? State your opinion.
4. Are famous people treated unfairly by the media? Should they be given more privacy, or is the price of their fame an invasion into their private lives? Give your views in no less than 250 words.

7.6 CHANGE

1. Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Others, however, think that change is always a good thing. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
2. If you were given the power to change anything, what changes would you implement in this century to make our world a better place to live? Discuss a few changes in no less than 250 words.
3. "Fundamental changes are taking place in the structure and habits of Asian families." Do you think this statement is true, and if so, do you think it is beneficial or detrimental to family members?
4. Recent advancements in technology have led to many changes in our daily lives, but some people would argue that we are becoming too dependent on technology and that not all these changes are beneficial. Give your opinion and support your argument.

7.7 CHILDREN

1. In many developing countries, children work in some form or another to bring in necessary income from an early age. In the first world, many people think this is damaging and wrong, but others would argue that their work brings them a sense of contributing, belonging, and responsibility. What is your opinion?
2. Children over fifteen years of age should be allowed to make their own decisions without any interference from their parents. Do you agree or disagree?
3. It is generally believed that some people are born with certain talents —for instance, for sports or music—and others are not. However, it

is sometimes claimed that any child can be taught to become a good sports person or musician. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

4. Should close relatives be involved in the education of children? Give your opinion.

5. Nowadays, children play less with one another, and this has an impact on their development. What are the reasons for this? Does it have a positive or negative effect on children?

7.8 CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Scientists and the news media are presenting ever more evidence of climate change. Governments cannot be expected to solve this problem. It is the responsibility of individuals to change their lifestyle to prevent further damage. What are your views?

7.9 COMMUNITY

1. A company has announced that it wishes to build a large factory near your community. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this new influence on your community. Do you support or oppose the factory? Explain your position.

2. The only way to prevent overcrowding in cities is to prevent migration from rural areas. Give your opinion and views.

3. The only effective way to deal with unemployment is to introduce rapid urbanization. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

4. To what extent will migration from the developing world to the developed world become a social and political issue in the twenty-first century? Give your views in no less than 250 words.

5. Working and living abroad helps us know other cultures well. To what extent do you think working abroad has a positive or negative impact on our cultural lives?

6. Capital punishment is brutal and barbaric and should be abolished. Give your views in no less than 250 words.

7. If you were given the power to change anything, what changes would you implement in this century to make our world a better place to live? Discuss a few changes in no less than 250 words.

7.10 COMPUTERS

1. We are becoming increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in businesses, hospitals, and crime detection and even to fly planes. What things will they be used for in the future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits?

2. Computers can easily do all basic and advanced calculations. Do you think your children should spend more time learning basic mathematics or rather learn advanced computer technology? Give your views in the form of an essay.

3. Computers can translate all kinds of languages well. Do our children need to learn more languages or rather learn advanced computer technology in the future?

4. Some people believe that computers are more of a hindrance than a help in today's world. Others feel that they are such indispensable tools that they would not be able to live or work without them. What is your opinion?

7.11 CREATIVITY

1. Creative artists should be given more freedom to express their ideas in the form of words, pictures, music, or films, and the government should not place any restrictions on their creativity. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

2. Do you think artists like writers, musicians, and painters are still of value in society today? Discuss and support your opinion.

3. These days, people pay more attention to artists (writers, painters, and so on) and give less attention to the importance of disciplines like science and technology. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

7.12 CRIME

1. In many cities, security measures such as the use of video cameras in public places are being increased in order to reduce crime, but some people believe that these measures restrict our individual freedom. Do the benefits of increased security outweigh the drawbacks?

2. Crime rates tend to be higher in cities than in smaller towns. Explain some possible reasons for this trend, and suggest some solutions.

3. In many cities, crime is increasing. Why do you think this is happening? What can governments do to help reduce crime levels?

4. Capital punishment is a brutal practice and should be abolished. Give your views in the form of an essay.

5. Should criminals be punished with lengthy jail terms or reeducated and rehabilitated using community service programs, for instance, before being reintroduced to society? Give your views in the form of an essay.

6. Should criminals be sent to jail, or should we instead let them do something else as punishment. State your view and give some reasons.

7. Criminals are set free once they finish their jail terms. Is the reintroduction of criminals into society justified? State your views in no less than 250 words.

7.13 DISABLED PEOPLE

1. In most countries, disabled people are not catered to adequately—for example, buildings are often inappropriately designed. Governments rely too heavily on charities and voluntary organizations to provide assistance and funding. What further measures could be taken to assist disabled people?

2. There are still many companies that refuse to employ disabled people. What, in your view, could be done to solve this problem?

7.14 EDUCATION

1. It is generally believed that some people are born with certain talents —for instance, for sports or music—and others are not. However, it is sometimes claimed that any child can be taught to become a good sports person or musician. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

2. Some people think it would be a good idea for schools to teach every young person how to be a good parent. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Describe the skills a person needs to be a good parent.

3. Schoolchildren are becoming far too dependent on computers. This is having an alarming effect on reading and writing skills. Teachers need to avoid using computers in the classroom at all costs and go back to teaching basic study skills. Do you agree or disagree?

4. Should developing countries pay more attention to education or to improving business standards? Give your views in the form of an essay.

5. Schools and parents should take the responsibility to introduce "right" or "wrong" behavior to young people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

6. Education is sometimes considered to be something for youths only. Some people, however, consider education to be a lifelong task. What is your opinion? Give reasons and support your ideas with specific examples.

