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ГОТОВИМСЯ К СДАЧЕ ЭКЗАМЕНА IELTS

WRITING ESSAYS

Учебно-методическое пособие
для подготовки к сдаче экзамена
International English Language Testing System



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В пособии приводятся образцы эссе и заданий, которые даются во второй части письменного экзамена по IELTS – Writing Task Two, General and Academic Modules.

Упражнения организованы таким образом, чтобы подготовиться самостоятельно или под руководством преподавателя к написанию сочинения на экзамене IELTS.

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ЧТО ТАКОЕ ПИСЬМЕННЫЙ ЭКЗАМЕН IELTS?

Письменная часть экзамена IELTS состоит из двух заданий – *Task 1* и *Task 2*. В зависимости от того, какой модуль вы сдаете, в первом задании (*Task 1*)

вам предлагается:

- написать письмо к конкретной ситуации (**General Module**) или
- описать графически представленную информацию (график, диаграмму, таблицу и прочее – **Academic Module**).

Для выполнения *Writing Task 1* вам будет дано 20 минут, и ваша письменная работа должна насчитывать не менее 150 слов.

Второе задание письменного экзамена, **Writing Task 2** – написать эссе. На это вам рекомендуется потратить не больше 40 минут, и от вас ожидается сочинение, в котором вы должны будете аргументировано изложить свою точку зрения на предложенную проблему, написав эссе размером не менее 250 слов.

Для того чтобы успешно справиться с этой частью письменного экзамена, **вам нужно:**

- четко понять тему, определить специфику задания и тип эссе
- иметь собственные мысли, идеи и мнение по указанной проблеме
- логически организовать свои аргументы по абзацам
- понятно и грамотно изложить свои мысли по-английски

Давая оценку вашему эссе, **экзаменатор определяет** следующее:

- отвечает ли ваше эссе заданию и четко ли изложено ваше мнение
- достаточно ли у вас аргументов и иллюстрирующих их примеров
- хорошо ли организован и связан ваш ответ
- насколько разнообразен синтаксис (структура предложений) и выдержан стиль вашей письменной речи
- насколько богат ваш словарный запас
- хорошо ли вы владеете английской грамматикой и знаете правописание слов

Все это может быть сгруппировано в 4 критерия оценки вашего эссе:

1. Understanding the question – насколько правильно вы поняли задание
2. Knowing the subject – насколько хорошо вы знаете предмет обсуждения
3. Your thinking skills – тип вашего мышления
4. Your English language skills – уровень владения английским языком



Чем отличается **Academic Module Essay** от **General Module Essay**?

Темы *General Module* затрагивают аспекты повседневной жизни и ориентированы на определение собственного мнения или гражданской позиции по проблемам, с которыми приходится сталкиваться обывателю – их можно назвать **Survival**.

Академические темы очень часто касаются образования, культурных ценностей, социальных устоев, глобальных проблем, т.е. они более «абстрактны», и само задание требует написания более аргументированного эссе. Таким образом, вам придется максимально проявить свои *critical thinking* и *analytical thinking skills* на фоне общей эрудиции. Стиль такого эссе должен быть более академичным, что достигается активным использованием «формализованных» клише.

Обычно на экзамене предлагаются разные темы для сдающих *General* или *Academic* модулей. Тем не менее, может случиться, что будет дана одна и та же тема, однако при этом критерии оценки *General* будут намного «демократичнее» и «мягче», чем у академических эссе.



Как правильно распределить время на экзамене?

Во время подготовки к сдаче экзамена вы можете тратить сколько угодно времени для написания тренировочных сочинений. Опыт показывает, что при первых попытках написать эссе уходит очень много времени. Не отчаивайтесь! Освоив *технологии написания и организацию* эссе к экзамену IELTS, вы научитесь делать это качественно и быстро.

Напоминаем, что на самом экзамене на это задание у вас будет только около 40 минут. Как же использовать это время наиболее эффективно?

Все инструкции по подготовке к IELTS настоятельно рекомендуют строго вести учет времени и распределить его следующим образом:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Анализ задания, определение темы и типа эссе. | } 5–7 минут |
| 2. Определение своей позиции и обдумывание аргументов | |
| 3. Отбор, группирование аргументов и составление плана эссе | |
| 4. Написание эссе | 30 минут |
| 5. Проверка и исправление ошибок | 3–5 минут |

Все специалисты по IELTS не перестают повторять: отсутствие обдуманного плана сочинения – преступление. Если вы хорошо продумайте, что будете писать и составите рабочий план, вам будет намного легче изложить ваши мысли на бумаге, и качество вашей работы от этого только выиграет.



Как правильно понять экзаменационное задание?

Принимающие экзамен IELTS тестеры уверяют, что очень часто экзаменуемые “don't read the question properly and their answer is irrelevant” – т.е. не вчитывается в задание, и поэтому его ответ не по существу вопроса, что неминуемо отражается на итоговой оценке. Если вы не уделите анализу задания достаточно внимания, вы можете отклониться от темы и написать не совсем то, что от вас ожидают.

На первый взгляд может показаться, что понять задание – легко. Да, понять тему (*topic*) обычно не трудно. Например, Computers have improved the quality of our life. Do you agree? Темой этого сочинения будет роль *компьютеров в улучшении качества жизни*.

Вот еще несколько примеров:

a) Many people believe that the Internet is the most revolutionary new invention of the last century. Do you agree? → Вам придется доказать или опровергнуть, что Интернет является самым революционным изобретением прошлого века.

b) The Internet has revolutionized the modern world, but many people argue that it also created new problems and inequalities. What is your opinion? → Вам следует рассмотреть технические и социальные проблемы, к которым уже привело использование Интернета.

c) The Internet could revolutionise the world in the future, if everyone could have easy access to all the information that is available on the World Wide Web. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? → Вам придется поразмышлять о будущем, о возможной пользе Интернета, которая могла бы привести к глобальным изменениям.

Но иногда все не так уж просто, поскольку сам вопрос может иметь несколько аспектов, например: Modern technology has increased our material wealth but has decreased our personal happiness. To what extent do you agree? О чем бы вы написали в этом эссе?

Самое основное при анализе задания – определить, *какой тип эссе* вам предстоит написать, и в результате этого – что конкретно написать. Для этого нужно выделить *task words*, т.е. слова, определяющие само задание. Например: The environment is one of the most important issues

in the world today, but governments are not doing enough about it. *To what extent do you think the individuals can help to protect the environment?*

Тема этого эссе – Individuals can help to protect the environment, а вам предстоит ответить на вопрос, to what extent they can help. Таким образом, вам придется рассмотреть two sides of the issue, т.е. что может и должен сделать каждый из нас, а что должно лечь на плечи правительства.

Основные типы эссе приведены в таблице.

Тип эссе	Task words	Что написать в эссе
Problem / solution	<i>What can be done to solve...? How can this problem be addressed...? What challenges...? What strategies...?</i>	Объясните 2–3 аспекта проблемы (по одному абзацу на каждый) Предложите пути решения проблемы (<i>кто</i>) Дайте рекомендации <i>как</i> это осуществить
Agree or disagree	<i>Do you agree or disagree? Why...? Explain your position. Justify your opinion.</i>	Выберите свою позицию (согласен / не согласен или согласен, но не полностью) Объясните, почему вы не /согласны. Приведите противоположные мнения и покритикуйте их.
Two sides of an argument	<i>Discuss Compare/contrast Advantages/disadvantages</i>	Дайте сбалансированный ответ, т.е. в равной степени опишите «за» и «против», посвятив каждому из них по абзацу. В заключении укажите вашу позицию (чего больше – пользы или вреда?)
Make choices and justify	<i>From options A, B, C, D etc. choose 3 most important. Justify your choice.</i>	Рассмотрите предложенные различные мнения (по абзацу на каждый), выберите, какое из них вы разделяете и объясните, почему.
Evaluate an argument	<i>To what extent...? How important...? What do you think...?</i>	С предложенной в задании позицией нельзя 100% согласиться или полностью ее отвергнуть. Ваше мнение должно быть где-то посередине, основываясь на аргументах «за» и «против». Рассмотрите эти аргументы.
Смешанный тип	Например, <i>Why? Give alternatives... Discuss... suggest...</i>	Объясните, почему, и предложите альтернативу



УПРАЖНЕНИЯ

- I. Приведенные ниже задания тематически связаны – education, но каждое из них по-разному подходит к указанной теме. Найдите *topic words* и определите, о чем конкретно вам нужно написать.
- a) Parents have a greater influence on their children's future success than schools do. Governments should therefore provide 'parent training courses' rather than 'teacher training courses'. Do you agree? (G)¹

¹ Пометка «G» указывает на General Module, а пометка «A» – на Academic Module. Иногда тема может быть предложена обоим модулям.

- b) Education is the most important source of children's development. No matter what their background, if children have good schools and teachers, they can make progress. Governments should therefore put their major sources into school education. Do you agree? (G)
- c) Education is recognised 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 5 and 15. Do you agree? (G, A)
- d) To be successful in education it is more important to be a good student than to have good teachers. Do you agree? (A)

II. Приведенные ниже задания тоже объединены общей тематикой - education, но *task words* ориентируют на разный подход к анализу проблемы. Найдите *task words* и определите, какой тип эссе при этом нужно написать.

1. Millions of people every year move to English-speaking countries such as Australia, Britain or America, in order to study at school, college or university. Why do so many people want to study in English? Why is English such an important language? Give reasons for your answer. (G)
2. The increasing role of English in the world today means that the learning of other languages is being neglected. This will have serious results for the continued use of these languages and their cultures. What is your opinion on this statement? (A)

III. Определите тему и тип эссе по следующим заданиям:

- a) Many modern children spend a great deal of time sitting in front of a television or computer screen. This is extremely harmful for their development. Therefore parents should strictly limit the time that children spend this way. Do you agree? (G)
- b) When teenagers under the age of 18 commit crimes, their parents should be held responsible. Write an essay discussing this statement and suggest ways to combat teenage crime. (G, A)
- c) The crime rate among teenagers has increased dramatically in many countries. Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions to this problem. (G, A)
- d) Smoking is a habit which claims many lives and is a great drain on health services. One way to combat smoking would be to make it illegal. What are the pros and cons of such a government policy? What alternative strategies can you suggest to combat smoking? (A)
- e) "The best way to help developing countries is to give them financial aid." Write an essay either agreeing or disagreeing with this statement. Suggest alternatives to this policy. (A)
- f) Industrialization is leading to the destruction of the earth as a home for humans and animals. To what extent do you agree that this is true? (A)

IV. Прочитайте образец эссе¹ и восстановите задание, к которому оно было написано.

The education of a child is affected by both the attitude of the parents and the quality of the child's school and teachers. I would not say, however, that the parents' attitude is the more important of these two factors.

A good parental attitude definitely helps a child's school progress. Studies have shown that Asian students are often higher achievers in school than their American peers because Asian parents usually take a more active interest in their children's education. Educationally minded parents can in fact compensate to a certain extent for a poor quality school or teachers. Such parents can provide extra exercises in writing and discussions at home, encourage the child to read more or study by himself or herself. Concerned parents may even hire the services of a tutor.

¹ Здесь и далее приведены примеры эссе, которые написаны главным образом носителями языка и большей частью ориентированы на Academic module. Не пугайтесь и не отчаивайтесь, если ваш уровень английского не дотягивает до приведенных образцов. Каждый из нас пишет так, как умеет. Моя многолетняя практика преподавания доказывает, что при упорной практике МОЖНО научиться писать по-IELTS даже при скромном стартовом уровне знания английского языка.

On the other hand, educationally minded parents are usually not enough to ensure the good education of a child. Parents often don't have the resources of a good school, or the collective knowledge and training of a good teaching staff. Furthermore, time or money may limit what the well intentioned parent can actually do for the child's education in practical terms.

Consequently, although parental attitude and quality of school and staff are both important to a child's education, I don't feel that one is necessarily more important than the other. Perhaps ironically, it is usually the children of educationally minded parents that finish up being sent to good schools with good teachers.

(243 words)

Answer Key:

The attitude of parents to the education of their children is more important than the quality of schools and teachers in producing well-educated people. How far do you agree?

Exam hints



*Understanding the question means more than understanding the instructions or the words of the question. It means recognizing the **focus** of the question and the **approach** you should take to the topic.*

This is, in some ways the most important aspect of writing the essay, and requires the most thought.

Good start leads to a successful finish!



Как составить план эссе?

Без продуманного плана невозможно хорошее эссе. Как уверяют специалисты по IELTS, отсутствие плана проявляется в том, что экзаменуемые 'don't have enough ideas so their essay is very "thin", или наоборот, 'they have too many ideas so their essay comes disorganised and they don't develop each point enough'. Хорошую оценку заслуживают работы с интересными идеями и хорошей организацией мыслей.

Русские студенты часто жалуются, что мало кому из них приходилось писать на темы, подобные заданиям IELTS, поскольку в их школе такие проблемы не рассматривались ни в темах сочинений, ни на устных дискуссиях. По этой причине они не знают, что можно написать, например, на тему 'Some businesses now say that no one can smoke cigarettes in any of their offices. Some governments have banned smoking in all public places. This is a good idea but it also takes away some of our freedom. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons.' Да, вред от курения у нас широко пропагандируется, и мы сможем написать о нем. Намного труднее будет письменно обсудить проблему *права на свободу выбора «курить или не курить?»*

Что же делать, когда в голове нет никаких мыслей по поводу задания IELTS? – Надо их генерировать! Для этого рекомендуют сначала «взять мозг штурмом». *Brain-storming* во время подготовки к экзамену IELTS незаменим, ведь придется быстро «родить» мысли и идеи на любую из тем, как бы далеко она ни была от ваших собственных интересов и увлечений. Здорово, если вы сможете привлечь к «штурму» тем эссе еще кого-нибудь, кто готов поделиться с вами знаниями и мнениями. А если ваши дискуссии будут на английском языке, то это окажется вдвойне полезно, поскольку похожие вопросы вы можете услышать и на устной части экзамена IELTS.

Таким образом, готовясь писать эссе, вы параллельно готовитесь и к собеседованию!

Как уверяют те, кто уже сдавал экзамен (автор пособия в том числе), времени на письменном экзамене очень мало. Надо обязательно потренироваться в написании сочинений. После определенного количества сочинений становится все равно, на какую тему писать, т.к. процесс отрабатывается до автоматизма, и техника оттачивается, и рука набивается.

Итак, движемся далее по направлению к качественному плану эссе.

Шаг 1. Прочитайте задание: "Action such as recycling cannot be left up to the good will of the individual. It must be forced on us by government." Discuss this statement and suggest how governments can encourage people to be more aware of environmental issues. (G, A). Обратите внимание, что задание имеет два аспекта: discuss & suggest.

Шаг 2. Преобразуйте утверждение задания в вопрос: "Should action such as recycling be left up to the good will of the individual or should it be forced on us by government?" Ответьте на него сами. Так вы определите свою позицию, которую стоит указать во введении к эссе и далее обосновать и проиллюстрировать.

Шаг 3. Продумайте аргументы. Если никакие мысли по этому поводу в голову не приходят, начните задавать себе вопросы: Как...? Кто...? Где...? Почему...? И так далее. Например,

How can the government force us to recycle?

Why should we recycle?

What are the disadvantages of government legislation to force people to recycle?

Why don't people recycle without government law?

Where do people recycle a lot?

How much should the government fine people who do not recycle?

Who should check if people are not recycling? The police?

Шаг 4. Ответьте сами на каждый из этих вопросов и запишите свои идеи, причем, все, какими бы нелепыми они вам ни показались. Они могут пригодиться! При этом не тратьте время, чтобы записывать свои мысли полными предложениями – просто ключевые слова или фразы. Например,

How can the government encourage/force us to recycle?

- new laws
- introduce fines
- provide special collection services for different types of rubbish
- promote recycling through a media campaign
- teach children about recycling and environmental issues at school.

Why should we recycle?

- too much rubbish - nowhere to put it
- using up important resources too quickly
- rubbish causes pollution, e.g. plastic which is not biodegradable.

What are the disadvantages of government legislation to encourage/force people to recycle?

- people wouldn't need to think about the environment - they just follow the law
- may be an expensive policy
- checking and fining people who don't recycle would be expensive to do, so the government might have to raise taxes to pay for it

Why don't people recycle without government law?

- it's easier not to recycle - people are naturally lazy
- people are not aware of environmental issues

Where do people recycle a lot?

- Germany, for example.

How about Russia?

- Horrible!

Шаг 5. Сгруппируйте свои идеи логически. Помните, что вам нужно написать около 250 слов, и что обычно эссе по IELTS имеет 4-5 абзацев (*paragraphs*) и следующую структуру:

1. *introduction*
2. *discuss one side of the question/give arguments*
3. *discuss another side of the question/add more arguments*
4. *conclusion - this is where you can give your own opinion.*

Обратитесь к своим наброскам еще раз и пронумеруйте мысли так, чтобы они были логически связаны. Например:

How can the government encourage/force us to recycle? (3)

- new laws
- introduce fines
- provide special collection services for different types of rubbish
- promote recycling through a media campaign
- teach children about recycling and environmental issues at school.

Why should we recycle? (1)

- too much rubbish - nowhere to put it, very dirty surroundings
- using up important resources too quickly
- rubbish causes pollution, e.g. plastic which is not biodegradable.

What are the disadvantages of government legislation to encourage/force people to recycle? (4)

- people wouldn't need to think about the environment - they just follow the law
- may be an expensive policy
- checking and fining people who don't recycle would be expensive to do, so the government might have to raise taxes to pay for it

Why don't people recycle without government law? (2)

- it's easier not to recycle - people are naturally lazy
- people are not aware of environmental issues

Where do people recycle a lot? (5)

- Germany, for example.

How about Russia? (6)

- Horrible! Shame.

Наконец-то план эссе готов! Теперь придется еще раз напомнить, что на экзамене у вас будет примерно 5–10 минут для разработки плана и 25–30 минут на написание самого эссе. Хорошее эссе – это не просто перечень идей и утверждений, а рассуждение, подкрепленное аргументами и примерами. Поэтому, если в вашем плане много идей, выберите из них только основные и изложите их в вашей работе.

Exam hints



The numbers in the above example show the order of the essay. Remember – this is only one suggestion of a good order. Many answers are possible. You may have different ideas in a very different order. That's OK of course, as long as the ideas are strong and the writing is organised.