7. The idea of going overseas for college study is an exciting prospect for many students. But while it may offer some advantages, it is probably better to stay at home because of the difficulties a student inevitably encounters living and studying in a different culture. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

8. Do the benefits of studying abroad justify the difficulties? What advice would you offer to a prospective student?

9. Children should be taught sex education in schools. Give your views in the form of an essay.

10. Reading comic books only rots children's minds and does not provide them with any good education. How far do you agree or disagree with this statement?

11. Education is the single most important factor in the development of a country. Do you agree or disagree?

12. What are the factors that are related to academic success in high school students? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

13. Education is recognized as vital to the future of any society in today's world. Governments throughout the world should make education compulsory for all children between the ages of five and fifteen. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

14. Foreign-language instruction should begin in kindergarten. Discuss in the form of an essay.

15. Are zoos necessary for education? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

16. Some people think that students should attend extra classes after school. Others believe that they should be allowed to play. Discuss both sides of the argument and give your opinion.

17. It is generally believed that education is of vital importance in the development of individuals and for the well-being of societies. What, in your opinion, should education consist of to fulfill both of these functions?

18. Many people think public libraries should focus on providing books and not waste their limited funds on expensive high-tech media such as computers, videos, and DVDs. State your opinion in an essay.

19. Sex education in schools is only introducing conflicting ideas and confusion among the immature minds of students and should be stopped immediately. Give your opinion in no less than 250 words.

20. In order to keep students more focused, sports classes should be stopped in high schools. Do you think this will be the best approach for a better generation?

21. As most postgraduate research is funded by industries, students' grants should also come from the same source. How much do you agree with this? Give your views in no less than 250 words.

22. Some people believe that only pupils with similar interests should be given admission to particular schools. Others are of the opinion that schools should be open to all children with varied interests. How much do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion in no less than 250 words.

7.15 EMPLOYMENT

1. Many people decide on a career path early in their lives and keep to it. This, they argue, leads to a more satisfying working life. To what extent do you agree with this view? What other things can people do in order to have a satisfying working life?

2. Many people say that the only way to guarantee getting a good job is to complete a course of college education. Others claim that it is better to start work after school and gain experience in the world of work. How much do you agree or disagree with the above views?

3. Living and working abroad helps us get to know other cultures better. To what extent do you think working abroad has a positive or negative impact on our cultural lives?

4. Some say that older people of over fifty years of age should retire and be replaced by youngsters. Do you agree or disagree?

5. Is it wise for an industry to replace its experienced but old workers with new and young but less-experienced individuals? Give your views in the form of an essay.

6. Employees' salaries are not enough to make them happy. Benefits like health insurance and so on should be used more to make them happier. Do you agree or disagree?

7. In the world today, how can companies keep their employees happy? Express your ideas on how salary, health care, and vacations, for example, can make employees happy.

8. Money is the only motivational factor for success in any work field. How much do you agree or disagree with this statement?

9. Is it good for school and college students to take part in part-time jobs? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

10. There is an age after which one's efficiency decreases. Young people should replace all the old people in the workplace. Do you agree or disagree?

11. In some countries, the average worker is obliged to retire at the age of fifty, while in others, people can work until they are sixty-five or seventy. Up to what age do you think people should be encouraged to remain in paid employment? Give reasons for your answer.

12. Should retirement be made compulsory at sixty-five years of age? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

13. The only effective way to deal with unemployment is to introduce rapid urbanization. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

14. The term *telecommuting* refers to workers doing their jobs from home for part of each week and communicating with their office using computers. Telecommuting is growing in many countries and is expected to be common for most office workers in the coming decades. How do you think society will be affected by the growth of telecommuting?

15. Soon people who cannot work with computers will be disadvantaged. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this

view?

16. Rich countries should not offer jobs to skilled people from poor countries. Do you agree or disagree?

17. Time is an important factor in every field. Do you think following strict time limits is more important than giving quality results? Give your views in no less than 250 words.

18. Money is the only motivational factor for success in any work field. How much do you agree or disagree with this?

7.16 ENVIRONMENT

1. Forests are the lungs of the earth. Destruction of the world's forests amounts to the death of the world as we currently know it. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

2. People's characters are influenced by their environment rather than by their genes. Do you agree or disagree?

3. To what extent should economic planning be influenced by the need for environmental conservation? Give reasons for your answer.

4. Because most of the population in developing countries do not have sufficient food to eat or places to stay, it is immaterial to talk about saving forests as a gesture in protecting our environment. The aim should be to utilize the land for maximum food production and making homes available to the homeless. State your opinion on this matter.

5. Damage to the environment is an inevitable consequence of worldwide improvements in the standard of living of people. Discuss with examples.

6. The rising levels of congestion and air pollution found in most of the world's cities can be attributed directly to the rapidly increasing number of private cars in use. In order to reverse this decline in the quality of life in cities, attempts must be made to encourage people to use their cars less and public transportation more. Discuss possible ways to encourage the use of public transportation.

7. Nowadays, environmental problems are too big to be managed by individual persons or individual countries. In other words, it is an international problem. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

7.17 FAMILY

1. "Fundamental changes are taking place in the structure and habits of Asian families." Do you think this statement is true, and if so, do you think it is beneficial or detrimental to family members?
2. In today's competitive world, many families find it necessary for both parents to go out to work. While some say the children in these families benefit from the additional income, others feel they lack support because of their parents' absence. Discuss and give your opinion.
3. In your opinion, should governments intervene in the rights of the individual with regard to family planning?