You may find at this stage that you have too many ideas. You must choose the most important ones and discuss them fully. It is better in IELTS to develop a few ideas well rather than have a list of a lot of ideas with no explanation.



УПРАЖНЕНИЯ

- I. Прочитайте приведенные ниже утверждения. Убедитесь, что вы понимаете, о чем идет речь. Преобразуйте утверждения в общий вопрос и ответьте на него – да или нет, чтобы опреде-

лить собственную позицию. Задавая разные вопросы и отвечая на них, разработайте группы идей и аргументов, которые пояснят вашу позицию по указанной проблеме. Составьте краткий план эссе для каждой из этих тем.

1. Zoos are both necessary and entertaining. (G)
2. When mothers go out to work, their families suffer. (G)
3. Examinations are not a good way to judge a student's ability. (G, A)
4. Developed countries have no responsibility to help the developing nations. (A)
5. The welfare state makes people less self-reliant. (A)
6. Criminals who commit murders should be sentenced to death¹. (A)

II. Прочитайте экзаменационное задание и разработайте план эссе к нему.

<p>WRITING TASK 2 (Academic Module)</p> <p><i>You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.</i></p> <p><i>Prepare a written argument for a well-educated reader without special knowledge on the following topic:</i></p> <p>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 substitutes. A vegetarian diet is as healthy as a diet containing meat. Argue for or against the opinion above.</p> <p><i>You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.</i></p> <p><i>You should write at least 250 words</i></p>

III. Прочитайте и переведите эссе, написанное к следующему заданию. Что вы думаете по поводу приведенных автором аргументов? Какие аргументы выдвинули бы вы?

TASK: A balanced diet, or eating balanced meals, is the key to a healthy life. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.
(G, A)

<p>Although a balanced diet is important, there are other factors which contribute to a healthy life. People in some cultures do not eat a balanced diet, but use limited food sources. In addition, lack of stress could well be as important as diet.</p> <p>One culture-related reason concerns environmental or climatic conditions. The Inuit, in the Arctic Circle, live in harsh surroundings and their major source of food for many months of the year is fish. Nutritionists in industrialized countries would not consider their diet balanced or even healthy, yet Inuit people have flourished on food from the sea for centuries. Another cultural reason is religion-based. Many Hindus are vegetarian because of their religion. Again, many dieticians claim that vegetarianism is unbalanced because humans need protein, especially from animals. Hindus, however, seem to be quite healthy, suffering no ill effects from the lack of animal protein.</p> <p>The major reason for disagreeing with the balanced diet argument, however, is to do with stress. Even though people in the past did not always have a balanced diet, sometimes existing only on potatoes and bread, they lived healthy lives because there was little or no stress of the kind that afflicts urban residents today. Secondly, there is a large percentage of contemporary people who do their jobs, then relax in front of TV, and quite often eat junk food, but seem healthy enough. They may be spared disease by their relatively stress-free lives.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(240 words)</p>

¹ Политизированные или слишком эмоциональные темы, подобные этой, редко встречаются в заданиях IELTS.



Как написать введение?

Введение дает возможность экзаменатору с первых предложений получить представление о вашем умении писать эссе. Постарайтесь произвести хорошее впечатление уже с самого начала.

Конечно, если у вас много времени, вы можете потратить несколько минут для обдумывания первых предложений, но на экзамене все-таки лучше пользоваться отработанными вами заготовками. Ниже мы дадим варианты подходящих клише для введения, не стесняйтесь их использовать – это показывает, что вы все-таки готовились к написанию IELTS эссе. Тем не менее, будет замечательно, если вы создадите что-нибудь свое.

СПОСОБ 1

Самое простое – перефразировать каждое предложение текста самого задания и «слегка» его расширить. Например,

- 1) TASK: We are surrounded by advertising. Some people think that it is good because it gives us choice as consumers, but others argue that it makes people selfish and greedy for more and more goods. Do you think there should be less advertising? (G, A)

We are surrounded by advertising.	→	We see and hear advertising everywhere.
Some people think that it is good because it gives us choice as consumers, but...	→	It has positive effect, as it makes us better informed about various goods and services.
... others argue that it makes people selfish and greedy for more and more goods.	→	However, we should not forget about its negative influence on consumers.
Do you think there should be less advertising?	→	Should there be less advertising?

- 2) TASK: Television, newspapers, magazines, and other media pay too much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public figures and celebrities. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (G)

Television, newspapers, magazines, and other media pay too much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public figures and celebrities	→	The private lives of famous people are too often featured in the mass media. They inform us about the families of public figures or celebrities, their lifestyles, preferences, or scandals connected with them.
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	→	Should there be less attention to the personal aspects of these famous people? Or is all this information necessary for the public, and so can be justified?

СПОСОБ 2

Существуют разные клише («скелеты») для написания введения. Вот некоторые из них:

- It may indeed be true to say that (+ statement from the task); what, however are the factors involved? → It may indeed be true to say that mass media pay too much attention to the personal life of famous people; what however are the factors involved?
- It may indeed be the case that (+ statement from the task); this issue, however requires further analysis. → It may indeed be the case that our mass media pay too much attention to the personal lives of famous people; this issue, however requires further analysis.
- ... is one of the most controversial issues of our time. What are the arguments that need to be considered? → Should there be less advertising or not is one of the most controversial issues of our time. What are the arguments that need to be considered?

- ... has/have been an important part of many cultures/life for many years now. What are the reasons for this, and what changes/improvements are likely or possible in the future? → Advertising has been an important part of our life for many years now. What are the reasons for this and what negative influence on consumers is possible in the future?
- ... has/have been ...ing for many years now. Has this had generally beneficial effects, or have they been largely negative? → Advertising has been surrounding us for many years now. Has this had generally beneficial effect, or has this been largely negative?

Считается, что хорошее введение имеет 4 части:

1. Обозначает тему - Introduces the topic
2. Поясняет, почему эта тема важна для обсуждения - States why the topic is important
3. Указывает на возможное различие в мнениях о проблеме - States that there is a difference of opinion about this topic
4. Описывает, как построено эссе, и четко называет основное утверждение автора - Describes how the assignment will be structured and clearly states the writer's main premise

СПОСОБ 3

Теперь давайте рассмотрим, как можно пользоваться «универсальной» заготовкой, на примере введения к эссе на тему “Marine parks for sea mammals should be forbidden, because it is inhuman to keep these animals in captivity. What is your opinion on the issue?” (A)

The issue of whether we should allow marine parks to stay open has been widely debated in our community recently. It is an important issue because it concerns fundamental moral and economic questions about the way we use our native wildlife. A variety of different arguments have been put forward about this issue. This essay will consider arguments for having marine parks and point to some of the problems with these views. It will then put forward reasons for the introduction of laws which prohibit these unnecessary and cruel institutions.

Наконец, предлагаем вам прочитать всё эссе¹ и посмотреть, насколько введение согласуется с основной частью.

The issue of whether we should allow marine parks to stay open has been widely debated in our community recently. It is an important issue because it concerns fundamental moral and economic questions about the way we use our native wildlife. A variety of different arguments have been put forward about this issue. This essay will consider arguments for having marine parks and point to some of the problems with these views. It will then put forward reasons for the introduction of laws which prohibit these unnecessary and cruel institutions.

It has been argued that dolphin parks provide the only opportunity for much of the public to see marine mammals. Most citizens, so this argument goes, live in continental cities and never get to see these animals. It is claimed that marine parks allow the average person to appreciate our marine wildlife. However, dolphins, whales and seals can be viewed in the wild at a number of places on the ocean coast. In fact, there are more places where they can be seen in the wild than places where they can be seen in captivity.

¹ Это пример академического эссе, написанного не для экзамена IELTS. Могу предположить, что на его выполнение ушло намного больше часа. Предлагаю его в качестве образца аргументации и академического стиля.

Some scientists contend that we need marine parks for scientific research. They argue that much of our knowledge of marine mammals comes from studies which were undertaken at marine parks. The knowledge which is obtained at marine parks, so this argument goes, can be useful for planning for the conservation of marine mammal species. However, park research is only useful for understanding captive animals and is not useful for learning about animals in the wild. Dolphin and whale biology changes in marine park conditions. Their diets are different, they have significantly lower life spans and they are more prone to disease. In addition, marine mammals in dolphin parks are trained and this means that their patterns of social behaviour are changed. Therefore research undertaken at marine parks is generally not reliable.

It is a common opinion that marine parks attract a lot of foreign tourists. This position goes on to assert that these tourists spend a lot of money, increasing our foreign exchange earnings and assisting our national balance of payments. However, foreign tourists would still come to Australia, New Zealand or the USA if the parks were closed down. Indeed, surveys of overseas tourists show that they come here for a variety of other reasons and not to visit places like Seaworld. Tourists come here to see our native wildlife in its natural environment and not to see it in cages and cement pools. They can see animals in those conditions in their own countries. Furthermore, we should be promoting our beautiful natural environment to tourists and not the ugly concrete marine park venues.

Dolphin parks are unnecessary and cruel. The dolphins and whales in these parks are kept in very small, cramped ponds, whereas in the wild they are used to roaming long distances across the seas. Furthermore, the concrete walls of the pools interfere with the animals' sonar systems of communication. In addition, keeping them in pools is a terrible restriction of the freedom of fellow creatures that may have very high levels of intelligence and sophisticated language ability. Moreover, there are many documented cases of marine mammals helping humans who are in danger at sea or helping fisherman with their work.

In conclusion, these parks should be closed, or at the very least, no new animals should be captured for marine parks in the future. Our society is no longer prepared to tolerate unnecessary cruelty to animals for science and entertainment. If we continue with our past crimes against these creatures we will be remembered as cruel and inhuman by the generations of the future.

(614 words)

Exam hints: You must avoid repeating the exact words of the task topic. If you repeat the words, you can gain no marks for the introduction, since they are not your words. The examiner will simply ignore them. If you paraphrase, you are displaying your language skills.



УПРАЖНЕНИЯ

- I. Поставьте приведенные ниже предложения по порядку, чтобы получилось введение к эссе на тему "Should Australia become a republic?" Перепишите его в тетрадь.

	As a result, the issue is a very controversial one and has attracted a lot of debate.
	It will then put forward a number of reasons why Australia should change to a republican form of government.
	The question of whether we maintain the monarchy is not merely a legal detail but is intrinsically linked to the way we perceive ourselves as a distinct nation of people with its own identity and culture.
	Since the time of federation, Australia has been a constitutional monarchy with the Queen

	of the United Kingdom as its head of state.
	This essay will consider some of the arguments for maintaining the monarch as head of state and will outline some of the problems with this position.
	However, today many Australians are questioning whether this form of government is still relevant or appropriate and are suggesting that we move towards the establishment of a republic.

II. Прочитайте приведенное ниже задание и попробуйте написать введение, заполнив пропуски в предлагаемом клише:

TASK: In some countries the average worker is obliged to retire at the age of 50, while the other people can work until they are 65 or 70. Meanwhile, we see some politicians enjoying power well into their eighties. Clearly, there is little argument on an appropriate retirement age. Until what age do you think people should be encouraged to remain in paid employment?

The issue of whether we should allow _____ to _____ has been widely debated in our community recently. It is an important issue because it concerns fundamental moral and economic questions about _____

A variety of different arguments have been put forward about this issue. This essay will consider arguments for _____ and point to some of the problems with these views. It will then put forward reasons for the introduction of laws which _____

III. Заполните пропуски нужными словами-связками и перепишите в тетрадь введение к эссе на тему "There is no need for native speakers of English to learn another language. Discuss" -
also although but however only this who whose

A recent poll of European countries showed that English is the most common language in Europe. _____, while 41 percent of Europeans could speak English as a second language, _____ a third of Britons take the time to study a second language themselves. _____ is unfair to the people of non-English speaking countries, _____ must put a lot of time and effort into learning such a difficult language. _____ it is _____ unfortunate for the British themselves, who are missing out on a most valuable experience by not studying English. _____ I believe that English is a very important language; this essay will show that it is just as important that people _____ first language is English attempt to learn other languages.

- IV. Ниже приведены отрывки от пяти разных введений к эссе на тему 'Modern technology has increased our material wealth, but not our happiness. To what extent do you agree with this statement?' Найдите первое и второе предложения к каждому из пяти введений.

	Every country in the world is aiming at technological development.
	The most important thing for happiness, however, is not possession, but relationships.
	For most people, technological development means an improvement in their life-style.
	Their governments are not making their people more contented, however, as inequalities in society continue to grow.
	Modern technology can provide enormous benefits in terms of material goods.
	It seems clear, however, that this is an old-fashioned view, and that technological inventions actually allow people to have more free time and leisure to satisfy their spiritual needs.
	Technology has brought many changes to people's lives, not all of which are beneficial.
	Some people claim that modern technology is harming society's spiritual and traditional values.
	In fact, in many cases people have suffered enormously because of these changes.
	However, while some people enjoy an easier life, others are often made unemployed as a result of new technology, and most people now feel insecure and unhappy as a result.

- V. Напишите введения к эссе на следующие задания:

1. In Britain, when someone gets old, they often go to live in a 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? (G, A)
2. Technology is making communication easier in today's world, but 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 which depends on computer screens rather than face-to-face contact for its main means of communication? (G, A)
3. Many lives are in danger when hastily erected buildings collapse because safety standards have been sacrificed to hopes of a quick profit. To prevent disasters of this kind, governments should play a greater role in setting and enforcing safety standards for building construction. How far do you agree? (A)
4. 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 government of poorer nations to look after their citizens themselves? (A)



Как написать аргументированное эссе?

В центре аргументированного сочинения имеется основное утверждение (Premise), с которым вам нужно согласиться или опровергнуть его. В сочинении вам предстоит подобрать и изложить свои аргументы так, чтобы убедить читателя в своей правоте, т.е., ваша задача – заставить читателя согласиться с вашим мнением. Если вы просто перечислите свои аргументы в сочинении, они не будут иметь силы убеждения, поэтому их нужно правильно сгруппировать. Например,

- Premise:** Marijuana should be legalised
- Supporting statement 1:** It is less harmful to people's health than alcohol.
- Supporting statement 2:** A very large percentage of the population uses it.

Оба поясняющих утверждения (supporting arguments) добавляют информацию, которая помогает убедить в правильности вашей позиции. В тексте эссе слова-связки помогают выстроить логическую цепочку ваших аргументов. Например:

- Premise: Marijuana should be legalised
- Supporting statement 1: **Firstly**, it is less harmful to people's health than alcohol.
- Supporting statement 2: **In addition**, a very large percentage of the population uses it.

Предлагаем на примере эссе на тему 'What do you think might be advantages and disadvantages of life as a rock star?' посмотреть, как автор выстраивает свою аргументацию. Обведите кружочком **premise**, подчеркните первый поясняющий аргумент одной чертой, второй – двумя и т.д., а иллюстрации (примеры) отметьте волнистой.

To many people, the idea of being a rock star is an attractive one. They are attracted by the money and the fame. However, I believe that while being a rock star might seem glamorous, there are disadvantages as well.

Most of the advantages of being a rock star are obvious. They make a lot of money, and can afford to buy and do anything that they want. Being famous is another advantage; people know you and want to be like you. Added to this, a number of stars have realised they can use their fame to make the world a better place. Take Bono, of U2 for example, and Sir Bob Geldof, who use their status to try and improve the world for those who live in poor countries.

There are disadvantages to being a rock star though. The first is the loss of privacy; stars are constantly being annoyed by the media. Stories that are often untrue appear everyday in magazines and newspapers about famous people. It is very difficult for them to live normal lives. Famous musicians are also under pressure to produce quality music that sells well, and music critics are often very cruel about people's music. This pressure often makes artists produce music only to make money and not to change people's lives or to improve the world.

In conclusion, life as a rock star has advantages and disadvantages and being well-known creates pressures. In my opinion though, the main advantage of being a rock star is being able to use your fame, money and position to make the world a better place.



УПРАЖНЕНИЯ

- I. Прочитайте и проанализируйте аргументы, поясняющие следующие утверждения. Какие бы аргументы выдвинули вы? Обратите внимание на вводные слова.
1. **Immigration.** A strong immigration program is necessary in Australia. *Firstly*, the population is too small for sustained economic growth. *Moreover*, immigrants bring in new skills that can help the country develop.
 2. **Smoking.** Smoking should be banned in restaurants and pubs. *Firstly*, it will help people to give up this unhealthy habit. *Secondly*, non-smoking patrons of these establishments should be able to breathe fresh air.
 3. **Freeways.** The government should build more freeways instead of public transport. *Firstly*, it keeps traffic off residential streets. *In addition*, it increases the speed of journeys across town, especially for trucks.
 4. **Public Transport.** The government should build more public transport instead of freeways. *Firstly*, it provides cheap transport to people who can't afford cars. *Furthermore*, it is better for the environment because it produces less air pollution.
- II. Нередко в качестве слова-связки между основным утверждением и пояснением к нему используется "in fact" или "indeed". Подберите соответствующие пояснения (правая колонка) к утверждениям, приведенным в левой колонке. Запишите их себе в тетрадь, используя "in fact" или "indeed".

General Statement

Specific / Detailed Statement

Many people think Melbourne is a very good city to live in.

They suffer much higher rates of disease and infant mortality and much lower rates of life expectancy than other Australians.

Unemployment in Australia remains a very big social problem.

It holds power federally and in five of the six states.

Australia has a very poor record in providing for the health needs of Aboriginal people.

It accounts for a very high number of hospital admissions and creates a burden on our health care system.

Smoking is a very serious health problem in Australia.

It was the busiest port in the world at the time.

The Liberal Party today is a very successful political party.

In the early 1990's an international panel judged it to be the world's most liveable city.

Having a balanced diet is considered to be very important for a person's health.

It has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the country.

Unemployment in Footscray is a very big problem.

It is arguably the single most important factor in determining good health.

In the middle of the nineteenth century the port of Melbourne was very busy.

It is probably the biggest single problem facing Australian society today.

III. Напишите по 2–3 поясняющих аргумента к следующим утверждениям.

1. The environment is the most important issue of the world today.
2. Many people believe that the Internet is the most revolutionary new invention of the last century.
3. Parents have a greater influence on their children's future success than schools do.
4. People should not work too hard – they should remember the importance of leisure activities.
5. According to many critics, television does more harm than good.