7.18 FOOD

1. Biotechnology companies all over the world are developing different types of genetically modified crops. However, not enough is known about the impact of these crops on our health and the environment. Interfering with nature in this way should be prohibited. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
2. The range and quality of food that we can buy have changed because of technological and scientific advances. Some people regard this change as an improvement, while others believe that it is harmful. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
3. Nowadays, food has become easier to prepare. Has this change improved the way people live? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
4. A country should produce all the food that is required to feed its population and import as little as possible. Discuss this statement showing whether you agree or disagree.
5. Today's food travels thousands of miles before it reaches customers. Why is this? Is this a positive or negative trend?
6. Human beings do not need to eat meat in order to maintain good health because they can get all their food needs from meatless products and meatless substances. A vegetarian diet is as healthy as a diet containing meat. Argue for or against the above opinion.

7.19 FREEDOM

1. Creative artists should always be given the freedom to express their own ideas in whichever way they wish, like in words, pictures, music, film, and so on. There should be no government restrictions on what they do. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
2. Technology has facilitated our lives so much and given us a lot of freedom. Some people, however, believe that it has caused more problems for us. What is your opinion?
3. In many cities, security measures such as the use of video cameras in public places are being increased in order to reduce crime, but some people believe that these measures restrict our individual freedom. Do the benefits of increased security outweigh the drawbacks?

7.20 GENDER

1. To what extent has the traditional male role changed in the last twenty years? Answer the question in the form of an essay.
2. Many people believe that women make better parents than men and that this is why they have a greater role in raising children in most societies. Others claim that men are just as good as women at parenting. Write an essay expressing your point of view. Give reasons for your answer.
3. Most high-level jobs are done by men. Should the government encourage a system whereby a certain percentage of these jobs will be reserved for women? Give your views in the form of an essay.

7.21 GLOBALIZATION

1. As mass communication and transportation continue to grow, societies are becoming more and more alike, leading to a phenomenon known as globalization. Some people fear that globalization will inevitably lead to a total loss of cultural identity. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
2. Even though globalization affects the world's economics in a very positive way, its negative side should not be forgotten. Do you agree or disagree?

7.22 GOVERNMENT

1. Governments should make more of an effort to promote alternative sources of energy. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

2. What do you think the government in your country should do to make your country more successful?

3. Should poor countries continue to receive international aid? Give your view.

4. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of giving international aid to poor countries.

5. Governments should spend more money on education than on recreation and sports. Do you agree or disagree?

6. Some people argue that governments should spend money only on medicine and education and that things like theaters and sport stadiums are luxuries. Do you agree or disagree?

7. Many people are starving to death in different parts of the world. Is it justifiable for any government to spend huge amounts of money on space exploration projects? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

8. Should wealthy nations be required to share their wealth with poorer nations by providing such things as food and education, or is it the responsibility of the governments of poorer nations to look after their citizens themselves? Give your views in the form of an essay.

9. Should rich countries write off the debt of poor countries? Give your views in the form of an essay.

10. Does foreign aid help donor countries more than the recipients? Give your views in the form of an essay.

11. Should rich countries pay more for environmental damage? Give your views in the form of an essay.

12. Should developing countries concentrate on improving industrial skills, or should they promote education first? State your views in the form of an essay.

13. Safety standards are important when building people's homes. Who should be responsible for enforcing strict building codes—the government or the people who build the homes? Give your views in the form of an essay.

14. In most countries, disabled people are not catered to adequately—for example, buildings are often inappropriately designed.

Governments rely too heavily on charities and voluntary organizations to provide assistance and funding. What further measures could be taken to assist disabled people?

15. In your opinion, should governments intervene in the rights of the individual with regard to family planning?
16. The best way to reduce the number of traffic accidents is to make all young drivers complete a safe driving education course before being licensed to drive. Do you agree or disagree?
17. Some people believe that it is a government's responsibility to provide care and financial support for people after they retire. Others say that people should help themselves. State your opinion with some examples.
18. In Britain, when people get old, they often go to live in a nursing home with other old people, where there are nurses to look after them. Sometimes the government has to pay for this care. Who should be responsible for our old people? Give reasons.

7.23 HAPPINESS

1. Happiness is considered very important in life. Why is it difficult to define? What factors are important in achieving happiness?
2. Employees' salaries are not enough to make them happy. Benefits like health insurance and so on should be used more to make them happier. Do you agree or disagree?

7.24 HEALTH

1. In many countries today, the eating habits and lifestyles of children are different from those of previous generations. Some people say this has had a negative effect on their health. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
2. The number of overweight children in developed countries is increasing. Some people think this is due to problems such as the growing number of fast food outlets. Others believe that parents are to blame for not looking after their children's health. To what extent do you agree with these views?
3. Out of a country's health budget, a large proportion should be diverted from treatment to spending on health education and

preventative measures. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

4. Should parents be obliged to immunize their children against childhood diseases, or do individuals have the right to choose not to immunize their children?

7.25 HOBBIES

1. Some people believe that hobbies need to be difficult to be enjoyable. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
2. People follow interests and have hobbies (e.g., collecting and making things). Do you think these are pointless? How can people learn from hobbies?
3. "Computer games are a good hobby." Do you agree or disagree?

7.26 HOMETOWN

1. If you could change one important thing about your hometown, what would you change? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

7.27 ILLITERACY

1. Illiteracy has traditionally been viewed as largely a third-world problem. However it is becoming apparent that in countries such as the US and Australia, illiteracy is on the increase. Discuss possible causes for this and its effect on society.
2. Using a computer every day can have more negative than positive effects on your children. Do you agree or disagree?