Как написать «стильное» эссе?

Для этого необходимо уметь правильно использовать слова или фразы-связки, выстраивать перечень аргументов и выражать взаимосвязь между ними. Попробуем научиться этому, подробно анализируя приведенный ниже вариант текста на тему *The government should spend more money on childcare places for the children of parents who study or work. Do you agree?*

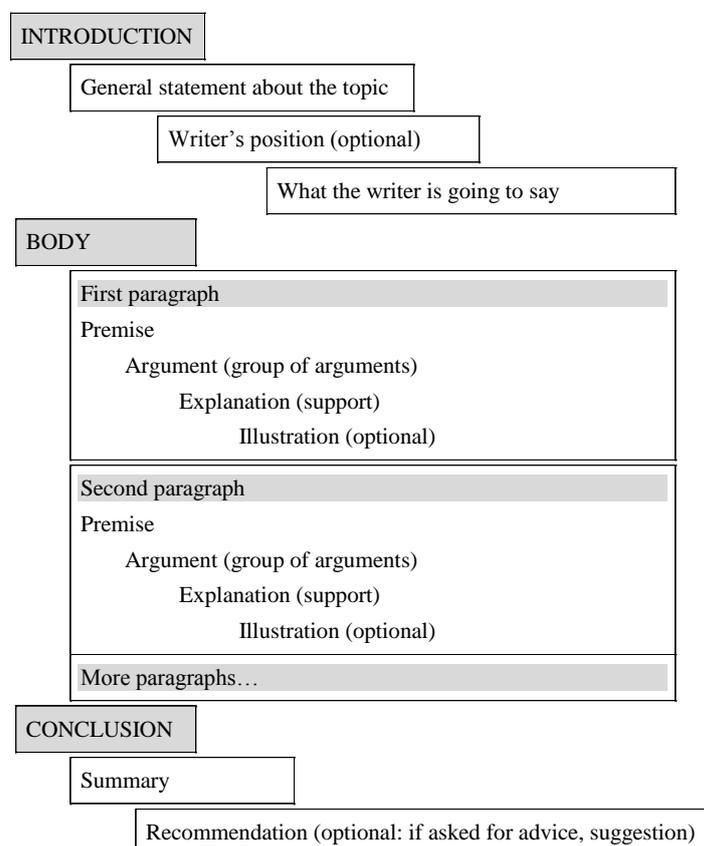
<i>Notes</i>	Childcare The government should provide more financial assistance to parents who use childcare. Childcare centres may assist children in their early development. They give children an opportunity to mix with other children and to develop social skills at an early age. Parents and children need to spend some time apart. Children become less dependent on their parents and parents themselves are less stressed and more effective care-givers when there are periods of separation. Parents who cannot go to work because they don't have access to childcare facilities cannot contribute to the national economy. They are not able to utilise their productive skills and do not pay income tax. Government support for childcare services assists individual families and is important for the economic well-being of the whole nation. (126 words)
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1. Найдите и подчеркните основной тезис-утверждение – пометьте на левом поле MT – main premise.
2. Сколько аргументов приводит автор? Определите их и отметьте SA – supporting arguments. И, наконец, найдите заключение – conclusion.
3. Следующие предложения являются пояснениями и дополнениями к приведенным в тексте аргументам. Укажите, куда их следует вставить в текст:
 - a. Recent studies indicate that the parent-child relationship can be improved by the use of high-quality childcare facilities.
 - b. A whole range of learning occurs in childcare centres.
 - c. Non-working parents can become a drain on the tax system through dependent spouse and other rebates.

4. Дополните текст подходящими по смыслу и стилю вводными словами и связками. Не забудьте использовать знаки препинания! Вам может помочь приведенный ниже список с пояснениями.

Firstly, Secondly,	This can be used for the first and the second supporting arguments.
Furthermore, Moreover, In addition (to)	These can be used for any further supporting arguments.
Finally,	This can be used for the last supporting argument. Note: this is not a concluding connective and also you can use "Furthermore", "Moreover" or "In addition" for the last argument if you wish.
In fact, Indeed,	– To connect a more detailed statement with a preceding general statement – To connect a statement which is more factual and exact with a preceding statement that is more debatable and general
In conclusion, In summary, Thus,	These all carry roughly the same meaning. They should be used to indicate that you are making final statements that cover all the supporting arguments in a very general way.

Итак, последовательность аргументации теперь обозначена вводными словами и связками, и читатель может легко определить основное утверждение, аргументированное обоснование и заключение. Настало время разделить текст на абзацы, сделав соответствующие пометки в тексте. В идеале, в эссе к экзамену IELTS должна прослеживаться правильная структура:



5. Будет полезно переписать полученную версию текста про Childcare со всеми дополнениями в тетрадь и перевести текст, а затем сравнить ваш вариант с приведенным ниже ключом:

<p>Childcare</p> <p>The government should provide more financial assistance to parents who use childcare.</p> <p>Firstly, childcare centres may assist children in their early development. They give children an opportunity to mix with other children and to develop social skills at an early age. <i>Indeed</i>, a whole range of learning occurs in childcare centres.</p> <p>Moreover, parents and children need to spend some time apart. Children become less dependent on their parents and parents themselves are less stressed and more effective caregivers when there are periods of separation. In fact, recent studies indicate that the parent-child relationship can be improved by the use of high-quality childcare facilities.</p> <p>In addition, parents who cannot go to work because they don't have access to childcare facilities cannot contribute to the national economy. They are not able to utilise their productive skills and do not pay income tax. In fact, non-working parents can become a drain on the tax system through dependent spouse and other rebates.</p> <p>In conclusion, government support for childcare services assists individual families and is important for the economic well-being of the whole nation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(179 words)</p>

Exam hints



Do not use informal style (e.g. *short forms*: he doesn't) or colloquial language (e.g. *never mind etc.*)

Avoid strong language to express your opinion (e.g. *I know ...I am sure, etc.*). It is better to express your opinion in a non-emotional way (e.g. *It seems that, I therefore feel ..., etc.*).

Well-known quotations relevant to the topic you are writing about will make your composition more interesting. For example, if you are writing an essay on education, a quotation you may include is: "Education is a progressive discovery of your own ignorance." (Will Durant)



УПРАЖНЕНИЯ

- I. Проставьте номера предложений так, чтобы получилось связное эссе на тему: «People rely on the media for news and current events. What do you think a good journalist should be and what is the role of the media? Give reasons to support your answer». (G)

Paragraph 1

	Television may well also be the primary source by which the public learn about the world.
	Therefore, working in media carries a massive responsibility and I believe journalists and editors should be very aware of their moral responsibility when thinking about which perspective they adopt or view they show.
	The media presents the news to us through television, newspapers and radio.
	It plays an enormous role in influencing peoples' thoughts.

Paragraph 2

	The point is, the stronger the media, the louder the opinions.
	Some claim, a journalist's job is solely to report the news; to convey as clear and factual a picture as possible.
	In my opinion, total objectivity is impossible, as nearly everybody has his own views on important issues.
	Others will argue, however, that the best journalist comes from people who are engaged in the world around them and have passions, feelings and opinions.

Paragraph 3

	You can't be neutral at all times, nor can pictures tell the whole story.
	Like the novelist, I also question its power as I do not believe the media shows "the whole truth".
	Many accused the Western media of presenting a sanitized view of the Iraq war, and others criticized the footage and the perspective of the Arab media.
	A famous Russian novelist said the press had become the greatest power within the Western World and asked by whom had it been elected and to whom was it responsible.
	However, if the media is supposed to show only a censored truth, I think there remains little point to the media.

Paragraph 4

	I believe this is good, responsible journalism.
	In conclusion, the media affects the public opinion and also reflects where it comes from.
	Journalists and the media do their job well when they not only inform, but also acknowledge their personal perspective and the responsibility and influence they carry.

II. Заполните пропуски словами-связками из приведенного ниже списка, чтобы получилось эссе на тему "To be successful in life, you need a university education. To what extent do you agree with this statement?" Согласны ли вы с доводами автора?

another but by contrast for example furthermore however in summary then

It is very difficult to answer the claim that a person needs a university education to be successful in life because success in life means different things to different people. This essay starts by defining three different ideas of success, _____ it looks at which types of success are dependent on a university education.

Success in life can be achieved in different ways. Many magazines and television programmes tell us that success means having a lot of money, having a fulfilling career, and being powerful. _____, most religious and spiritual organizations claim that success means finding spiritual happiness and being at peace with God and with yourself. _____ idea of success focuses on relationships – being surrounded by people who love you and care about you, spending time with family and friends.

A university education can help you achieve some types of success, but it makes little or no difference to whether or not you are successful in other areas of life. _____, a university education is essential if you want to have a career in a profession such as law, engineering, teaching, or medicine. _____, you do not need a university degree to become a wealthy and powerful movie star, sports star or businessperson. _____, a university education does not generally enable you to achieve spiritual happiness, or to have successful relationships with family and friends.

_____, there are many different types of success. A university education may help you to achieve professional success in some careers, _____ it will not help you to achieve success in other areas of your life such as your spiritual life or your relationships.

(271 words)



Как подать противоположные точки зрения?

Иногда бывает важно показать, что вам известны различные точки зрения, как в защиту, так и против предлагаемого утверждения. Давайте научимся это делать на примере эссе, написанного к заданию The government should spend more money on childcare places for the children of parents who study or work. (G, A)

Ниже мы предлагаем расширенную версию сочинения, которое мы уже ранее рассматривали. Вам придется сделать копии, чтобы можно было активно работать с текстом.

(1) Recent changes in federal government priorities have seen a reduction to financial support for parents who use childcare. This is occurring at a time when there is increasing social and financial pressure on parents, particularly mothers, to work. The issue of childcare and working mothers has been the subject of dispute for some time. Many argue that the best place for children is always in their own homes with their own parents. However it is my contention that there are many advantages to be had from using childcare and the government should provide more financial assistance to parents who do so.

(2) It has been argued that children who attend childcare centers at an early age miss out on important early learning that occurs in parent-child interaction. These children, so this argument goes, may be educationally disadvantaged later in life. However, childcare centers may actually assist children in their early learning. They give children an opportunity to mix with other children and to develop social skills at an early age. Indeed, a whole range of learning occurs in childcare centers.

(3) Another argument against the use of childcare facilities is that children can be emotionally deprived in these facilities compared to the home. This argument assumes that the best place for children is to be at their parent's, especially mothers' side for twenty-four hours a day. It claims that children's emotional development can be damaged when they are left in childcare facilities. However, parents and children become less stressed and more effective caregivers when there are periods of separation. In fact, recent studies indicate that the parent-child relationship can be improved by the use of high quality childcare facilities.

	<p>(4) It could further be asserted that the government and the economy as a whole cannot afford the enormous cost involved in supporting childcare for working parents. However, working parents actually contribute to the national economy. They are able to utilize their productive skills and pay income tax, while non-working parents can become a drain on the tax system through dependent spouse and other rebates.</p> <p>(5) In conclusion, government support for childcare services assists individual families and is important for the economic well-being of the whole nation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(365 words)</p>
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Хотя введение в этой версии текста значительно расширено, однако исходный тезис уместился в одно предложение. Обведите кружком это основное утверждение автора. На полях сделайте пометку MP - Main Premise.

Абзацы (2), (3) и (4) рассматривают разные аспекты, связанные с детскими дошкольными учреждениями. Определите *topic* каждого из абзацев. Например, во втором абзаце это будет *Effects on early learning*.

А вот теперь особо стоит отметить, что эти абзацы не просто представляют аргументы в пользу позиции автора, но и сообщают о противоположных мнениях. Это делается для того, чтобы читатель убедился, что автор – эрудированный *homo sapiens*, и ему известны разные точки зрения (1), более того он готов подвергнуть их критике, и тем самым отстоять свою позицию (2).

Подчеркните в каждом абзаце аргументы оппозиции и сделайте пометку на полях «*Opposing arguments*». В эссе следует не просто привести противоположные мнения, но дать понять читателю с помощью языковых средств, что вы с ними не согласны. Например, **It has been argued** that children who attend childcare centres at an early age miss out on important early learning that occurs in parent-child interaction.

Найдите и выделите в тексте эссе другие вводные фразы, которые указывают на оспариваемые вами аргументы. Сделайте пометку на полях “P - problematising”.

Предлагаем список клише, которые вы можете использовать в своем эссе.

А) Когда вы *предполагаете*, что у вас могут быть оппоненты:

It	may be	argued	that.....	However,.....
		asserted		
	could be	contended		
		maintained		
might be	claimed			
	said			

Б) Когда вы *знаете* из письменных источников, что имеются противоположные мнения:

It	has been is	argued	that.....	However,.....
		asserted		
		published		
		maintained		
		claimed		

Вы также можете использовать следующие фразы (обратите внимание на артикли!):

- On the one side ...on the other side... – С одной стороны... с другой стороны...
- At first sight ... however... – На первый взгляд ... однако...



УПРАЖНЕНИЯ

- I. Ниже приведены некоторые аргументы к эссе на тему *“Nowadays more and more people think that the government should not charge fees for university courses because the whole community benefits from high level of education. Their opponents contradict as free education will make a big load on the state budget and consequently take money from such necessities as healthcare and defense. Should students have to pay fees for university courses?”* (A). Все они говорят в пользу основного утверждения автора *Students should have to pay fees for university courses*. Пронумеруйте их в порядке значимости. Перепишите этот абзац в тетрадь. Затем сверьте свой ответ с ключом, данным ниже.

	Furthermore, there is money to fund more places for students so that in the future we will not have the shortage of places we had in the past.
	It is asserted that the skills that students learn at university are important for the future social and economic development of our nation.
	However, some people explain the government is able to invest the money it gets back into the higher education system so that overall quality is improved.
	Some people argue that the government should provide free university education because such education benefits the whole community.
	Moreover, it is unreasonable to expect taxpayers to pay for students' education when those students get well-paid professional jobs after they graduate.
	According to this argument, when students are forced to pay for their education themselves fewer of them will enrol in higher education courses.
	Therefore, so this argument goes the government should invest money in education as it does with other vital resources.

Answer Key:

Main premise: Students should have to pay fees for university courses

<p>A lot of people nowadays argue that the government should provide free university education because such education benefits the whole community. They assert that the skills that students learn at university are important for the future social and economic development of the nation. Therefore, so this argument goes, the government should invest money in education as it does with other vital resources. According to this argument, when students are forced to pay for their education themselves fewer of them will enrol in higher education courses. However, the government is able to invest the money it gets back into the higher education system so that overall quality is improved. Furthermore, there is money to fund more places for students so that in the future we will not have the shortage of places we had in the past. Moreover, it is unreasonable to expect taxpayers to pay for students' education when those students get well-paid professional jobs after they graduate.</p>
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- II. Ниже приведен список аргументов за и против использования роботов в нашей жизни. Определите, какие из них advantages (+), а какие disadvantages (-). Сгруппируйте аргументы, пронумеровав их по важности. Продумайте, какие еще аргументы вы бы выдвинули для написания эссе на тему *“In the future robots will be used in many everyday life situations. We hear about their benefits, but a closer examination reveals many more disadvantages. There are more disadvantages than advantages to robots”*. (A)

	People have often asked for a four-day working week and increased leisure time. Robots will make it possible.
	The cultural wealth of a nation will be enhanced as people have more time to explore and develop their talents.
	Robots will also take over dangerous tasks such as disarming mines or firefighting, taking much risk out of certain jobs.
	Robots will allow some people or even nations to gather more wealth, while others become poorer, and this may lead to social discontent.
	The unemployment resulting from the use of robots will place enormous pressure on a state's social services as they are forced to provide for the growing numbers of unemployed workers.
	Robots will remove the need for humans to do boring or repetitive work.
	Leisure time is important, but too much free time will create boredom, depression and could lead to crime.
	The divide between developing and developed nations will widen as only richer countries will be able to afford the technology.
	The incidence of mistakes in high-skilled work will decrease as robots can be programmed for accuracy and do not make errors because they are tired or depressed.

III. Какие из приведенных ниже аргументов говорят в пользу ветряных источников энергии? Достаточно ли их, чтобы отстоять утверждение, что использование ветра – хорошая альтернатива традиционным методам получения энергии?

- ___ Wind power is a renewable energy source.
- ___ Wind power does not produce radioactive waste.
- ___ Wind turbines are expensive to build.
- ___ Wind power does not cause dangerous greenhouse gas emissions.
- ___ The United States government does not want to invest in wind power.
- ___ Wind power turbines would pay for themselves in 20 years.
- ___ Wind turbines are very large and need a lot of space
- ___ Wind turbines can be dangerous to migratory birds.
- ___ Unlike coal, wind power does not damage people's health.
- ___ Wind power is safe for the environment.



Как написать заключение?

Заключение так же важно, как и введение. Эта часть завершает эссе и подводит итог высказанному мнению или точкам зрения. Цель его – показать, что вы рассмотрели основные аргументы за и против, и что в пользу вашего мнения говорят больше фактов и аргументов. В заключении не следует излагать какие-либо еще дополнительные аргументы или факты.

Многие считают, что написание заключения – самая сложная часть эссе. Обычно все вдохновение и время уходит на написание введения и основной части, и поэтому заключение пишут второпях, не обдуманно, а это значительно ухудшает общее впечатление от работы. Заключение – это последняя часть, которую предстоит прочитать вашему экзаменатору, поэтому постарайтесь написать заключение так, чтобы у него сохранилось хорошее впечатление от вашей работы до самого конца чтения.

Рекомендуется, чтобы в своем заключении к письменной работе автор:

1. обратился к исходному тезису;
2. в 1-2 утвердительных предложениях суммировал свои аргументы, которые доказывают правоту его позиции;
3. указал на возможные последствия, если указанные им рекомендации не будут выполнены или приведенные аргументы будут проигнорированы, или на ту пользу, которую можно получить, следуя советам или разделяя позицию автора.

Проанализируйте приведенное ниже заключение к сочинению о морских парках.

In conclusion, these parks should be closed, or at the very least, no new animals should be captured for marine parks in the future. Our society is no longer prepared to tolerate unnecessary cruelty to animals for science and entertainment.	} <i>Author restates the main premise</i>
If we continue with our past crimes against these creatures we will be remembered as cruel and inhuman by the generations of the future.	
	} <i>He presents a sentence which accurately summarises his arguments</i>
	} <i>He provides a general warning of the consequences of not following the premise.</i>



УПРАЖНЕНИЯ

- I. Пронумеруйте по порядку приведенные ниже части заключения к сочинению, написанному на основе тезиса “The government should spend more money on childcare places for the children of parents who study or work”. Перепишите заключение в тетрадь.

	If we fail to meet our obligations in this area, we will be sacrificing our present and future well-being merely in order to appease out-dated notions of family life and to achieve short-term financial savings.
	In conclusion, it is essential that we support the nation's parents and children by funding more childcare places.
	Only in this way can we provide the valuable learning environments that young Australians need while, at the same time, utilising the skills of all productive members of our society.
	The entire national community will then be enriched economically, socially and culturally.

II. Выберите вариант заключения из предложенных. Обоснуйте ваш выбор.

Topic: Children's viewing of television should be controlled

- a) Therefore, it is important to limit the amount of television that children watch; otherwise they will suffer educationally and socially as they grow.
- b) Therefore, if children's television viewing is sensibly supervised it will allow them to enjoy certain programs as well as to develop the skills they need.
- c) Children do not always know what is best for them, and in this case, as in many other cases, the guidance of parents is essential if they are to grow up as well-balanced people.

III. Обдумайте приведенные ниже задания и напишите варианты заключения, используя следующие клише.

- Summing up the above said, I can state that ..., as is the case with many issues, has both negative and positive aspects.
- On balance, it is my personal view that the advantages of ... far/slightly outweigh the disadvantages.
- When all is said and done, there are no clear solutions to this problem and it is for governments/individuals/the public... to weigh up both sides of the case and come to their own conclusion.

1. In the near future robots will be used in many everyday situations. We hear about their benefits, but closer examination reveals many more disadvantages. There are more disadvantages than advantages to robots. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

2. In many countries where capital punishment is practiced there has been a strong anti-death penalty movement, as many people are against the legally approved murders. Are you for or against the capital punishment?

3. The first car appeared on British roads in 1888. By the year 2000 there are as many as 30 million vehicles on British roads. Alternative forms of transport should be encouraged and international laws introduced to control car ownership and use. What are your views?



Как будет оцениваться эссе?

Band 9 – ваша письменная работа идеальна.

Band 8 – ошибок нет, полное соответствие формату экзамена.

Band 7 – ваша письменная работа имеет незначительные недочеты, но полностью соответствует формату экзамена. Кандидат демонстрирует явное умение писать как на логическом, так и синтаксическом уровнях, хотя могут быть отдельные ошибки. Сочинения этой категории:

- адекватно отвечают письменному заданию;
- хорошо организованы и логично построены;
- иллюстрируют подходящими примерами для подтверждения позиции
- демонстрируют умение пользоваться различными грамматическими средствами, правильным выбором слов.

Band 6 – имеется небольшое количество ошибок, не нарушающих понимания смысла; соблюдаются все правила оформления работы; заданная тема раскрыта логично и осмысленно; кандидат демонстрирует умение писать как на логическом, так и на синтаксическом уровнях, хотя могут встречаться отдельные ошибки. Сочинения этой категории:

- могут раскрывать отдельные части задания лучше, чем другие;

- обычно хорошо организованы и логически построены;
- используют примеры для подтверждения тезиса или иллюстрации идеи;
- показывают легкость в пользовании языком;
- демонстрируют некоторую способность использовать различные грамматические средства и достаточно широкий словарь.

Band 5 – небольшое количество ошибок, некоторые недочеты: нет соединительного слова, нет 3 параграфов, а есть 2, хотя логика требует выделения 3 параграфов, неаккуратный почерк. Кандидат демонстрирует минимальные умения писать эссе как на логическом, так и синтаксическом уровнях. Сочинения этой категории:

- адекватно раскрывают тему, но отдельные части задания не освещены;
- адекватно организованы, логично построены;
- используют отдельные примеры для подтверждения тезиса или иллюстрации идеи;
- демонстрируют адекватную, но, возможно, недостаточную легкость в использовании грамматики и лексики;
- могут содержать некоторые ошибки, которые порой искажают смысл.

Band 4 – плохо раскрыта тема, нет логики, есть ошибки. Кандидат показывает некоторое развитие в овладении письмом, но остается недостаточно компетентным как на уровне логики, так и на синтаксическом уровне. Сочинение этой категории может демонстрировать один или более из следующих недостатков:

- неудачная логика или ее развитие;
- неподходящие или недостаточные примеры для подтверждения или иллюстрации общих, положений;
- заметно не подходящий выбор слов или их форм;
- значительное количество грамматических и/или лексических ошибок.

Band 3 – формально сочинение написано, но тема не раскрыта, большое количество ошибок. Кандидат показывает некомпетентность. Сочинение этой категории серьезно страдает из-за одного или более нижеприводимых недостатков:

- серьезная неорганизованность и недостаточное раскрытие темы;
- мало или нет примеров, а также приведены не относящиеся к теме подробности;
- грубые и частые ошибки в структуре предложений и использовании слов;
- серьезные проблемы в освещении темы.

Band 2 – все плохо, но хоть что-то написано. Кандидат демонстрирует некомпетентность. Сочинение такой категории:

- может быть непоследовательно;
- не доведено до конца;
- может содержать серьезные и повторяющиеся ошибки в правописании.

Band 1 – присутствуют нечитаемые предложения, никакой грамматики; это случается, когда тема очень увлекает, а языковой потенциал очень мал.

Band 0 ставится за неявку на экзамен.

Знакомство с оценками, полученными на реальном экзамене (см. раздел с примерами) может помочь вам определить дальнейший путь для самоусовершенствования.

Exam hints



Theoretically, your handwriting and the layout and general appearance of your essay should not influence the examiner. Perhaps, they don't. But in practice, an essay which is neatly written and presented does make a better impression. Some small points to remember:

- Leave a good margin. Then you have space for corrections if you want to make them.
- Start each new paragraph on a new line and indent it.
- If you want to cross out something, do it with one neat line, not a hard scribble. Do not use brackets to enclose crossed out words.



Подводим итоги

- I. Прочитайте и проанализируйте тип и структуру приведенного ниже эссе. Обратите внимание на комментарии и подсказки эксперта по IELTS, указанные в правой колонке.

Writing Task 2	Academic Module
You are advised to spend a maximum of 40 minutes on this task. Write an essay on the following topic:	
Crime is increasing in many countries. Discuss some of the reasons for this increase and suggest ways in which governments can combat the problem.	
You should write at least 250 words. You are required to support your arguments with relevant information and examples based on your own ideas, knowledge and experience.	

It is indeed the case that most countries have seen an increase in crime over recent years. The underlying causes of this rise are complex and not easily analysed. What are some of the factors involved, and what action can governments take to prevent further increases?

Crime is frequently connected to poverty. Those at the bottom of society, with few opportunities and perhaps little education, are more likely to be tempted into a life of crime as a solution to their problems, financial and otherwise. The problems of poverty are magnified when the gap between rich and poor widens. When the rest of society has access to a comfortable lifestyle, it surely makes hardship even more difficult to bear; again, crime may seem a tempting alternative.

Governments can certainly make great efforts to close the gap between rich and poor, and offer everyone a reasonable education which will bring them greater opportunities in the future. Social welfare and education systems exist in many countries that succeed in doing this. Of course, they must be funded by taxpayers' money, and increases in taxation will always be difficult for any government to introduce. However, increases in crime are also a heavy burden on the taxpayer, as prison systems are extremely expensive and already under enormous pressure.

Exam Tips

This is a good paragraph introducing the topic and making it clear that it is a very wide subject area.

In this writing, you have to connect crime with what the government can do about it. So, it is important to think of causes for crime that the government can prevent in some way.

In this essay, causes of crime are immediately followed by paragraphs describing possible government action. You could also organise your writing so that all the causes are together, then all the possible government action afterwards.

Social factors may also have led to crime increases. Over the last twenty or thirty years, many societies have undergone rapid change and development. Family structures have changed, and feelings of community have vanished. As social units become less and less close-knit, the unspoken rules that guided behaviour and kept everyone in check disappear, and one of the results may be crime.

It is impossible for any government to turn back the clock. Society has changed and is continuing to do so. What governments must do is accept these changes and respond to them in a practical way. If there are more one-parent families, there is little point harking back nostalgically to the days when everyone had two. What governments must do is try to ensure that such families do not live in poverty or experience discrimination that might remove their opportunities to lead fulfilling and law-abiding lives.

It is also generally true to say that many criminals commit crimes *after* having been in prison. This clearly suggests that prison has little or no effect. Many people feel that prison is therefore too "soft". A further suggestion is that our punishment systems should be made to fit the crimes, so that a vandal could be forced to clean the streets as part of his punishment. This may bring the message home more clearly than a few months in prison.

These are just a few reasons and suggestions on the subject of crime and how it may be tackled. There are many other areas of debate that an essay of this length cannot discuss.

(477 words)

"undergo" (vb) = to experience, but with a negative sense.

"vanish" (vb) = to disappear

Remember to explain all your ideas using examples. This will make your writing stronger and your opinions more convincing.

"It is also generally true to say that..." is a useful phrase for Task Two essays.

This is a useful paragraph - you could use it to conclude many IELTS essays.

II. Предлагаем вам прочитать несколько эссе, написанных на экзамене IELTS¹. Ознакомьтесь с комментариями экзаменаторов по поводу поставленных итоговых оценок.

GENERAL TRAINING MODULE

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend no more than 40 minutes on this task.

You have been asked to write about the following topic.

In Britain, when someone gets old they often go to live in a home with other old people where there are nurses to look after them. Sometimes the government has to pay for this care.

Who do you think should pay for this care, the government or the family?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your experience.

You should write at least 250 words.

Sample Answer 1

¹ В тексте примеров эссе сохранены орфография, пунктуация и стиль авторов - не носителей английского языка.

It is true that the old peoples situation gets worse in the many countries. The first ...¹ question must be what they wants and what they needs? Especially their necessity are more benefit more respect more quiet life.

If they have been working for a long time, in the any company or in the public sector, and when they get old that's means during their retire's time company or government must be responsible of their welfare, it is just my opinion. They should take care of them.

In addition to company or government. If they have good money they can look after themselves. we can do something to make easier their life for example an organization, or a voluntary as-sociation, un.....

The families or relatives's responsibility depends on their wealthy situations. If they could do they should do anything.

Governments or their fa..... place could supply them with life insurance and a good social security policy. The social community center or old age pensioner like in the Britain are very useful for them.

For all of them life is hard and gets harder in their old ages. They expect more attention ... and good life.....

The old people, if do not want lost them. we should do anything that what we able to do.

EXAMINER COMMENT

Band 5

There are quite a lot of relevant ideas in the answer but they are not always well supported and sometimes they are unclear. There are some areas in the answer where the organization becomes weak and the reader finds the message difficult to follow. Nevertheless, the writer's view is apparent and there is a logic flow to the points given. There are a lot of mistakes in the answer, and some parts, such as conclusion, are very hard to follow because of these errors. Although there is some appropriate vocabulary, sentence control is very weak. These problems are made worse by the poor correcting which sometimes makes words unreadable.

Sample Answer 2

One of the most challenging problems of today's society is the question who should be responsible for our old people. It's not only a financial problem but also a question of the system we want our society to have. In my essay I would like to consider different models.

Firstly, the company can be responsible for their retired employees. For this reason a special fund could be established. The advantage of this model is, if you believe in the capitalist system, that it should be the cheapest solution. A possible problem is that the companies might have competition disadvantage due to higher staff costs.

A second solution is that the government has to have the responsibility for the old people's case. It can finance this with its tax incomes. Actually, this is the most democratic model since everybody gets as much money as he or she needs. Unfortunately, as the present situation in our society shows, this solution seems not to work very well. The government can no longer afford supporting all the old peoples.

Another way of solving this problem is to give such the responsibility to the individual that means that everybody has to save money during their working life for the time after their retirement. This seems to be not a very fair model because their will certainly exist people who can't afford to save part of their salary. In this case the government would have to save for them.

¹ В оригинале эссе очень много зачеркиваний и исправлений. Некоторые слова невозможно прочитать, в тексте они представлены многоточием.

A last solution is to go back to the old model of “the big family” who cares for all their members. I don’t think this is possible in our days society because the family structures have so much changed.

To sum up, I have to admit that I can’t find a really good solution for this problem all models have advantages and disadvantages. Certainly we have to think about this topic much more in the future.

(319 words)

EXAMINER COMMENT

Band 8

This is a very well organized script which contains a lot of well-supported arguments and analyses the topic from different angles. The ideas follow each other well and there is a very honest conclusion. The answer is easy to read. There are some areas where the expression is clumsy but this makes little difference to the overall flow of the answer. There are minor errors in spelling and structure.

ACADEMIC WRITING

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

The first car appeared on British roads in 1888. by the year 2000 there may be as many as 29 million vehicles on British roads.

Alternative forms of transport should be encouraged and international laws introduced in control car ownership and use.

What are your views?

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence. You should write at least 250 words.

Sample Answer 1

Nowaday, there are a lot of cars on British road and they have increased day to day. By the year 2000 there may be as many as 29 million vehicles on British roads. In this essay, I intend to examine about the solutions of these problems.

Firstly, people living in Britain have to think about themselves. If they used the bus and train instead of their car, this problem would resolve a little. Because of this, the British government should introduce to control car ownership and use. For example, the government can ban to enter the road by car in the someday all family from a house.

Secondly, the buses and trains of government should be free for public population. Thus, the people would use these transport vehicles of their own car. After that, the roads in Britain would be safer and more comfortable.

Lastly the number of cars that are exported from another country should decrease, and the prices of car should increase in case they aren’t overcrowded. For example, the prices of cigarettes increased and the consumption of cigarettes went down.

In conclusion, if these measures put into action the problem of traffic can be decreased in the British roads.

EXAMINER COMMENT

Band 5

The answer is short at just under 200 words and thus loses marks for content. There are some relevant arguments but these are not very well developed and become unclear in places. The organization of the answer is evident through the use of fairly simple connectives but there are problems for the reader in that there are many missing words and word order is often incorrect. The structures are quite ambitious but often faulty and vocabulary is kept quite simple.

Sample Answer 2

The transport has been one of the most important problems for the last two centuries. The problem began with the development and the growing of the cities.

Before the eighteenth century the people lived in small villages or towns and did not have necessity to go too far. People did not worry about the time to arrive in some where.

Nowadays the situation changed. Many cars on the streets and many people need to go to any place. The numbers of car has increased and as a result there are many problems: pollution, noise, car accident, insufficient car park and petroleum shortage.

On the other hand, people use car to go anywhere: to work, to spend holiday and to amusement. Meanwhile the car is important the cities must have another solution. It is important to organize its using and to meet alternative ways.

In big cities there are some alternatives like underground (metro), coach, tram and bicycles. In China and Cuba, for example, they use a lot of bicycles for substituting the cars or coaches.

It would be better to think about others different kinds of transport. In Brazil the government has asked about transport on the rivers. In this country there are many rivers where it is possible to go to different places. In general, they are flat rivers.

Another kind of transport is car that uses solar energy. Probably they do not have pollution problem and it is cheaper than others car.

In conclusion, the transport is a social problem in big cities but its solution depend on new technologies, others kind of energy and political aspects.

EXAMINER COMMENT

Band 6

There are quite a lot of ideas and while some of these are supported better than others, there is overall coherence to the answer. The introduction is perhaps slightly long and more time could be devoted to answering the question. The answer is fairly easy to follow and there is good punctuation. Organizational devices are evident although some areas of the answer become unclear and would benefit from more accurate use of connectives. There are some errors in the structures but there is also evidence of the production of complex sentence forms. Grammatical errors interfere slightly with comprehension.

ACADEMIC MODULE

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

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?

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant information.

You should write at least 250 words.

Sample Answer

Nuclear power is an alternative source of energy which is carefully being evaluated during these times of energy problems. During these times we can say that we have energy problem, but in more or less 50 years, we will be facing an energy crisis.

Nuclear power is an alternative source of energy and unlike other sources such as solar energy, nuclear power is highly effective for industrial purposes. If it is handled correctly, there really is no danger for the public. It is cheap, there is no threat of pollution and best of all it is limitless. It is difficult to think of nuclear power as a good source of energy for people in general. This is due to the use it has been given since its birth during the second world war. It is expressed as military power and in fact at the moment nuclear power is limited to few hands who consider themselves world powers. When and if there is a change of ideology regarding the correct use of nuclear power, then we may all benefit from all the advantages nuclear power can give us.

If we outweigh the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear technology, we then have the following: as stated before, the advantages are that there is limitless supply, it is cheap, it is effective for industrial purpose, and still there are many benefits which have not yet been discovered. The disadvantages are at present time that it is limited to only a few countries who regard it as safe military power. Also if mishandled, there is risk for the population around the plant to undergo contamination as we all know happened in Chernobyl. If these disadvantages can be overcome, then it is clear that nuclear energy can give us more benefits than problems. It will in the future be very important as the energy crisis is not far ahead.

In conclusion, nuclear power is good, it can be safe, and we will all benefit. It is up to our leaders to see that it is handled well so that we can all benefit from it.

EXAMINER COMMENT

Band 7

The answer is well written and contains some good arguments. It does tend to repeat these arguments but the writer's point of view remains clear throughout. The message is easy to follow and ideas are arranged well with good use of cohesive devices. There are minor problems with coherence and at times the expression is clumsy and imprecise. There is a wide range of structures that are well handled with only small problems, mainly in the areas of spelling and word choice.

- III. Сейчас вам предлагается прочитать вариант эссе¹, написанного на тему **Should marine mammals be kept in captivity in marine parks?** Для того чтобы проверить, насколько вы хорошо усвоили методику написания сочинения для экзамена IELTS, просим ответить на контрольные вопросы, приведенные ниже. Обратите внимание, что экзаменатору, дающему оценку вашей письменной работе, приходится подобным же образом анализировать ваш опус.

The issue of whether we should allow marine parks to stay open has been widely debated in our community recently. It is an important issue because it concerns fundamental moral and economic questions about the way we use our native wildlife. A variety of different arguments have been put forward about this issue. This essay will consider arguments for having marine parks and point to some of the problems with these views. It will then put forward reasons for the introduction of laws which prohibit these unnecessary and cruel institutions.

¹ Это модельное эссе взято из учебника по письменной практике, и поэтому значительно пространнее тех, что обычно пишутся по IELTS.