7.28 INTERNET

1. The internet has made information so handy, but at the same time, it's spoiling our children with all the adult content. Should children be kept away from the internet? Give your views in the form of an essay.
2. The internet will bring people of the world closer together. Do you agree or disagree?
3. University lecturers are now able to put their lectures on the internet for students to read, so the importance of attending face-to-face

lectures has been reduced. Do you believe the use of the internet in formal education is a good idea?

7.29 LANGUAGES

1. Several languages die every year. Many people feel this is a positive trend and that a world with fewer languages promotes harmony and understanding between people. Analyze both sides of this argument and provide your opinion.

7.30 MARRIAGE

1. In some countries, marriages are arranged by the parents, but in other cases, people choose their own marriage partners. Discuss both systems.

7.31 MEDIA

1. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of three of the following as media for communicating information. State which you consider to be the most effective: comics, books, radio, television, film, and theater.
2. It is becoming more and more difficult to escape the influence of the media on our lives. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in a media-rich society.
3. The mass media, including TV, radio, and newspapers, have great influence in shaping people's ideas. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.
4. Nowadays, radio is being replaced by TV and the internet. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?
5. Are famous people treated unfairly by the media? Should they be given more privacy, or is the price of their fame an invasion into their private lives? Explain your view in the form of an essay.
6. The news media have a negative influence on society. Do you agree or disagree?

7.32 MUSIC

1. There are many different types of music in the world today. Why do we need music? Is the traditional music of a country more important than international music?
2. It is generally believed that some people are born with certain talents—for instance, for sports or music—and others are not. However, it is sometimes claimed that any child can be taught to become a good sports person or musician. Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.

7.33 PARENTS AND CHILDREN

1. Some parents raise their children with strict discipline, while others leave them free to learn the lessons of life on their own. Which one of these is the better approach and why?
2. Should parents be obliged to immunize their children against childhood diseases, or do individuals have the right to choose not to immunize their children?
3. Women are always better parents than men. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
4. Children should never be educated at home by their parents. Do you agree or disagree?
5. Children learn best by observing the behavior of adults and copying it. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
6. Children act according to the impressions they get from their parent's behavior. If a child behaves badly, his parents should be considered responsible and should be punished. Do you agree with this viewpoint?
7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents are the best teachers. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
8. Deciding the size of one's own family is a personal preference. In your opinion, should the government intervene in the rights of the individual with regard to family planning?

7.34 POLLUTION

1. To what extent should economic planning be influenced by the need for environmental conservation?

2. Damage to the environment is an inevitable consequence of worldwide improvements in the standard of living. Discuss.
3. The rising levels of congestion and air pollution found in most of the world's cities can be attributed directly to the rapidly increasing number of private cars in use. In order to reverse this decline in the quality of life in cities, attempts must be made to encourage people to use their cars less and public transportation more. Discuss possible ways to encourage the use of public transportation.

7.35 POPULATION

1. Countries such as China, India, and Japan have unsustainable population growth. In fact, many experts are of the opinion that the population "explosion," which is now a very worrying concern, is the most serious threat to life on this planet. Give some suggestions to address this problem.

7.36 POVERTY

1. Every country has poor people, and every country has different ways of dealing with the poor and poverty. What are some of the reasons for world poverty? What can be done to assist the poor?

7.37 GARBAGE

1. Nowadays, we are producing more and more garbage. Why do you think this is happening? What can governments do to help reduce the amount of garbage produced?

8.38 SHOPPING

1. Shopping has become a favorite pastime among young people. Why do you think it's like that, and do you think they must be encouraged to do other things rather than shopping?

7.39 SMOKING

1. It has been proved that smoking kills. In some countries, it has been made illegal for people to smoke in all public places except in

certain areas. All countries should make these rules. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

2. Smoking tobacco, like other dangerous drugs, should be made illegal. Do you agree or disagree?

3. Smoking is a bad habit and should be banned completely on a worldwide scale. Give your views on this.

4. Some businesses now say that smoking is forbidden in all their offices. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons.

5. Some governments have banned smoking in all public places. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your opinion.

6. In a recent survey conducted in this country, it was found that up to 20 percent of twelve-year-olds in some schools were showing early signs of nicotine addiction. In the eighteen- to twenty-year age bracket, the percentage was as high as 70 percent. A large contributing factor to this high level of addiction was attributed to the uncensored TV advertising of cigarettes. For this reason, all cigarette advertising should be banned. Discuss.

7.40 SOCIETY

1. In some countries, young people have little leisure time and are under a lot of pressure to work hard in their studies. What do you think are the causes of this? What solutions can you suggest?

2. Nowadays, some people still prefer to ride bicycles. To what extent do you think this will help us in today's world?

3. Nowadays, people care about their appearance more than before. Do you agree or disagree?

4. If you were given the opportunity, what changes would you implement to make our world a better place for living?

5. Some authors believe that urbanization is a "modern disease." Do you agree with this view?

6. Time is an important factor in every field. Do you think following strict time limits is more important than obtaining quality results? To what extent do you agree or disagree with this viewpoint?

7. Nowadays, the gap between the quality of life in the countryside and in the cities has increased in many countries. What can governments do to reverse this trend?

8. There is a gap in the standards of living between the countryside and cities. How true is this in your country? What measures should be taken to reduce this gap?

9. As mass communication and transportation continue to grow, societies are becoming more and more alike, leading to a phenomenon known as globalization. Some people fear that globalization will inevitably lead to a total loss of cultural identity. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

10. Deciding the size of one's own family is a personal preference. In your opinion, should governments intervene in the rights of the individual with regard to family planning?