It has been argued that dolphin parks provide the only opportunity for much of the public to see marine mammals. Most visitors, so this argument goes, live in cities and never get to see these animals. It is claimed that marine parks allow the average citizen to appreciate our marine wildlife. However, dolphins, whales and seals can be viewed in the wild at a number of places on the oceanic coasts. In fact, there are more places where they can be seen in the wild than places where they can be seen in captivity. Moreover, most Australians, for example, would have to travel less to get to these locations than they would to get to the marine parks on the Gold Coast. In addition, places where there are wild marine mammals do not charge an exorbitant entry fee - they are free.

Some researchers contend that we need marine parks for scientific research. They argue that much of our knowledge of marine mammals comes from studies which were undertaken at marine parks. The knowledge which is obtained at marine parks, so this argument goes, can be useful for planning for the conservation of marine mammal species. However, park research is only useful for understanding captive animals and is not useful for learning about animals in the wild. Dolphin and whale biology changes in marine park conditions. Their diets are different, they have significantly lower life spans and they are more prone to disease. In addition, marine mammals in dolphin parks are trained and this means that their patterns of social behaviour are changed. Therefore research undertaken at marine parks is generally not reliable.

It is the contention of the Marine Park Owners Association that marine parks attract a lot of foreign tourists. This position goes on to assert that these tourists spend a lot of money, increasing our foreign exchange earnings and assisting our national balance of payments. However, foreign tourists would still come to Australia if the parks were closed down. Indeed, surveys of overseas tourists show that they come here for a variety of other reasons and not to visit places like Seaworld. Tourists come here to see Australia's native wildlife in its natural environment and not to see it in cages and cement pools. They can see animals in those conditions in their own countries. Furthermore, we should be promoting our beautiful natural environment to tourists and not the ugly concrete marine park venues.

Dolphin parks are unnecessary and cruel. The dolphins and whales in these parks are kept in very small, cramped ponds, whereas in the wild they are used to roaming long distances across the seas. Furthermore, the concrete walls of the pools interfere with the animals' sonar systems of communication. In addition, keeping them in pools is a terrible restriction of the freedom of fellow creatures who may have very high levels of intelligence and a sophisticated language ability. Moreover, there are many documented cases of marine mammals helping humans who are in danger at sea or helping fisherman with their work.

In conclusion, these parks should be closed, or at the very least, no new animals should be captured for marine parks in the future. Our society is no longer prepared to tolerate unnecessary cruelty to animals for science and entertainment. If we continue with our past crimes against these creatures we will be remembered as cruel and inhuman by the generations of the future.

- 1) Identify the main premise, paragraph structure and paragraph topics
 1. How many paragraphs are there in the text?
 2. What is the topic of each paragraph? If it is an introduction or a conclusion, just write *introduction* or *conclusion*.
 3. What is the writer's main premise?
 4. In what paragraphs does the writer place his/her main premise?

2) The internal organisation of the paragraphs – revision

Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 all contain opposing arguments and supporting arguments. The opposing arguments are problematised and the supporting arguments are presented as non-debatable. You have already studied this structure in detail but we will revise it again here by looking at just one of these paragraphs: the second paragraph. Answer the following questions about paragraph 2:

1. Does paragraph 2 begin with statements that support or oppose the writer's main premise?
2. How many opposing arguments does the writer present in this paragraph?
3. What problematising phrases does the writer use to make these opposing statements appear debatable and possibly untrue?
4. What connective does the writer use to tell the reader that s/he is shifting from opposing arguments to supporting arguments?
5. How many arguments does the writer present in this paragraph, that support his/her main premise?
6. What connectives does the writer use to list the supporting arguments in this paragraph?

3) A paragraph that only presents supporting arguments

Note: Paragraph 5 of the model is very different from paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. The writer begins the paragraph by restating the main premise - "Dolphin parks are unnecessary and cruel." Then the writer only presents arguments that *support* the main premise. There are *no* opposing arguments. This is because the writer has already dismissed the opposing arguments in earlier paragraphs and is now attempting to convince the reader that the main premise is the best and most correct position on the issue. When you are writing your own essay for your course include one or more paragraphs which only contain supporting arguments after you have dealt with all the opposing arguments.

Answer the following questions about paragraph 5:

1. How many different supporting arguments does the writer present in this paragraph?
2. What connectives does the writer use to list these arguments?



Образцы эссе

OVERSEAS EDUCATION: Many people choose to continue their education at colleges or universities in English-speaking countries such as Britain, Australia or America. What are the benefits of studying abroad? What are some of the problems that students might experience when studying in a foreign country? Give reasons for your answer. (G, A)

Studying overseas has clear advantages, but it is not without its problems.

The main benefits of studying overseas are academic ones. Generally, the standard of education is higher. This is because colleges and universities have up-to-date equipment and other resources. Also, teachers and lecturers are highly skilled professionals who are aware of all the latest developments in their field of interest. A final point is that the qualifications which a student obtains are valid usually anywhere in the world.

As well as the obvious academic benefits, students also gain experience of another culture, improve their language skills and meet many new people. Thus, they develop many interpersonal skills and become more tolerant. They will become more emotionally mature as they deal with living apart from their family. This helps their personal development as they become more independent.

Although in some cases, there are some negative effects. Most importantly, if students are not properly prepared academically before they go abroad, they have difficulties following lectures or writing assignments. Furthermore, young students may have problems adjusting to new culture and could experience loneliness and homesickness. A final problem could be that they adapt so much to Western culture that they haven't problems readjusting when they finally return home.

Other possible problems are difficulties in adjusting to a different climate, different food, and different lifestyle. With appropriate preparation and support most students should be able to avoid or overcome these obstacles.

However, in general, I consider the advantages of an overseas education are much greater than any of the disadvantages described above.

(258 words)

TERTIARY EDUCATION: It is sometimes argued that because tertiary education is of greater benefit to the individual than to the society, all students should pay full fees. What is your opinion? (A)

As the modern world is becoming increasingly complex and knowledge is becoming more and more specialized, there is no doubt that tertiary education is necessary both for the whole world and for individuals who want to ensure that they have a good profession. The question of who benefits more is important to society and governments in deciding who should be expected to pay for the costs involved. This is a difficult question.

There is no doubt that the whole society benefits. In all developing countries there has been a strong effort to raise the educational level of the society by investing as much money as possible into providing educational institutions. Universities and colleges are, however, expensive to run. Because of this, it is felt that such countries are held back in all forms of development. Without enough educated professionals such as doctors, teachers, scientists and engineers, developing countries cannot move ahead. Governments in such countries provide scholarships, or free education, to as many students as they can afford, because they realize that the whole country will benefit. Many developed countries also try to offer free tertiary education because they want a highly educated population.

However, there is also a strong argument that individuals benefit so much from tertiary education that they be expected to pay for it. Doctors, lawyers, accountants and engineers have some of the highest incomes in most societies. People argue that the government, and therefore the tax payers, should not pay for students who will later earn more than anyone else. Moreover, most students come from the middle classes, and their parents can afford to pay for their fees. There are, of course, some students who cannot afford to pay. This problem can be overcome by a system like the one being used in Australia, for example. The government gives the students a loan to pay for their fees, and later, when they are earning a good salary, they repay the loan.

It is probably impossible to decide whether the individuals or the society benefits more from the tertiary education, but since both benefit, the costs should probably be paid for both equally.

(355 words)

PETS: In Western countries, people spend a lot of money on their pets. They buy special food for their dogs or cats, buy them toys and often pay fees for medical treatment. Some people think pets are a waste of money, and argue that pets are dirty and dangerous. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a pet? Do people spend too much money on pets? Give reasons for your answer. (G)

In many Western homes people keep a dog or cat or some other kind of pet. While this does involve some expense in terms of good food and medical treatment, there are still many advantages to keeping a pet.

First of all, pets are good companions. This is especially important for people who live alone and for older people who do not go out much. Some pets can also help to protect the house from thieves. Secondly, dogs and cats like to play and can give hours of amusement to children and adults. Taking care of an animal also helps children to develop responsible attitudes and to learn about nature. Finally, the actual expense of keeping an animal is not that high, and they can eat the leftovers of family meals.

Some people claim pets are dirty. I do not think this is altogether true. Responsible pet owners keep their pets clean and healthy so they do not smell bad. People also say that certain pets, like large dogs, can be dangerous. There have been cases of dogs attacking and seriously injuring small children. These people either don't train their dogs properly or actually encourage them to be aggressive. So, the problems of pets being unclean or dangerous in fact are the problems of the owners. Not the pets themselves.

To sum up, there are more advantages than disadvantages to keeping a pet, especially for lonely people and children. In most cases, therefore, the cost is justified.

(247 words)

MUSIC: There are many different types of music in the world today. Is the traditional music of a country more important than the international music that is heard everywhere nowadays? (G)

There are many types of music in the world today. The argument of whether a country's traditional music is more important than the international music heard everywhere, has two clear sides.

On one hand, preserving traditional music is important for a number of reasons. Firstly, traditional music helps to keep cultures alive by reminding people of what makes them unique. Secondly, the music of different cultures adds diversity and beauty to the world. An example from New Zealand is Maori and Pacific Island music; the words and style identify it as belonging specifically to those cultures.

On the other hand, globalisation makes it easier to access music from different countries. As a result, the blending of different styles, rhythm and beats occurs. For example, Polynesian youth blend rap, hip-hop and Afro-American styles with a uniquely Pacific flavour. Music, like language, doesn't remain 'pure'. In order to survive, it changes and adapts to the world around it.

However, either different musical instruments or language usually differentiates the music of one culture from another. I believe that no matter how small the global village becomes, music will still carry the flavour of the culture it originally came from.

To conclude, I believe that as it is important for cultures to adapt and change to survive, so it is important for music to do the same. This doesn't necessarily mean that music will become the same, but rather that it will continue to reflect changes in culture.

(244 words)

TELEVISION: Television has had a significant influence on the culture of many societies. To what extent would you say that television has positively or negatively affected the cultural development of your society? (G)

It has been around forty years since television was first introduced into Australian households and people today still have mixed views on whether it has a positive or a negative influence on the society.

Many people believe that television damages culture. It promotes the stronger cultures of countries such as Britain and North America and weakens the cultures of less wealthy countries. This is because the stronger, wealthier countries are able to assert their own culture by producing more programs that are shown widely around the world. These programs then influence people, particularly young people, in the countries where they are shown.

Also, because television networks need to attract large audiences to secure their financial survival, they must produce programs which are interesting to a broad range of people. In Australia this range is very broad because we are a multicultural society and people of all ages like to watch television. To interest all these different people, most television programs are short in length, full of action and excitement, do not require much intelligence or knowledge to understand, and follow universal themes common to all cultures, such as love and crime. Television programs which concentrate on or develop themes pertinent to one particular culture are not so successful because they interest a smaller audience.

Nevertheless we much acknowledge that television does have some positive effects on the cultures within a society as well. People who do not live within their own culture can, in a limited way, access it through the multicultural station on the television. For example, Aboriginal children who have grown up in white families, or migrants and international students living in Australia, can watch programs from their own culture on the television.

In conclusion, I hold the view that television promotes and strengthens those cultures that are wealthy and influential while it weakens the cultures that are already in a weakened position.

(315 слов)

BROADCAST: News editors decide what to broadcast on television and what to print in newspapers. What factors do you think influence these decisions? Do we become used to bad news? Would it be better if more good news was reported? (G, A)

It has often been said that "Good news is bad news" because it does not sell newspapers. A radio station that once decided to present only good news soon found that it had gone out of business for lack of listeners. Bad news on the other hand is so common that in order to cope with it, we often simply ignore it. We have become immune to bad news and the newspapers and radio stations are aware of this.

While newspapers and TV stations may aim to report world events accurately, be they natural or human disasters, political events or the horrors of war, it is also true that their main objective is to sell newspapers and attract listeners and viewers to their stations. For this reason TV and radio stations attempt to reflect the flavour of their station by providing news broadcasts tailor-made to suit their listeners' preferences. Programmes specialising in pop music or TV soap operas focus more on local news, home issues and up-to-date traffic reports. The more serious stations and newspapers like to provide so-called objective news reports with editorial comment aimed at analysing the situation.

If it is true, then, that newspapers and TV stations are tailoring their news to their readers' and viewers' requirements how can they possibly be reporting real world events in an honest and objective light? Many radio and TV stations do; in fact, report items of good news but they no longer call this news. They refer to these as human interest stories and package them in programmes specialising, for instance, in consumer affairs or local issues. Good news now comes to us in the form of documentaries the fight against children's cancer or AIDS, or the latest developments in the fight to save the planet from environmental pollution.

(299 words)

MASS MEDIA: 'The media plays a valuable role in keeping us informed and entertained. However, many people believe it has too much power and freedom. Discuss your views on this, giving examples and presenting a balanced argument both in favour of, and against, the power and freedom of the media.'

Barely a hundred years ago, if we wanted to stay informed about what was going on in the world, we had to rely on word of mouth or, at best, newspapers. But because communication technology was very basic, the news we received was often days or weeks old. We still have newspapers, of course, but they have changed almost beyond recognition. Whether we choose to read the broadsheets with their quality coverage of news and other current affairs by top reporters and articles by acclaimed journalists or if we prefer the popular tabloids with their lively gossip and colourful stories, we are exposed to a wealth of information barely conceivable at the beginning of the last century.

We also have television and radio. News broadcasts let us know about world events practically as they happen, while sitcoms, chat shows and documentaries, etc. keep us entertained and informed. And there is also the Internet, where we can access information from millions of web-sites around the world which we can then download onto our own computers.

However, these forms of information and entertainment (or 'Infotainment' as they are now sometimes collectively called) have their negative side. Famous personalities frequently accuse the gutter press (and sometimes even respectable papers) of invasion of privacy by the paparazzi who are determined to get a story at any cost. Newspapers are often accused of libel by angry politicians who dislike reading lies about themselves, and there are frequent accusations of chequebook journalism with unscrupulous reporters paying people to create stories for their newspapers or television programmes. Of course, it is not just the papers which are to blame. Sex and violence are increasing on the television. Undesirable people fill the web with equally undesirable material which can be accessed by anyone with a home computer. And the fear of information overload prevents many from logging on to the Internet.

Many argue that the government should impose stricter censorship to prevent such things happening. But others argue that freedom of press is the keystone of a free country. Personally, I take the view that while the media may occasionally abuse its position of power, the benefits greatly outweigh the disadvantages. Our lives would be much emptier without the wealth of information available to us today, and we are better people as a result.

(386 words)

CENSORSHIP: "Censorship is necessary in modern society". Discuss. (G, A)

Censorship is an issue which frequently generates a great deal of heated debate, with supporters maintaining that it is vital in order to protect society, whilst opponents claim that it is an unjustifiable restriction of public access to information.

Firstly, all countries have secrets which must be safeguarded for reasons of national security. For instance, if an enemy country were to acquire such highly sensitive information, the effects could be catastrophic. Consequently, governments have to have the power to restrict access to information concerning areas such as the armed forces or particular aspects of foreign policy. Secondly, it is often argued that censorship is necessary to prevent the broadcast and publication of obscene material which is considered offensive or harmful to public morals.

Many people feel that, without censorship the public would be constantly subjected to material that the majority would find offensive. For this reason, the government has a duty to impose certain restrictions on the mass media by censoring films and texts which contain explicit scenes of sex, violence or foul language.

In contrast, opponents of censorship point out that when it is abused by governments, censorship becomes an instrument used to misinform society and maintain power. In order to control the flow of information which reaches the public, repressive regimes try to put constraints on the media, thus denying citizens the right to information owing to the fact that governments believe it may lead them to seek greater freedom.

Furthermore, it is generally felt that mature adults are able to make informed choices about what they watch, read and listen to and should, therefore, be permitted to make their own decisions. For example, some comedians make use of offensive language taboo subjects in their performances. Critics of censorship argue that the only people who will watch or listen to such material are adults who have made a conscious decision to do so. Thus, it is claimed, it is unjust to censor material like this since it is not forced upon people who may subsequently be offended by it.

All things considered, it can be concluded that a certain degree of censorship is always necessary. The best course of action would be to attempt to achieve a balance between the requirements of the country and the public on the one hand, and individuals' rights on the other.

(389 words)

SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE: Many of the diseases which afflict people who do the office jobs are the direct result of a sedentary lifestyle. Do you agree? (G)

Although it is true that a sedentary life is not good for people's health, it would be far-fetched to suggest that doing an office job is directly responsible for the diseases which afflict office workers.

A sedentary lifestyle may indeed lead to high blood pressure and heart attacks, but people often balance the hours they spend sitting at a desk by joining fitness clubs where they can exercise or play sport. These clubs encourage their members to watch their diet and to take part in physical activities: for instance, a fitness club may be affiliated with another sporting body like a rowing club. People who do not want to join these clubs will often take walks during their lunch hour, or even jog. The very fact that they do these things means that they have a sedentary job, but not a sedentary lifestyle.

One might ask, what are the diseases that afflict office workers which do not afflict other people? It is very hard to think of an illness which is peculiar to office workers. They are prone to the same diseases as everyone else, and are protected from many of the hazards which afflict other workers. Working at a desk is far safer than mining or being a professional racing car driver, and is more comfortable than either.

It seems to be fair to say that, although an office worker spends a lot of time sitting down, he or she does not have to have a sedentary lifestyle. I cannot agree that the office worker is doomed to disease simply because he or she is an office worker.

(269 words)

TOURISM: Tourism is becoming increasingly important as a source of revenue to many countries but its disadvantages should not be overlooked. (A)

Faster planes and cheaper flights are making it easier than ever before for people to travel. In most 'developed' societies, visiting exotic places is a sought-after status symbol. The tourism industries of both developed and developing countries have recognised this fact and are learning to take advantage of it.

There are, however, some problems associated with this new industry. Firstly, there is the increasing crime rate. Some locals see tourists as easy prey because, not only are they in unfamiliar territory and therefore less able to take care of themselves, but also they carry visible items of wealth, such as cameras and jewellery which can be disposed of quickly for a profit.

Another major problem is health. With greater mobility comes greater danger of spreading contagious diseases around the world. One carrier returning home could easily start an epidemic before their illness was diagnosed. Moreover, the emergence of many more diseases which resist antibiotics is causing scientists to be increasingly concerned about this issue.

Also to be considered is the natural environment, which can be seriously threatened by too many visitors. Australia's Great Barrier Reef, for example, is in danger of being destroyed by tourists and there are plans to restrict visitors to some of the more delicate coral cays.

These are just three of the reasons why any country should be wary of committing itself to an extensive tourism development program.

(232 words)

THE INTERNET: The Internet has provided great benefits, but at the same time it has also created new dangers and inequalities. Is it possible to control some of these problems? (G, A)

No-one can deny that the Internet has revolutionised much of society. Individuals benefit from access to almost endless amounts of information on the World Wide Web, as well as being able to communicate easily and cheaply with friends and strangers. For the business world the impact has been more dramatic. Vast sums of money are constantly being instantly transferred around the world by electronic means. Banks and other businesses now totally depend on the Internet.

There are, however, significant dangers in this development. The first problem that most people think of is the danger of hackers invalidating the system and either obtaining secret information or introducing viruses that cause immense damage. It is unlikely that this problem can ever be completely solved. As soon as this technology is developed to overcome one hacker, another one produces some new methods.

Apart from this technical problem, however, there is a much deeper one, and that is the inequality between individuals and societies, which the Internet is making worse. The gap between the rich and the poor is growing rapidly in the world, and access to the internet is a significant part of the problem. Developing countries where schools cannot afford computers, and small businesses which do not have Internet access are being left further and further behind.

Some people believe that if computers are widely distributed in poor societies, this would be an important way to reduce the inequalities. Others feel that the problem is much deeper, and needs to be dealt with by bodies such as the World Trade Organisations.

The answer probably is that all possible methods should be used to break down the inequalities, including access to the Internet, to ensure that the world does not become more and more unstable.

(292 words)

TECHNOLOGY: Technology has come a long way in the last fifty years, and our lives have become better as a result. O have they?

The second half of the twentieth century saw more changes than in the previous two hundred years.

Penicillin has already been discovered and used to treat infections; there have been many remarkable advances in medicine that have helped to increase our average life expectancy way beyond that of our ancestors. Incredible innovations such as television have changed the way we spend our leisure hours. Perhaps the most important breakthrough, however, has been the microchip. Nobody could have imagined, when it was first invented, that within a matter of years, this tiny piece of silicon and circuitry - would be found in almost every household object from the kettle to the video recorder. And nobody could have predicted the sudden proliferation of computers that would completely change our lives, allowing us to access information from the other side of the world via the Internet or send messages around the world by e-mail at the touch of a button.

Meanwhile, research into other aspects of information technology is making it easier and cheaper for us to talk to friends and relations around the world. Good news for technophiles who love modern technology, bad news for the technophobes who would prefer to hide from these modern miracles.

But everything has a price. The development of cybernetics led to mass automation in factories, which in turn led to millions losing their jobs. The genius of Einstein led to the horrors of the atomic bomb and the dangerous uncertainties of nuclear engineering (we hear of accidents and mishaps at nuclear power stations around the world, where safeguards to prevent accidents were inadequate). The relatively new science of genetic engineering has been seen as a major step forward, but putting modified foods onto the market before scientists had properly analysed them was perhaps one of the most irresponsible decisions of the 1990s.

Meanwhile, pharmaceutical companies continue to experiment on animals, a move that many consider to be cruel and unnecessary.

Of course we all rely on modern science and technology to improve our lives. However, we need to make sure that we can control it before it controls us.

(353 words)

COMPUTERS: Computer technology benefits modern society in many ways, but its disadvantages should not be overlooked. Discuss these disadvantages and briefly give your opinion on how they may affect us in the future. (G, A)

It is certainly true that communication has changed rapidly this century, particularly over the last few years. Even international contact, for example, can be made at the touch of a button using fax or e-mail. More and more people spend more and more time in front of computer screens, both at work and in their leisure time. Those who say that such technology has an entirely positive effect should ask themselves if there are any dangers or disadvantages to this new lifestyle.

There are quite serious health consequences of a sedentary life in front of a computer – the most obvious being eye strain. Sitting at a computer screen for long periods of time is generally unhealthy, as the individual does not get any exercise. However, it is the social consequences that are the most alarming. The computer and the internet have made direct human contact less and less necessary. People have the illusion of community through the web, when in fact there is no such community. Nothing can replace real contact with real people in real streets. We contact people by e-mail because it is convenient to us - this is not the same as a natural relationship, which may be anything but convenient. We understand others only through what they write in e-mails, which is not the same as reading the subtle changes in emotion on a person's face. We may find in the future that people find human relationships too inconvenient and confusing, and prefer to stay with virtual friends rather than real ones.

In the rush to make life more convenient, we must be careful not to lose our humanity. Although the benefits of computer technology are extremely tempting, we need to analyse whether it is actually improving our quality of life, or making our lives faster but more soulless.

(304 words)

TELECOMMUTING: 'Telecommuting' refers to workers doing their jobs from home for part of each week and communicating with their office using computer technology. 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? (A)

The spread of telecommuting is sure to have far-reaching effects on society. By itself, telecommuting refers to office workers spending much of their time working from home and using electronic technologies to communicate with their employees. The broader implications of telecommuting, however, may involve changes to corporate structure, workers' lifestyles and even urban planning.

The most obvious changes may be apparent in the 'normal' offices of companies, governments and other organisations. If even half the working week is spent telecommuting from home, then we would initially expect many empty desks in the office. As offices grow smaller, workers coming in for the day would be expected to share desks with their absent colleagues. This, in turn, may affect the social atmosphere of an organisation, however, as less social contact with one's colleagues could harm morale and loyalty.

For the individual office worker, telecommuting would mean spending more time at home. For a parent with young children, this may be a blessing. Moreover, many telecommuters would be able to work hours they wished: having a nap in the afternoon, for example, but working some hours in the evening. One substantial benefit for all telecommuting workers is that there will be no need to travel to work, allowing more free time.

The structure of urban life is also likely to be affected by telecommuting. We would expect to see fewer cars on the road during peak hours and, eventually, a smaller concentration of offices in cities' central business districts. In short, people will have less reason to travel to city centres from outlying areas.

(262 words)

WORTHWHILE JOBS: Some people live to work and others work to live. In most cases, this depends on the job they have and the conditions under which they are employed. In your opinion, what are the elements that make a job worthwhile?

In answering this question, I would like to look first at the elements that combine to make a job undesirable. By avoiding such factors, potential employees are more likely to find a job that is more worthwhile, and by doing so, hope to achieve happiness in their work.

First of all, it doesn't matter if you are an unskilled worker cleaning the floor, a semi-skilled blue-collar worker on a production line in one of the manufacturing industries or a white-collar worker in a bank, shop or one of the other service industries: if you lack job security, with the knowledge that you might lose your job at any time, you will never feel happy. Everybody would like a steady job in which he or she is guaranteed work. Nowadays, however, companies have a high turnover of staff, hiring new staff and firing others on a weekly basis. Such companies are not popular with their workers.

The same can be said of a job in which you are put under a lot of stress and worry, a job which is so demanding that it takes over your life, a job where you work unsociable hours and so never get to see your family or friends, or a physical job in which you do the same thing every day and end up with the industrial disease that is always in the papers nowadays-repetitive strain injury.

With all these negative factors, it would be difficult to believe that there are any elements that make a job worthwhile. Money is, of course, the prime motivator, and everybody wants a good salary or wages. But of course that is not all. The chance of promotion, of being given a better position in a company, is a motivating factor. Likewise, perks such as a free lunch or a company car, an incentive scheme to make you work hard such as a regular increment above the rate of inflation, sickness benefit in case you fall ill and a company pension scheme so that you have some money when you retire all combine to make a job worthwhile.

Unfortunately, it is not always easy to find all of these. There is, however, an alternative. Forget the office and the factory floor and become self-employed and work for yourself. Your future may not be secure, but at least you will be happy.

(393 words)

WORK STRESS: What are the causes of work stress and how could such stress be reduced? (G, A)

For many years it has been recognised that stress at the work place not only increases the risk of employees developing heart disease and other circulatory problems but also reduces their efficiency and their ability to respond flexibly to the demands of their jobs. Traditionally this problem was thought to affect mostly men in managerial positions. However, there is growing evidence that the number of stress-related illnesses in women has been rising in recent years as women have achieved more equality with men at work and have begun to occupy more and more positions of responsibility. This essay will argue that the solution to this problem is better training.

In order to reduce the amount of stress at work or at least to help people cope better with stress, we need first to understand what causes stress. A recent survey in the United States of Corporate Executive Officers' (CEO) and their partners' perceptions of the causes of stress in the CEO's lifestyle found that the factor most frequently mentioned by CEO's was time pressure and deadlines whereas those most often reported by their spouses were long working hours and the demands of work on family relationships.

This would seem to suggest three things: firstly, that many people are not aware of the true causes of stress; secondly, that work-related stress may lead to more stress at home through conflicts with partners and children, thus creating a vicious circle from which it becomes increasingly difficult to break free; and thirdly, that stress is very often the result of bad decisions rather than lack of material or human resources.

One solution to this problem might be to train people, especially men, to get in closer touch with their feelings and to become more aware of the real causes of conflicts both at work and in the home. This could be done by providing a weekly confidential counselling service for employees who were perceived to be under too much pressure. This would provide people with a safe place in which to express their feelings and to reflect upon what they could do to improve everything from personal relationships to eating habits and sleeping patterns. It seems obvious that an unhappy boss will make life more difficult for his or her subordinates; but so far very few companies have taken this idea on board by doing something practical to improve relationships at the work place.

Another solution would be for companies to provide managers with more training courses in basic skills such as time management and knowing when to delegate responsibilities. One of the reasons why many managers at present find it so difficult to take advantage of company training courses is that they are already overloaded with work and are unable to assimilate any more information.

In conclusion, it would seem that companies are not doing enough to address the problem of stress-related illnesses. However, even if profits are a company's only real concern, it makes sense to look after employees' physical and psychological well-being - if only because most experts now agree that this is the best way to increase productivity and remain competitive. Successful companies are run by healthy employees.

(529 words)

SMOKING: Smoking should be banned both inside and outdoors. Do you agree? (G, A)

The Australian Cancer Society estimates that close to 20,000 Australians die each year as a result of tobacco-related illnesses. Smoking accounts for approximately 21 percent of all male deaths and eight percent of all female deaths.

Because the dangers of smoking are so well-known, there is a strong argument for outlawing it. Some people would like to see smoking banned from all public places, even outdoors. This essay will argue that smoking should not be banned.

Firstly, civil libertarians would argue that smoking is a personal choice and people who take it up despite all the warnings only have themselves to blame. It could also be said that the sanctions against smoking have gone too far, and that smokers are being treated like second-class citizens. Added to this, anti-smoking campaigners seem to have ignored the fact that most smokers would quit if they could. Nicotine is said to be even more addictive than heroin. Most smokers have to make several attempts before successfully giving up.

The rights of non-smokers have been paramount over the past few years with cigarettes being banned from most public places. However, smoking is an easy source of tax dollars – some \$3,5 billion a year in Australia – and if it were banned, a major source of government revenue would go with it. Non-smokers would have to make up the difference.

Smokers pay billions of dollars in additional taxes to support their habit and it can be argued that the higher taxes that the smokers pay are offset by the extremely high costs of treating smoking-related illnesses, but only a percentage of this is spent on health care.

Lastly, others feel that governments should be in business of harm minimization and that they have a social obligation. Yet, they are condoning – and profiting from – a known killer. However, the bottom line is that smoking is a personal choice and how much control should governments have over our lives?

(323 words)

COSTS FOR HEALTH CARE: The costs of medical health care are increasing all the time. Governments are finding it difficult to balance the health care budget. Should citizens be totally responsible for their own health costs and take out private health insurance, or is it better to have a comprehensive health care system which provides free health services for all? Discuss. (A)

A much debated issue these days is whether citizens should take out private health insurance or not. The cost of providing free medical care for both the wealthy and the poor is far too great for any government, and most people agree that if you can pay for insurance, you should. In this essay, I will argue that all who can afford it should be insured, but free medical care must be made available for those too poor to do so.

The most important reason for encouraging people to take out private health insurance is the cost to the government of health care. Free health cover for people who are able to pay for it is a waste of public money. Of course, people will only pay health insurance premiums if they know that they are getting good value for their money. If they get sick, they should pay very little or nothing at all. In addition, the privately insured are entitled to special benefits such as having the choice of their own doctors, and being able to avoid long waiting lists for hospital beds.

On the other hand, those who really cannot afford to pay private insurance premiums, which are often very high, are still entitled as citizens to the best medical care available - they cannot be expected to pay their own medical bills. However, if they are working, they should still pay a percentage of their wage (say 1 to 2%) as a tax which pays towards the cost of providing 'free' medical services.

In conclusion, most people should privately insure their health, but it is unreasonable to suppose that all citizens can afford it. Therefore, a safety net in the form of a basic free health care system must exist for the very poor and the unemployed.

(301 words)

PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY: "What could be done to improve the lives of the elderly?" (G)

For many elderly people the latter part of their life is not a time to relax and enjoy retirement, but rather a difficult and unhappy period, owing to financial worries, failing health and loneliness. As life expectancy increases, the average person lives well beyond the age of retirement. As a result, the elderly make up an ever-increasing percentage of society, which makes it more important than ever for a real effort to be made in improving the lives of senior citizens.

One way to deal with the situation would be to ensure that the elderly have enough money on which to live. Obviously, when a person stops working, they still require a source of income to cover their basic needs such as food, accommodation and heating. A clear solution to the problem is for the government to make sure that the state pension is adequate for these needs. Furthermore, free financial advice should be made available to retired people so that the stress of worrying about money could be reduced as far as possible.

Steps should also be taken to overcome problems the elderly face as a result of deteriorating health due to old age, and inadequate health-care provisions. Again, the responsibility should fall to the government to provide access to the best health care available, which may necessitate paying for residential homes where the elderly can have round-the-clock nursing, or, at the very least, providing medication free of charge to all people over a certain age. As a result, old people would enjoy not only better health, but also peace of mind from the knowledge that they need not fear falling ill and being unable to pay for treatment.

The lives of old people could also be improved if attempts were made to address the problem of social isolation which so many of them face. If we organised trips for the elderly to community centers, visits from social workers or free bus passes to allow pensioners greater mobility, the effect would be alleviate the problem of loneliness which marks the lives of so many old people living alone far from their families.

One final suggestion, which would help enormously, is to change the attitude of the community towards its older members, who are all too often seen as a burden on society and dismissed as having little to do with modern life. We need to be taught from an early age to respect the views of old people, and appreciate their broader experience of life. This would help society as a whole, and encourage appreciation of the role that old people can still play today.

To sum up, there are several measures which could be taken to improve the lives of old people. If the government and individuals alike were to help, it would make retirement and old age a time to look forward to, rather than dread.

(479 words)

GENDER ROLES: 'Men and women are, and always will be, different in -the way they behave and are treated'. Do you agree with this statement?

A totally egalitarian society, in which sexual equality between men and women is the norm, is still a long way off. This is certainly the case if you watch television, where men are often portrayed as the breadwinner bringing money home to the wife, who is usually depicted as the weaker sex, prone to extreme emotions and temper tantrums. But is this really the case? Is it still fair to create stereotypes such as this?

After all, as more women go out to work and more men stay at home to look after the house and the kids, it is quite clear that so-called gender roles are merging and disappearing.

Take the office workplace as an example. For years, businesses and companies were male-dominated – the directors, managers and businessmen were always men, the secretaries and personal assistants always female. This was probably because men have traditionally been seen as more ruthless, more able to deal with the cut-and-thrust of business.

But now women are proving that they can be equally tough, while simultaneously being more astute and caring. In fact, in many ways, women are more multi-faceted than men, a vital aspect of modern business where you are expected to do more than just one job. And thanks to the Sex Discrimination Act women are paid the same as men. It would appear that, in many cases, the male chauvinist is a dying breed.

At home, too, there is less evidence of role division. It is no longer the woman who does all the cooking and cleaning and child-rearing. Such household management is now often shared equally. Social convention no longer requires the woman to stay indoors all day while the man stays out until all hours. Whether this is due to the struggle by the militant feminists in the 1960s and 1970s or whether it is due to a natural shift in attitudes is unclear.

What is clear, however, is that women no longer feel they need to be regarded as sex objects, the underdogs in a battle of sexes with their male counterparts. In fact, many believe that in the power struggle, it is women who have come out on top.

(364 words)

GENDER DISCRIMINATION: "Although the position of women in society today has improved, there is still a great deal of sexual discrimination." Do you agree? (G, A)

Throughout this century, the role of women within society has changed, and the majority of people feel that this change is for the better. More women work than ever before, and it is accepted in Western culture that many women now have careers. Nonetheless, in my opinion there is still a great deal of sexual equality has been achieved is not altogether accurate.

To begin with, many women find it very difficult to return to work after having children. The main reason for this is that there are rarely any provisions made for childcare in the workplace and, in these cases, women are forced to find someone to look after the children while they are at work. Obviously, this can prove to be a time-consuming and expensive process, yet it must be done if mothers are to be able to resume their careers.

Secondly, the traditional views of the position of women within society are so deeply ingrained that they have not really changed. For instance, not only is the view that women should stay at home and look after their family still widely held, but it is reinforced through images seen on television programmes and advertisements. An example of this is that few men are ever seen doing housework on television, since this is traditionally thought of as "a woman's job".

Thirdly, since families often need two incomes in order to enjoy a good standard of living, a woman finds herself doing two jobs: one at home and one at the office. So, it could be said that a woman's position has, in fact, deteriorated rather than improved, with the result that women carry the burdens of equality but get none of the benefits.

In contrast, there are some people who claim that the problem of sexual discrimination no longer exists. They point out that women do, after all, have legal rights intended to protect them from discrimination. In addition, a few women are now beginning to reach top positions as judges, business leaders and politicians, while a number of other previously all-male professions are opening their ranks to women. Nonetheless, these examples are not the norm and discrimination is still very much with us.

Taking these points into consideration, I would say that the position of women has improved only slightly. While, rules and laws have changed, it is the deep-rooted opinions of people within society which are taking a longer time to evolve. Needless to say, until these attitudes have changed, sexual discrimination will remain a problem which we all need to face and fight against.