11. To what extent do you think migration from the developing world to the developed world become a social and political issue in the twenty-first century?

12. Nowadays, doctors can become very rich. Maybe they should not focus on profitable activities such as plastic surgery or looking after rich patients only and concentrate more on patient's health no matter how rich they are. Do you agree or disagree?

13. In your opinion, what factors contribute to a movie being good?

14. Human beings do not need to eat meat in order to maintain good health. A vegetarian diet is as healthy as a diet containing meat. Argue for or against this opinion.

15. The only way to prevent overcrowding in cities is to prevent migration from rural areas. Give your opinion and views.

16. In Britain, when people get old, they often go to live in a nursing home with other old people, where there are nurses to look after them. Sometimes the government has to pay for this care. Who should be responsible for our old people? Give reasons.

17. News editors decide what to broadcast on TV and what to print in newspapers. What factors do you think influence their decisions? Have we become used to bad news? Would it be better if more good news was reported?

18. Would you be able to live without a TV? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

19. People who have original ideas are of much greater value to society than those who are simply able to copy the ideas of others well. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

20. People in the modern world are becoming less dependent on each other. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

21. Some people think visitors to other countries should imitate local customs and behavior. Others disagree and think that the host country should welcome cultural differences. What is your opinion?

22. A company has announced that it wishes to build a large factory near your community. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this new influence on your community. Do you support or oppose the factory? Explain your position.

23. Competitiveness is considered to be a positive quality among people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

24. Some people think that planning for the future is a waste of time. They believe it is more important to focus on the present. Do you agree or disagree?

25. In many countries, the proportion of older people is steadily increasing. Does this trend have more negative effects or positive effects on society?

26. To what extent has the traditional male role changed in the last twenty years?

27. People's character is influenced by environment rather than genetics. Do you agree or disagree?

28. Do you think artists like writers, musicians, and painters are still of value in society today? Discuss and support your opinion.

7.41 SPORTS

1. Some people think that dangerous sports should be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

2. In order to keep students more focused, sports classes should be stopped in high schools. Do you think this will be the right approach for a better generation?

3. Should sports classes be sacrificed in high school so students can concentrate on academic subjects? Discuss.

4. Professional sports involve large sums of money and receive enormous media coverage. Meanwhile, serious culture, including music, art and theatre, is badly neglected. This is making our society shallower. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

5. Nowadays, people prefer to follow sports events on TV rather than take part in sports themselves. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?

7.42 STUDYING

1. Some people think that children should learn to compete in the world, but others think that children should be taught to cooperate so as to become more useful to society. State your reasons from both sides and give your opinion.
2. Studying the English language in an English-speaking country is the best but not the only way to learn the language. Do you agree with this statement?
3. Financial education should be a mandatory component of school programs. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

7.43 TECHNOLOGY

1. Recent advancements in technology have led to many changes in our daily lives, but some people would argue that we are becoming too dependent on technology and that not all these changes are beneficial. Give your opinion and support your argument.
2. Computers and modems have made it possible for office workers to do much of their work from home instead of working in offices every day. Working from home should be encouraged, as it is good for workers and employers. Do you agree or disagree?
3. Technology has facilitated our lives so much and given us a lot of freedom. Some people, however, believe that it has caused more problems for us. What is your opinion?
4. Is technology time consuming, or does it actually save time? Answer the question in the form of an essay.
5. "Life was simpler without so much technology." Do you agree or disagree?
6. Does modern technology make life more convenient, or was life better when technology was simpler? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

7. Modern technology is transforming the way we work and is of benefit to our society. How far do you think our social lives have been influenced by modern technology?

8. Technology is making communication easier in today's world at the expense of personal contact, as many people choose to work at home in front of a computer screen. What dangers are there for a society that depends on computer screens rather than face-to-face contact for its main means of communication?

9. The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy. The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.

10. To what extent has information technology changed work and working practices in the past ten years? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

11. These days, people pay more attention to artists (writers, painters, and so on) and give less attention to the importance of things like science and technology. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

12. Modern inventions bring many disadvantages to our society. Do you agree or disagree?

13. Modern technology like mobile phones and the internet can be useful to old people. Make suggestions on how we can encourage old people to use such technology.

14. Modern technology is making things easily available. The internet has provided us with downloadable versions of most of the books we need. Can the internet replace the world of books? Give your own views in no less than 250 words.

15. Modern technology is transforming the way we work and is of benefit to our society. How far do you think our social lives should be influenced by modern technology?

16. It is inevitable that as technology develops, so traditional cultures must be lost. Technology and tradition are incompatible—you cannot have both together. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

7.44 TELEVISION

1. Television: could you be without it? Discuss.

2. Nowadays, radio is being replaced by TV and the internet. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?
3. News editors decide what to broadcast on TV and what to print in newspapers. What factors do you think influence their decisions? Have we become used to bad news? Would it be better if more good news was reported?