(429 words)

ECOLOGY: **Man's agricultural and industrial activities are destroying our Planet. Do you agree?**
(A)

Many people believe that human beings are destroying the planet Earth. I have to agree with this statement and I believe there is plenty of evidence for it if we look at some of man's agricultural and industrial practices. In addition, the use of nuclear energy further increases the danger to the world.

Man's agricultural practices are severely damaging the environment. The incorrect use of land causes the formation of deserts; this is a particularly serious problem in Australia and the USA. Diversion of water from lakes and rivers for irrigation can also cause severe problems. The use of water from the Aral Sea is an example of this.

Industrial wastes have caused critical pollution of water and the atmosphere. Atmospheric pollution has resulted in the 'greenhouse effect' — a phenomenon that is resulting in a dangerous increase in the temperature of the world. Similarly chemical pollution is damaging the ozone layer of the Earth. This results in dangerous ultraviolet rays entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Nuclear power also poses serious problems. One nuclear bomb can have devastating long-term effects. Even if nuclear power is used for peaceful purposes, the wastes are so toxic and so long-lasting that we are endangering the lives of generations to come. The Chernobyl catastrophe is one of the examples.

Some people may think that improved technology will solve the problems of the Earth. Others believe that man will eventually learn to cooperate and use resources intelligently. However, I think this is naive, wishful thinking, and from all the evidence man is destroying the Earth.

(254 words)

ENVIRONMENT: The responsibility for the environment rests with the individual and not only with the government. Do you agree? (G, A)

Everyone is becoming aware that the environment is a serious issue. There is bad air and water pollution everywhere and we also know that the greenhouse effect is changing our weather, and the hole in the ozone layer is causing skin cancer. However, not enough is being done to solve these problems, because most people seem to be waiting for governments to make the decisions. In fact, the responsibility for protecting the environment must be shared by everyone. Individuals can and should do many things to help to solve the problem.

First of all, people can make sure that they are responsible in the way that they dispose of waste. If people throw rubbish like plastic into rivers or oceans, it always stays there, and causes fish and sea birds to die. It is also important to make sure that we do not buy goods that have too much wrapping on them, especially plastic wrapping, because if we do, we are adding to the huge amounts of waste.

People also need to be responsible in the way that they use water. In some countries, like Australia, an enormous amount of water is wasted for swimming pools, washing cars and so on. Most countries are running out of fresh water.

If people used their cars less, this would help to prevent the greenhouse effect. Everyone can try to use public transport more, or use bicycles, or even walk, instead of using their cars for even short trips.

Finally, the most important thing that individuals can do is to let their governments know that they want something to be done about the environment. It is obvious that the governments will not do anything unless the people force them to.

It is therefore clear that the individuals must take responsibility for the environment, otherwise it will soon be too late, and we and the next generation will suffer serious consequences.

(317 words)

WASTE DISPOSAL: Waste disposal is an increasing problem, especially in urban areas. What can governments and individuals do to reduce the amount of rubbish that is produced? (G, A)

Everybody contributes to pollution and waste. However much of the waste produced consists of packaging materials. Disposing of all this rubbish is a growing problem. Most of it is thrown in landfills, which are not only ugly, but also dangerous. Cities have even bigger problem than rural areas but I believe there is a lot both individuals and governments can do to reduce the rubbish problem.

Governments can take action to reduce the environmental damage caused by rubbish, but for their policies to work, individuals must also be involved. The production of any new thing involves the use of energy. If individuals and companies reduced the amount of raw materials and energy used in the manufacturing of packaging, or if a product's lifetime could be extended by repairing it or passing it on to someone else who could use it, then energy could be saved and less waste produced. Recycling also reduces the need for raw materials as well as the amount of waste buried in landfill sites.

Governments can help individuals and companies do these things by requiring that retail outlets and manufacturers take back packaging from their products. Councils could provide conventionally located public recycling bins or supply containers, so citizens could sort their rubbish and have it picked up. They could also introduce deposits to encourage the re-use of glass containers and plastic bags.

Recycling is great, but it is not the best solution. We would save more resources and reduce pollution and waste by simply not producing as much in the first place. The best thing a government could do is educating about waste prevention. It is my belief that if governments really want to reduce the rubbish problem, they should do a better job of educating the public through high-profile awareness campaigns on waste production.

(300 words)

ROAD ACCIDENTS: A large number of deaths are caused by road accidents. Why do so many road accidents occur? Make recommendations that would help to reduce the number of road accidents. (G, A)

Road accidents are responsible for the deaths of an ever-increasing number of people. Before solutions to this problem can be found it is necessary to examine the main causes of accidents: vehicle roadworthiness, road conditions and human error.

Many accidents are caused by inadequate vehicle maintenance, for example driving with defective brakes or bald tyres which increase the stopping time. Regular mechanical inspections would help reduce the number of unworthy vehicles on the roads.

Road conditions also contribute to accidents. Heavy rain, fog or snow, can make roads slippery and accidents may occur. In addition, narrow, winding roads and road surfaces which are in a state of disrepair contribute to the number of road fatalities. A greater proportion of money needs to be designated to improving roads and providing clear road signs.

The third cause of accidents is driver error. Drunken driving and excessive speed are frequently the cause of drivers misjudging distance and losing control of their vehicles. Other examples are drivers failing to signal a turn and overtaking other cars without due care. Although these problems of human error are the most difficult to resolve, advertising campaigns have proved effective in educating drivers about road hazards. Furthermore, harsher penalties such as heavy fines and suspension of license could be applied to discourage such dangerous behavior.

In conclusion, although it is inevitable that some accidents will occur, there are ways to reduce their frequency. Governments need to put in place stricter vehicle tests and penalize careless drivers more severely. It is also necessary to allocate more money to maintaining and upgrading roads and educating drivers. By implementing these measures, the roads will be safer for everyone.

(277 words)

JOB FOR WOMEN: High-level jobs are more frequently held by men than women. Should the government, therefore make a law requiring that a number of these positions be set aside for women? (A)

The issue of unequal employment distribution is social, not something based purely on competence. Traditionally, many jobs required manual and or physical skills and as men were usually stronger, they were sometimes better suited to these. Women were traditionally employed in the home. As society has changed, many types of employment have also changed. Many important jobs require people with excellent communication and teamwork skills. Men still tend to hold the positions of power, but this does not necessarily mean they are the best suited to them.

Many high-paying, demanding jobs carrying a lot of responsibility are often held by men. I do not feel this situation has come about because women are incapable of doing this high-level work, but rather because of tradition. To alter this balance, I think the government should reserve a percentage of these jobs for women.

Added to this, many women have now either chosen to work outside the home, or have to for financial reasons. There are larger numbers of qualified, skilled women vying for highly paid, responsible positions and many hit what is referred to as "a glass ceiling". Women can only get promoted to a certain level and can not gain a higher position. There are frequent reports of this happening in the banking and finance industries where management is male dominated. Having children and leaving the workforce for periods of time can also disadvantage women, as women may not be offered the same opportunities to gain valuable experience. If there were a government quota or positive discrimination for the hiring women in high-level positions, the situation could be improved.

On the other hand, there are many arguments against the use of a quota system. It is true that some discrimination could be reversed but equally it is true that qualified men might be denied jobs while unqualified women benefit. Also, the problem of sexism at work could be worsened. People may question whether a woman was capable or deserved her job. Women may also resent the fact that their job may have been awarded as a matter of statistics, as opposed to being earned.

Others also feel strongly that setting jobs aside for people based on anything but skill and performance is wrong and unfair. They say someone should only get a job if they have the necessary qualifications, experience or skill set.

To sum up, despite the many arguments against quotas, I do believe a quota system may break down some barriers in the short-term. Sexism in the workplace will not vanish overnight but quotas may help men and women work toward accepting the equal sharing of power and responsibility.

(440 words)

CHILDREN'S PAID WORK: In many countries children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong, while others consider it a valuable work experience, important for learning and taking responsibility. What are your opinions on this? You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence. (A)

The issue of children doing paid work is a complex and sensitive one. It is difficult to say who has the right to judge whether children working is 'wrong' or 'valuable'. Opinions will also differ as to 'learning' benefits: no doubt teachers and factory owners, for example, would have varying concerns.

An important consideration is the kind of work undertaken. Young children doing arduous and repetitive tasks on a factory production line, for example, are less likely to be 'learning' than older children helping in an old people's home. There are health and safety issues to be considered as well. It is an unfortunate fact that many employers may prefer to use the services of children simply to save money by paying them less than adults and it this type of exploitation that should be discouraged.

However, in many countries children work because their families need the additional income, no matter how small. This was certainly the case in the past in many individualized countries, and it is very difficult to judge that it is wrong for children today to contribute to the family income in this way.

Nevertheless, in better economic circumstances, few parents would choose to send their children out to full-time paid work. If learning responsibilities and work experience are considered to be important, then children can acquire these by having light, part-time or even doing tasks such as helping their parents around the family home, which are unpaid, but undoubtedly of value in children's development.

(249 words)

IMMUNISATION: No one wants a child to be harmed or killed by a disease or by a vaccination and parents want to make informed decisions about immunisation. However, there is much conflicting information. Some governments have made immunisation compulsory. Is the controversy about whether to vaccinate or not or freedom of choice? (A)

No one wants a child to be harmed or killed by a disease or by a vaccination. A parent wants to make an informed decision about immunisation. This can be worrying because the different information available makes it difficult to decide what is true. In some places the responsibility for that decision has been removed from parents because the government has made immunisation compulsory. I will argue the issue is not whether to vaccinate or not but freedom of choice.

It seems that almost every month newspaper articles and television programs tell about the dangers of vaccines. We are told about greedy vaccine manufacturers and doctors who do not care. This means that parents are often very worried about the danger of immunising their children.

On the other hand, we are told about the dangers of not being immunised – you may catch diseases that used to kill thousands of people in the past. If even a small percentage of this population isn't immunised and the chances of catching the diseases suddenly rises to high levels and everyone is put at risk.

Because of this, parents have to ask questions, find information and become educated about immunisation. To help them do this, the government should make sure doctors and nurses are very well informed and honest about parents' concerns. Good information about the dangers of vaccines as well as how well they work needs to be freely available to everyone.

In conclusion, although immunisation is not completely safe, it is very useful. Nonetheless, it should be the right of each individual parent to make that choice, not government. In order to help parents though, governments and doctors should make information about the dangers and benefits of immunisation readily available for all parents.

(291 words)

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: In the 21st century, many cities are being rapidly developed. In this process, the needs of special interest groups, such as people with physical disabilities, are sometimes not taken into account. How can society improve conditions for people with physical disabilities? (A)

Disabled people living in our cities daily face challenging and potentially difficult situations which society must consider. This essay will offer suggestions as to how conditions may be improved for people with physical disabilities.

One of the most important ways in which life can be improved for disabled people is the provision of financial support. Some disabled people may have difficulties due to the cost of special equipment or care which they require. The government could offer assistance through a range of measures including tax deductions for equipment such as wheelchairs, or loan assistance for major purchases. Even such measures as concession passes for transport or entertainment would assist in improving life for the disabled.

The special needs of people with disabilities must be taken into account by the education system and appropriate services provided. For example, the blind would benefit from access to computers which convert text to voice. The deaf may need special tutors skilled in sign language. The goal, however, would be the integration of the disabled into the regular school system while maintaining these services.

Employment is a third factor which must be considered. In order that disabled people can be given equal opportunity to work and contribute to society in every possible field, the government could establish quotas for disabled workers in large companies. Moreover, financial incentives such as tax rebates could be offered to smaller companies who hire disabled workers.

Thus, conditions for the physically disabled can be proved in a number of ways including providing financial support, adequate educational services and equal employment opportunities. Through the pursuit of these goals, society can ensure that life for the disabled is rewarding and fulfilling.

(279 words)

AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: "The best way to help developing countries is to give them financial aid". Write an essay agreeing or disagreeing with this statement. Suggest possible alternatives to this approach. (A)

Providing financial aid for poor developing nations is certainly a very good way to help them and their people. However, I do not agree that it is the only way to help them, or in fact, the best way.

Firstly, wealthy nations could create dependency in the poorer nations and prevent economic development if only giving aid. I believe it would be better for the rich to loan small sums of money directly to the people of poorer countries and to provide training and expertise to assist them to develop their own economies. This would not help each recipient only financially, but also improve their self-esteem, provide better health, housing and education for their family and give them new skills. These skills could then be passed on to others in the community and therefore help a greater number of people. Added to this, with the prospering of each business, contributions are made to the economy as a whole through taxes.

Secondly, it seems to be that there is never enough money to go around. If money were loaned and repaid instead of being given away, the loans could be recycled and used by more people.

There are instances of course where small loans are not suitable. In situations such as devastation by war or famine and total lack of infrastructure, large amounts of financial assistance are needed at a government level for things like electricity, health services and educational institutions. Micro finance cannot provide these.

In conclusion, I believe providing monetary aid to less developed countries is necessary. In times of crisis this is essential. However, I do think that providing small loans to individuals is indeed a very viable option that has positive consequences for entire communities.

(288 words)

TRADITIONAL WAYS OF LIFE: When a country develops its technology, the traditional skills and ways of life die out. It is pointless to try and keep them alive. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (A)

Overall, I disagree with the opinion expressed. I would like to begin by pointing out that 'traditional skills and ways of life' are not automatically of one country, but of a culture or community.

In many ways, the history of civilization is the history of technology: from the discovery of fire to the invention of the wheel to the development of the Internet, we have been moving on from previous ways of doing things. Some technologies, such as weapons of mass destruction, are of negative impact. Others, such as medical advances, positively help people to live better or longer, and so very much help traditional ways of life. Surely, few people would seek to preserve such traditions as living in caves!

Interestingly, technology can positively contribute to the keeping alive of traditional skills and ways of life. For example, the populations of some islands are too small to have normal schools. Rather than breaking families by sending children to the mainland, education authorities have been able to use the Internet to deliver schooling online. In addition, the Internet, and modern refrigeration techniques, are being used to keep alive the traditional skills of producing salmon; it can now be ordered from and delivered to, anywhere in the world.

In conclusion, without suggesting that *all* technology is necessarily good, I think it is by no means 'pointless', in any way, to try to keep traditions alive with technology. We should not ignore technology, because it can be our friend and support our way of life.

(253 words)



ВАРИАНТЫ ЭКЗАМЕНАЦИОННЫХ ЗАДАНИЙ¹

ADDICTION

1. Smoking should be allowed in public places. Smokers have rights too. How far do you agree with this statement? (G)
2. In many countries the problem of drug-taking is increasing. Governments and the general public are particularly concerned about young people using illegal drugs such as marijuana, ecstasy and heroin. What methods could be used to prevent young people from taking drugs? Is it appropriate to send young drug-users to prison? Give reasons for your answer. (G, A)
3. Most people today are aware that smoking, although perfectly acceptable a few years ago, is now known to do great damage to a person's health and to cost industry and governments a great deal in lost wages and health expenses. What are the dangers of smoking both for smokers and non-smokers? (G, A)
4. Should the same laws which prohibit the sale and consumption of heroin be applied to tobacco? (G)
5. Tobacco and alcohol are drugs that cause addiction and health problems. Should they be made illegal, like other drugs? Or should all drugs be legalized? (A, G)
6. Some businesses now say that no one can smoke cigarettes in any of their offices. Some governments have banned smoking in all public places. This is a good idea but it also takes away some of our freedom. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons. (G, A)
7. Smoking is a habit which claims many lives and is a great drain on health services. One way to combat smoking would be to make it illegal. What are the pros and cons of such a government policy? What alternative strategies can you suggest to combat smoking? (G, A)

ANIMALS

1. Many people have a close relationship with their pets. These people treat their birds, cats, or other animals as members of their family. In your opinion, are such relationships good? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. (G)
2. For centuries people keep dogs in their homes. Some breeds are purposely kept for fun, while other dogs are selected and trained as guards. Nowadays, there are some breeds that represent a big potential danger. There is a lot of information about bad injuries and even deaths caused by dogs. Still, the number of aggressive breeds continues to grow. What can be done to tackle this problem? (G)
3. The importance of animals to people is not always recognized. We should pay more attention to how we look after and protect animals. Do you agree? (G, A)
4. Animals should not be used for the benefit of human beings, unless there is evidence that the animals do not suffer in any way. To what extent is the use of animals in scientific research acceptable? (A)
5. Are our zoos cruel to wild animals? Discuss. (G)
8. Zoos are sometimes seen as necessary but poor alternatives to a natural environment. Discuss some of the arguments for and/or against keeping animals in zoos. (A)
9. We know that many kinds of animals feel pain and emotional suffering just as humans do. It is therefore necessary to support animals' rights as well as human rights. Do you agree? (G, A)
10. 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 opinion stated above. (A)

¹ Тематические подразделы экзаменационных заданий даются в алфавитном порядке. Пометка "А" указывает на Academic Module, а "G" – на General Module.