7.45 TOURISM

1. The costs of international travel are decreasing and tourism is growing. What are the advantages and disadvantages of increasing tourism activity in different countries?
2. Tourism can develop a country, but it can also cause harm. State your opinion in the form of an essay.
3. How does a country ensure that tourism benefits its development? Answer the question in the form of an essay.
4. More and more countries are opening their doors to tourists. Many people believe that the advantages of tourism outweigh the disadvantages. State your opinion in the form of an essay.
5. Tourism is becoming increasingly important as a source of revenue to many countries, but its disadvantages should not be overlooked. What are some of the problems of tourism? Answer the question in the form of an essay.
6. Does travel help promote understanding and communication between countries? Answer the question in the form of an essay.
7. According to those in the travel business, the nature of the average "vacation" is changing. Rather than seeking a relaxing break in a faraway place, people now want excitement on their vacations and are keen to participate in unusual and challenging activities. Do you agree or disagree?
8. Most people believe that traveling abroad is a great experience for the younger generation, but others think it is a waste of time and money. Discuss these opinions and mention your point of view with suitable examples.
9. Some people say that tourists should respect local customs and behavior. Others feel the host country should adapt to please the tourists. Explain your view in the form of an essay.

7.46 TRANSPORTATION

1. The first car appeared on British roads in 1888. By the year 2020, there may be as many as twenty-nine million vehicles on British roads. Alternative forms of transportation should be encouraged, and international laws introduced to control car ownership and use. What do you think?
2. The best way to reduce the number of traffic accidents is to make all young drivers complete a safe-driving education course before being licensed to drive. Do you agree with this view?
3. Many people believe that an effective public transportation system is a key component of a modern city. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of public transportation.
4. Some people welcome cheap air travel, but some argue that it will lead to more environmental problems. What is your opinion?
5. Increasing the price of gas is the best way to solve traffic jams and pollution in large cities. To what extent do you agree or disagree? What other measures, if any, do you think would be more effective?
6. The rising levels of congestion and air pollution found in most of the world's cities can be attributed directly to the rapidly increasing number of private cars in use. In order to reverse this decline in the quality of life in cities, attempts must be made to encourage people to use their cars less and public transportation more. Discuss possible ways to encourage the use of public transportation.
7. Nowadays, some people still prefer to ride bicycles. To what extent do you think this will help us in today's life?

7.47 COLLEGE

1. Some people think that colleges should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace. Others think that the true function of a college should be to give access to knowledge for its own sake, regardless of whether the course is useful to an employer. What, in your opinion, should the function of a college be?
2. Young people should be encouraged to travel or work for one year after high school and before starting college. What are the advantages and disadvantages?

3. To what extent should colleges function as training grounds for employment? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

4. To what extent should college courses be geared to the economic needs of society? Answer the question in the form of an essay.

5. Governments have to place the same number of men and women in different fields of study at colleges. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

6. As most postgraduate research is funded by industries, students' grants should also come from the same source. To what extent do you agree with this view?

7. People attend colleges or universities for many different reasons (e.g., new experiences, career preparation, and increased knowledge). Why do you think people attend colleges or universities? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

8. Everybody should be allowed admission to college study programs regardless of their academic ability. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

9. Full-time college students spend most of their time studying. They should be doing other activities too. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

7.48 WORK

1. Nowadays, doctors can become very rich. Maybe they should not focus on profitable activities such as plastic surgery or looking after rich patients only and concentrate more on patients' health no matter how rich they are. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

2. People nowadays put more emphasis on social skills. Some people believe that social skills are more important in addition to good qualifications for job success. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

3. Some people prefer to work for a large company. Others prefer to work for a small company. Which would you prefer? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.

4. Most high-level jobs are done by men. Should the government encourage a certain percentage of these jobs to be reserved for women?

5. Should developing countries concentrate on improving industrial skills, or should they promote education first?

6. Enormous effort is put into researching and marketing "the perfect potato chip" while research into stress at work, for example, is ignored. How important are staff working conditions? Should employers research and improve the working conditions of their staff?

7. In some countries, people pay different rates of tax depending on their salary; in other countries, everyone pays the same rate. Which do you believe is the best system?

8. Time is an important factor in every field. Do you think following strict time limits is more important than obtaining quality results? To what extent do you agree or disagree with this viewpoint?

9. What are some important qualities of a good supervisor (boss)? Use specific details and examples to explain why these qualities are important.

7.49 WORLD

1. More and more qualified people are moving from poor to rich countries to fill vacancies in specialist areas like engineering, computing, and medicine. Some people believe that by encouraging the movement of such people, rich countries are stealing from poor countries. Others feel that this is only part of the natural movement of workers around the world. State your opinion.

2. In the past, people used to travel to many places to see the differences from their country. Now all the places around the world are getting more and more similar. What is the cause of this similarity? Do you think the advantages of this similarity outweigh the disadvantages?

3. We cannot help everyone in the world who needs help, so we should only be concerned with our own communities and countries. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

4. Some people say that increased business and cultural contact between nations will have positive effects. Others believe countries will lose their unique identities. State your opinion.

7.50 YOUTH

1. Recent figures show an increase in violent crime among youngsters under the age of eighteen. Some psychologists claim that the basic reason for this is that children these days are not getting the social and emotional input they need from parents and teachers. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

2. Education is sometimes considered to be something for youths only. Some people, however, consider education to be a lifelong task. What is your opinion? Give reasons and support your ideas with specific examples.

3. In some countries, young people have little leisure time and are under a lot of pressure to work hard in their studies. What do you think are the causes of this? What solutions can you suggest?

8 HOW TO ACHIEVE A BETTER IELTS OVERALL BAND SCORE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Often I call the following points "secrets," because very few people know about them, or if they know, they don't pay sufficient attention to them. As will be seen, most of the points are nothing more than simple common sense and should be seen as hints on how a candidate can achieve the maximum band score with the skills and knowledge that he or she has procured during his or her preparations.

1.2 Some of these points can be found on the official IELTS websites, but some points will not be discussed by any IELTS official and/or examiner as they are considered to be "inside information."

1.3 The owners of IELTS are very proud of their high standards and reputation. This is the only way to ensure a high level of credibility in the academic world.

1.4 There are many myths on the internet about the IELTS exam. These myths usually originate from people who are not native English speakers. Some of these myths are pure nonsense. For example:

    a. The test is easier in some locations. This is not true. The tests and scoring are exactly the same all over the world.

    b. The examiner who does the Speaking test is the same person who will check my Writing test, so I cannot repeat something in Writing and Speaking. This is possible but highly unlikely.

    c. The Speaking test is recorded because the examiner who is doing the Speaking test is not the one who will give me my score. This is false. The test is recorded in case you dispute the score that you received. In that case, the recording will be played back to one or more alternative examiners, and then a decision will be made by them together.

    d. Speaking and Writing topics can be predicted. This is false. Lazy students like to believe this. Unlike some other testing systems, there are no shortcuts when doing the IELTS exam.

2. GENERAL

2.1 Vocabulary is one of the four criteria in Speaking and Writing.

    a. Keep your own personal vocabulary log. If you do not have one, start one immediately and keep it up to date for the rest of your life.

    b. Use your vocabulary log to set up a review program.

    c. Vocabulary should be functional.

2.2 There is no way for you to get a high score if you do not have a functional vocabulary of about ten thousand words. Functional vocabulary means you know all the meanings of the word, the correct spelling, the correct pronunciation, and most importantly, how to use the word in a speech or an essay.

2.3 A shallow but wide general knowledge is a key component for a high overall band score: subjects like history, geography, biology (botany and zoology), chemistry, mathematics, and so on. It is absolutely crucial in all the IELTS disciplines.

2.4 Remember, in Speaking and Writing, the examiner is a foreigner. During your studies, you should not try to make your mother-tongue tutor happy. Your objective is to make the examiner happy. Your local teacher can help you with many things, but he or she comes from a different culture. People live in a foreign country for many years and still do not know how the locals think. Your culture is in your genes. You cannot change it completely. Your objective should be to impress the examiner. From the very first words you speak or write, the examiner is immediately starting to evaluate you and starting to form an opinion on what your score will eventually be. Remember, "First impressions are lasting."

2.5 Learn new habits. Decide on specific frameworks, sentence pointers, phrases, and so on and use them at every opportunity. See point 2.6 for an example. This will give you more self-confidence and reduce nervousness.

2.6 If you want a mediocre score, you only have to do and say mediocre things. However, if you want a special score, you have to do something special. You have to do something that most other students do not do. You have to stand out from the maddening crowd. This is only fair. For example, if someone asks you, "How are you?" and you

answer, "I'm fine, thank you," that is mediocre, and you cannot expect a high score. But if you answer, "I'm bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, thank you. And you?" then your score will immediately become substantially higher.

2.7 In Listening and Reading, the scoring is done mechanically. It is completely objective and cannot be manipulated by anyone. In Speaking and Writing, however, the scoring is done by a human being called the examiner. This is a subjective action. Your score completely depends on what the examiner is feeling and thinking about your work. Refer to 2.4 above.

3. LISTENING

3.1 The questions become more difficult in every new section. In your studies, focus on the first section first. Do not attempt the later sections in the beginning. Practice section 1 over and over again. Find as many versions as possible, and listen and answer the questions to section 1 only. Keep repeating this until you often get at least eight questions correct in this section. Then do the same for section 2. If you are aiming at a band score between 5 and 6, it is a waste of time to spend hours trying to figure out the answers in sections 3 and 4 before you have complete confidence in sections 1 and 2. Only if you are aiming at a band score of 7 should you move on to section 3, and move to section 4 only if you want an 8. Of course it goes without saying that in the exam you should try your best in sections 3 and 4. Even if you have no idea what the correct answer is, just guess. You might be lucky and pick up a few points.

3.2 There are certain linguistic techniques for how to do the test more effectively. Ask your tutor to help you with this. Because of the speed of the presentation, the IELTS Listening test is often criticized, and it is then said that the test has, in some ways, become more of an intelligence test than a language test. In any case, it is a known fact that the test is challenging, to say the least.

4. SPEAKING

4.1 See point 3.1 above. The same applies to speaking. It is a waste of time to spend hours trying to figure out the answers in part 3 before

you have complete confidence in parts 1 and 2. Only if you are aiming for a 7 or 8 band score should you move on to part 3 in your preparation for the exam. Of course it goes without saying that in the exam you should try your best in part 3. But you will not forfeit a good performance in parts 1 and 2 if you cannot perform well in part 3.

4.2 You do not have to collect and memorize different details for each and every topic. There are groups of topics, and one set of details can be adapted to suit any particular topic in that group. For example, there are many topics about people. If you know a number of adjectives to describe a person, you can use them for any person. Remember point 2.6 above. If you only know *beautiful* and *kind*, you will achieve a mediocre score, but if you know adjectives like *choleric*, *phlegmatic*, *sanguine*, *melancholic*, and so on, and you know how to use them, your score will improve dramatically.

4.3 How can you avoid the situation where you have absolutely no idea about the topic in part 2? When preparing for the test, have a brief look at as many topics as possible. Do not try to study the content of all them. There are simply too many. Just make sure that you understand what the topics are about and that you have a few key words in mind. Then choose a number of typical topics and study them in detail. You can then adjust your knowledge to fit any topic given to you. This will also eliminate the stress of wondering which topic you will receive.

4.4 See 2.4 above. Use your body language to make the examiner feel good about you. Show a lot of respect to him or her. Smile and try to make him or her smile. Be honest, especially if you do not know the answer to a question.

4.5 You do not have to tell the truth. The examiner is not interested in the factual accuracy of what you are saying. He or she wants to know how well you have mastered English. Of course, you should refrain from saying something ridiculous or absurd.

4.6 Respect the culture of the examiner. Often you have no idea where he or she is from, so be careful when speaking about other countries, their leaders, their history, and so on. If possible, stay away from political and religious statements.

4.7 During the exam:

a. Be polite. The examiner is not your enemy or out to trick you into making as many mistakes as possible.

b. Be yourself. It is futile to try to be something or someone other than yourself. Any attempt by you to project a certain image will only lead to higher levels of anxiety on your side, and this will definitely be to your detriment.

c. Be disciplined. Follow the examiner's instructions carefully. Do not under any circumstances argue with or question requests by the examiner.

d. During parts 2 and 3, you are allowed to ask the examiner to repeat and/or clarify a question. Listen to whatever he or she says attentively but under no circumstances interrupt or attempt to argue with him or her.

e. Make as many notes as possible during the one minute given to you before you have to present a speech in part 2. Then often glance at these notes in order to remember what you were planning to say. Do not change your ideas during your speech. Scientific studies have proven that our initial thoughts are usually the best. Your notes should be an aid in helping you say what you noted as calmly and clearly as possible.

5. WRITING

5.1 Task 1 does not carry as much weight as task 2. Task 1 is shorter and easier because there is information given for you to work with. In task 2, however, you are completely on your own.

5.2 Therefore, you should initially focus on task 2 in your studies. Spend 80 percent of your study time on task 2 and 20 percent on task 1.

5.3 You have to decide on a framework for task 2, and then you should follow this framework religiously from then on. This framework should become a habit, and you have to be able to produce it without even thinking.

5.4 See point 2.6. Generally speaking, Asian people are conformists. They do not appreciate creativity, initiative, and individualism as much as Westerners do. Therefore, Asian students often do not like

the advice that they receive from foreigners because it does not fit well into their cultural beliefs.

5.5 With the above in mind, you should make the very first sentence of your essay as eye-catching, interesting, creative, and special as possible. *Do not* simply paraphrase the topic. This idea comes from nonnative speakers. It is not wrong, but it does not illustrate your English skills and will influence your score positively. A creative sentence will improve your score dramatically.

5.6 During the exam:

    a. Do not start writing immediately. Spend at least five minutes reading the topics and planning your task 2 essay and making some key notes.

    b Make a note of your framework and key words for task 2 on the back of the last sheet of paper given to you.

    c. Leave the first page given to you blank and start by using your notes and then writing the essay on the second and third pages that were given to you.

    d. After you have completed your essay, erase the notes you made on the back of the last page, and then do task 1 on the first page.

    e. Stay as close to 250 words as possible in task 2. Do not write more than 150 words in task 1. Fewer than that will not have a large impact on your score, but more will have a negative effect.

    f. When preparing for the exam, use actual IELTS Writing paper so that after some time you know how many words on average you usually write in a line. This will save you time when you want to know how many words you have written.

6. READING

6.1 See point 3.1 above.

6.2 Again, of course it goes without saying that in the exam you should try your best in sections 3 and 4. Even if you have no idea what the correct answer is, just guess. You might be lucky and pick up a few points.

9 BIOGRAPHY

Christiaan (Tian) Hattingh was born and bred in South Africa. He was blessed in being raised in a bilingual home, with an Afrikaans-speaking father and an English-speaking mother. In 1974, he completed a four-year training course as a forest manager from the Saasveld Forestry College, now part of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. He spent most of the next nine years as a training manager (in sawmilling) in the Southern Africa timber industry. During this time, he studied the Zulu language, which is considered to be the lingua franca of the region, as a third language.

In 1987, he completed a BA degree in psychology and philosophy at the University of South Africa. Starting in 1974, he studied biblical Hebrew for three years at the same university, and although he never achieved a formal academic qualification in the subject, he soon felt obliged to share his knowledge with others who were equally interested in learning more from the Old Testament. As a result of this yearning, he later conducted part-time classes for beginners at the local Polytechnic in Rustenburg, South Africa, where he was living at the time.

He has been an avid birder for the past forty-two years and is a founding member of the Rustenburg branch of Birdlife South Africa. He has been birding in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Malawi, China, Thailand, and lately Vietnam. He has visited Israel several times, first as a Christian pilgrim and later to study the birds of the region more closely. Returning to South Africa in 2001, he presented talks on birding in Israel at several Birdlife South Africa branches.

In 2002, he moved to mainland China, where he became an ESL/IELTS teacher. He was fortunate in that the chief IELTS examiner for the Liaoning Province became his personal tutor over the next two years. As a result, he got to know what IELTS examiners were expecting from students in order to achieve an above-average band score. During his fourteen-year stay in China, he studied and became proficient in Mandarin Chinese, gaining even more insights into the efforts and skills needed when attempting to acquire a new language. Subsequently, he has successfully tutored hundreds of IELTS students in China and Vietnam over the past fifteen years.

 In February of 2012, he published *Birds and Bibles in History* (ISBN 978-1-907313-70-7), covering the history of the Tanakh, the history of ornithology, and all 409 references to birds in the Old and New Testaments. From September 2014, he conducted classes for beginners in biblical Hebrew in the city of Shenzhen in China until March 2016, when he relocated to Vietnam. He has been an ESL teacher / IELTS instructor and an online biblical Hebrew teacher there since then.

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