CHILDREN AND PARENTS

1. A person's childhood years (the time from birth to twelve years of age) are the most important years of a person's life. Do you agree or disagree? (G)
2. Children below the age of sixteen should not be allowed in public places after midnight unless they are accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them. How far do you agree with this suggestion? (G)
3. Children learn best by observing the behaviour of adults and copying it. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? (G)
4. Children over 15 should be allowed to make decisions about their lives without the interference of their parents or teachers. Society should accept that children mature at a younger age these days and should adjust the law accordingly. Discuss this statement in relation to your own society or society that you know well. (A)
5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children should be required to help with household tasks as soon as they are able to do so. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. (G)
6. Every generation of people is different in important ways. How is your generation different from your parents' generation? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your answer. (A)
7. Fatherhood ought to be emphasised as much as motherhood. The idea that women are solely responsible for deciding whether or not to have babies leads on to the idea that they are also responsible for bringing the children up. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (G)
8. It is generally accepted that families are not as close as they used to be. Give some reasons why this change has happened and suggest how families could be brought closer together. Include any relevant examples from your experience. (G)
9. In some countries, marriages are arranged by the parents but in other cases, people choose their own marriage partner. Discuss both systems. (G)
10. It is often argued that children must be protected from unsuitable material on TV and the Internet by government censorship. Others say that it is the parents' responsibility to control what their children do and watch. To what extent do you think this is true? (G, A)
11. Many people believe that women make better parents than men and that this is why they have the 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. (A,G)
12. Raising children is the most important thing an adult ever does. Do you agree? (G, A)
13. Parents have a greater influence on their children's future success than the schools do. Governments should therefore provide 'parent training courses' rather than 'teacher training courses'. To what extent do you agree with this statement? (G, A)
14. Some people believe that the best way of learning about life is by listening to the advice of family and friends. Other people believe that the best way of learning about life is through personal experience. Compare the advantages of these two different ways of learning about life. Which do you think is preferable? Use specific examples to support your preference. (G)
15. The average British child between the ages of 4 and 15 watches more than 20 hours of television a week. Studies show he/she only spends about 7 hours per week on physical exercise. How does this compare with the situation in your country? How can parents make sure children get enough exercise? Give reasons for your answer. (G)
16. The position of women in society has changed markedly in the last twenty years. Many of the problems young people now experience, such as juvenile delinquency, arise from the fact that married women now work and are not at home to care for their children. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (A)

COMPUTERS

1. According to a recent study, the more people use the Internet, the less time they spend with real human beings. Should we worry about the effect this is having on social interaction or should we see the Internet as a way of opening new communication possibilities worldwide? What are your views? (A)
2. Computers have improved the quality of our lives. Do you agree? (G)
3. Children spend a lot of time playing computer games. Many parents point out that computer games have little educational value, so children should be prevented from computer games. Do you agree or disagree to this opinion? (G)
4. We are becoming increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in businesses, hospitals, crime detection and even to fly planes. What things will they be used for in future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits? (A)
5. Technology is making communication easier in today's world, but 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 which depends on computer screens rather than face-to-face contact for its main means of communication? (A)
6. 'Telecommuting' refers to workers doing their jobs from home for part of each week and communicating with their office using computer technology. 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? (A)
7. Many people now have personal computers and the use of electronic services such as the Internet is becoming more widespread. Some parents are concerned about children using the Internet to gamble or buy goods on credit. How can access to electronic services be controlled? (G)
8. Computers can translate all kinds of languages well so our children don't need to learn more languages in the future, do they? (G)
9. Can computerised data collection on individuals be justified even though it endangers the rights of individuals? (A)
10. The Internet could revolutionize the world in the future, if everyone could have easy access to all the information that is available on the World Wide Web. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (G, A)
11. The Internet has revolutionized the modern world, but many people argue that it has also created new problems and inequalities. What is your opinion? (G, A)

CRIME

1. Crime is nearly always related to the environment in which it occurs. For this reason, international laws and international law courts are unrealistic and will not succeed in reducing crime levels in different countries. Discuss (A, G)
2. The crime rate among teenagers has increased dramatically in many countries. Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions to this problem. (G, A)
3. "When teenagers under the age of 18 commit crimes, their parents should be held responsible." Write an essay discussing this statement and suggest ways to combat teenage crime. (G, A)
4. More and more measures to improve security in many large urban areas have been introduced because of an increase in crime. Do the benefits of increased security measures outweigh the drawbacks?
5. Some people think that murderers should be executed. To what extent do you agree?¹ (G, A)

¹ Темы, подобные этой, которые могут вызвать сильную эмоциональную реакцию или политическую оценку, крайне редко встречаются на экзаменах IELTS.

6. Without capital punishment (the death penalty) our lives are less secure and crimes of violence increase. Capital punishment is essential to control violence in society. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (A)
7. In recent times, police and security forces have used considerable physical force against demonstrators for peace and environmental issues. To what extent do you believe such force is justified? Give reasons for your answer. (A)

CULTURE, VALUES, FASHION

1. Some people argue that technology has had a positive influence on the music industry because it allows people to show their musical talents without having to play a musical instrument. Others argue that you need to be able to play an instrument in order to prove that you are really talented. Discuss both views. (g)
2. Do you believe it is right for a country to change its flag after citizens have fought and died under the existing flag? Give reasons for your answer. (A)
3. Do young people today make good use of their leisure time? Or do they spend too much time on watching television and playing video games, instead of taking part in more productive activities? (G)
4. It is inevitable that as technology develops traditional cultures must be lost. Technology and tradition are incompatible – you cannot have both together. What is your opinion on this issue? (A)
5. Many in favour of bullfighting justify this practice on the grounds of tradition and their right to entertainment but others may say there are traditions that are now better off without. Just because something was accepted in the past should it be allowed to continue? What do you think? (A)
6. Nowadays, more and more people do not want to wear their national clothes, and thus they are forgetting their culture and their history. Should people wear their traditional clothes? (G)
7. Nowadays, the style of clothes varies a lot. But some think, people have become the slaves of the fashions. They think people should choose the cloths according to their likes and the comfort of the clothes. What is your opinion on the issue? (G)
8. Professional sport involves large sums of money and receives enormous media coverage. Meanwhile serious culture, including music, art and theatre, is badly neglected. This is making our society more shallow. Do you think this is the case? (G, A)
9. The increasing role of English in the world today means that the learning of other languages is being neglected. This will have serious results for the continued use of these languages and their cultures. What is your opinion on this statement? (G, A)
10. The government spends about £220 million a year supporting museums and galleries in the UK, and a similar amount subsidising the visual and performing arts. This is a huge sum to spend on minority interests, and the money would be better spent on more important things. It should be up to the people who enjoy cultural attractions to pay for them. What are your views? (G, A)
11. 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 the International music that is heard everywhere nowadays? (G, A)
12. Schools and parents often require their pupils to wear school uniforms. The pupils, however, usually dislike this. There are acceptable arguments both for and against the wearing of school uniforms. Explain some of the arguments both for and against the wearing of school uniforms and state your own opinion on the subject. (G)
13. Some schools ask the students to wear the students' uniforms. Some think it has some disadvantages to the development of the students' characters. What is your opinion? (G)
14. Sometimes it is very difficult to learn the way people do things in a new culture. What can we do to make life easier for newcomers? (G)

15. Too much money is spent on sport and not enough on serious culture such as music and art. This is making our society shallow. Do you agree? (G, A)
16. Young people are said to have lost the traditional values of the older generation. This does not matter, because the old values have no relevance in the modern world. We have to develop a whole new set of values. Do you support this statement? (A)
17. Learning about the past has no value for those of us living in the present. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. (A)
18. Should a city try to preserve its old, historic buildings or destroy them and replace them with modern buildings? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. (G, A)
19. Advertising can tell you a lot about a country. Do you agree? (G)
20. Modern technology is creating a single world culture. How far do you agree? (A)
21. When people move to another country, some of them decide to follow the customs of the new country. Others prefer to keep their own customs. Compare these two choices. Which one do you prefer? (G)
22. Some people prefer to plan activities for their free time very carefully. Others choose not to make any plans at all for their free time. Compare the benefits of planning free-time activities with the benefits of not making plans. (G)
23. People behave differently when they wear different clothes. Do you agree that different clothes influence the way people behave? (G)
24. All students should be required to study art and music in secondary school. Do you agree? (G)
25. Some high schools require all students to wear school uniforms. Other high schools permit students to decide what to wear to school. Which of these two school policies do you think is better? (G)
26. What can films tell us a lot about the country where they were made? (G)
27. People listen to music for different reasons and at different times. Why is music important to many people? (G)

ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, POLLUTION, RECYCLING

1. Action such as recycling cannot be left up to the good will of the individual. It must be forced on us by government. Do you agree? (A, G)
2. To what extent is recycling domestic waste beneficial? Discuss ways in which a householder can help to conserve valuable resources. (A, G)
3. Damage of the environment is an inevitable consequence of worldwide improvements in the standard of living. How far do you agree? (A)
4. Forests are the lungs of the earth. Destruction of the world's forests amounts to death of the world we currently know. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (G, A)
5. Humans are the most intelligent beings, so nature should be fully exploited for our betterment. How far do you agree? (A,G)
6. Industrialisation is leading to the destruction of the earth as a home for humans and animals. To what extent do you agree that this is true? (A)
7. It is generally agreed that the world is facing serious environmental problems of pollution, global warming and the loss of resources such as fresh water. Some people believe that these problems can be solved by technological developments, while others feel strongly that we can only solve these problems by consuming less, and living simpler life-styles. What is your opinion? (G, A)
8. Many governments are now trying to prevent global warming and the effect it has on our environment. They are trying to reduce the things which contribute to global warming such as

pollution from cars and destruction of the rain forests. Describe what you think the problem is and the actions you think your government should take to solve it. (G)

9. Most cities suffer from traffic congestion. What do you think should be done about it? (G, A)
10. The government should spend more on public transport and discourage private car ownership to reduce air pollution in major cities. Do you agree or disagree? (A, G)
11. Most pollution, especially air and water pollution, is caused by industry. If we want to protect the environment we should make factories and other forms of industry pay for the pollution that they cause. That is the only way to make sure that the owners will make a serious effort to reduce the pollution they cause. To what extent do you agree with this opinion? (A)
12. The environment is the most important issue of the world today. Discuss. (G, A)
13. The environment is one of the most important issues of the world today, but governments are not doing enough about it. To what extent do you think that individuals can help to protect the environment? (A)
14. The rising levels of congestion and air pollution found in most of the world 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 transport more. Discuss possible ways to encourage the use of public transport. (G, A)
15. The responsibility for the environment rests with the individual and not only with the government. Do you agree? (G, A)
16. Some people believe that the Earth is being harmed (damaged) by human activity. Others feel that human activity makes the Earth a better place to live. What is your opinion? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. (A)
17. Some people think that human needs for farmland, housing, and industry are more important than saving land for endangered animals. Do you agree or disagree with this point of view? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. (A)
18. Many parts of the world are losing important natural resources, such as forests, animals, or clean water. Choose one resource that is disappearing and explain why it needs to be saved. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. (G, A)
19. What are the key problems facing the world's cities in the 21st century and what can be done about them? (G)
20. Describe some of the problems that overpopulation causes and suggest at least one possible solution. (G)

ECONOMIC ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

1. As there is increasing employment in the world, while at the same time those who have jobs are working harder and harder, it would be better to have a four-day working week for everyone, and so to create more jobs. What is your opinion about this suggestion? (G)
2. Coins and paper money will soon be replaced by credit and bank cards. Eventually we will have a cashless society which will be safer and more convenient for everyone. Do you agree or disagree? (G)
3. Governments often spend large sums of money on spectacular displays to celebrate national events of significance. This money could be better spent on improving social conditions in the country. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (A, G)
4. Improvements in health, education and trade are essential for the development of poorer nations. However, the governments of richer nations should take more responsibility for helping the poorer nations in such areas. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion. You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence. (A)

5. 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 government of poorer nations to look after their citizens themselves? (A)
6. To what extent should university courses be geared to the economic needs of society? (A)
7. To what extent will migration from the developing world to the developed world become a social and political issue in the 21st century? (A)
8. The best way to help developing countries is to give them financial aid. Write an essay either agreeing or disagreeing with this statement. Suggest alternatives to this policy. (A)
9. The international community should reduce or eliminate the debts of the world's poorest countries. To what extent would you support or reject this proposal? (A)
10. Improvements in health, education and trade are essential for the development of poorer nations. However, the government of richer nations should take more responsibility for helping the poorer nations in such areas. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (A)
11. In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea? (G)
12. In many countries children are engaged into some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as complete wrong, while others consider it as valuable work experience, important for learning and taking responsibility. What are your opinions on this? (G)
13. Some people say that advertising encourages us to buy things 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? (G)
14. Some famous athletes and entertainers earn millions of dollars every year. Do you think these people deserve such high salaries? (G)

EDUCATION

1. As more and more students enter universities, academic qualifications are becoming devalued. To get ahead of many professions, more than one degree is now required and in future it is likely that people will take a number of degree courses before even starting work. This is undesirable situation. Do you agree or disagree? (A,G)
2. Boys and girls should attend separate schools. Do you agree? (G)
3. Disruptive school students have a negative influence on others. Students who are noisy and disobedient should be grouped together and taught separately. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer. (A,G)
4. Do the benefits of overseas education justify the difficulties? What advice would you offer to a prospective student? (G, A)
5. Education is recognised 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 5 and 15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? (G, A)
6. Education is the most important possession a person can have. How far do you agree? (G, A)
7. Education is the most important source of children's development. No matter what their background, if children have good schools and teachers they can progress. Governments should therefore put their major resources into school education. Do you agree? (A)
8. Education is the single most important factor in the development of a country. Do you agree? (A)
9. Free tertiary education is essential for every country since tertiary graduates are the only qualified and educated people that can help countries to progress in the modern world. How far do you agree? (A)

10. In order to be able to study well, students need an attractive, clean learning environment. Universities and colleges should make efforts to provide this. Discuss. (A, G)
11. In the past, education used to be viewed as training only for the young. However, nowadays, it is commonly viewed as a life-long process. Explain this change. (G, A)
12. It has been said, "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? (G)
13. It is often said that the subjects taught in schools are too academic in orientation and that it would be more useful for children to learn about practical matters such as home management, work and interpersonal skills. To what extent do you agree? Which subjects should be taught in school? (G, A)
14. Millions of people every year move to English-speaking countries such as Australia, Britain or America, in order to study at school, college or university. Why do so many people want to study in English? Why is English such an important international language? Give reasons for your answer. (G)
15. Most education systems rely on examinations to encourage children to study, but as a result children suffer from too much stress and never learn to be creative. Therefore, examinations should be abolished. Do you agree? (A)
16. Nowadays many school and university students take part-time jobs while studying. Is it good or bad for their educational achievements? (G, A)
17. 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. (A, G)
18. Some people argue that there are no fundamental differences between the way men and women approach academic study. Others insist that there are big differences in areas such as organization, attitude and ambition, and that these differences inevitably have an impact on student life. What is your opinion on this? (A)
19. Some people believe that children's leisure activities must be educational; otherwise they are a complete waste of time. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your experience. (G)
20. Students have to absorb a great deal of information. Describe quick and efficient ways to do this. (G, A)
21. Tertiary education is of greater benefit to the individual receiving it than to the society as a whole. It is therefore not desirable for governments to spend the taxpayers' money on supporting students just so that they can earn more money in future. Do you agree? (A)
22. The idea of going overseas for university study is an exciting prospect for many people. But while it may offer some advantages, it is probably better to stay home because of the difficulties a student inevitably encounters living and studying in a different culture. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (G, A)
23. The idea of having a single career is becoming an old fashioned one. The new fashion will be to have several careers or ways of earning money and further education will be something that continues throughout life. Present a written argument on this topic.
24. The only focus of education should be preparing individuals for participation in the workforce. How far do you agree? (G, A)
25. To be successful in education it is more important to be a good student than to have good teachers. Would you support this statement? (G)
26. To improve students' chances to find better jobs, secondary schools should spend less time on general subjects, such as history and literature, than on teaching special communication skills or business. Do you agree? (G)

27. Too much emphasis is placed on testing these days. The need to prepare for tests and examinations is a restriction on teachers and also exerts unnecessary pressure on young learners. How far do you agree or disagree with this view? (A, G)
28. Training for work is far more important than providing a broad-based education. How far do you agree? (G, A)
29. When students are in large classes it is very hard for the teacher to give every student individual attention. What can educational authorities do about this? (G)
30. Universities should give the same amount of money to their students' sports activities as they give to their university libraries. Do you agree or disagree? (A)
31. Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes. Others believe that going to classes should be optional for students. Which point of view do you agree with? (G)
32. Some people believe that a college or university education should be available to all students. Others believe that higher education should be available only to good students. Discuss these views. Which view do you agree with? Explain why. (G, A)
33. Some people think that children should begin their formal education at a very early age and should spend most of their time on school studies. Others believe that young children should spend most of their time playing. Compare these two views. Which view do you agree with? Why? (G)
34. Some people say that physical exercise should be a required part of every school day. Other people believe that students should spend the whole school day on academic studies. Which opinion do you agree with? (G)

HEALTH

1. Advanced medical technology can extend the life of the sick and aged to well beyond the age of 70. discuss the possible effects of increasing natural life-span. (A, G)
2. Many people feel strongly that health services should be provided by the government and should be freely available. Others argue that only privatized health care can provide good quality health services. To what extent do you believe that health and medical services should be privatized? (A, G)
3. Nowadays, food has become easier to prepare. Has this change improved the way people live? (G)
4. People have different ways of escaping the stress and difficulties of modern life. Some read; some exercise; others work in their gardens. What do you think are the best ways of reducing stress? (G)
5. 'Prevention is better than cure.' Out of a country's health budget, a large proportion should be diverted from treatment to spending on health education and prevention measures. To what extent do you agree with this statement? (A)
6. Should parents be obliged to immunize their children against common childhood diseases? Or do individuals have the right to choose not to immunize their children? (A,G)
7. The costs of medical health care are increasing all the time. Governments are finding it difficult to balance the health care budget. Should citizens be totally responsible for their own health costs and take out private health insurance, or is it better to have a comprehensive health care system which provides free health services for all? Discuss. (A)

NUCLEAR POWER

1. To what extent is nuclear technology a danger to life on Earth? What are the benefits and risks associated with its use? (A)

2. At present we rely on oil for most of our energy needs. However, oil is a fossil fuel and it causes air pollution, and it will eventually run out. Nuclear energy is the only practical and clean source of energy for the world. Do you agree? (A)
3. Following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster it has become increasingly obvious that nuclear reactors constitute a potentially devastating threat to human and environmental health. Should government continue to maintain and develop nuclear power plants? What are the risks of benefits associated with nuclear power production? (A)
4. Nuclear energy is the only possible solution to our energy needs in the future. Do you agree? (A)
5. 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. (A)

SAFETY

1. Why do you think some people are attracted to dangerous sports or other dangerous activities? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. (G, A)
2. In every city the car is king of the road. Cars cause death and injury and air pollution and they make life dangerous for others. It is time to reduce the number of cars in our cities and to encourage other means of transport. Do you agree with this opinion? (G, A)
3. Many lives are in danger when hastily erected buildings collapse because safety standards have been sacrificed to hopes of a quick profit. To prevent disasters of this kind, governments should play a greater role in setting and enforcing safety standards for building construction. (G, A)
4. The high road toll (смертность на дорогах) is robbing our society of many people who could otherwise be leading useful and productive lives. How can society protect itself from these losses? (G, A)

SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

1. Enormous effort is put into researching and marketing 'the perfect potato crisp' 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 or should they concentrate more on their product? (G,A)
2. In achieving personal happiness, our relationships with other people (family, friends, and colleagues) are more important than anything else. Issues such as work and wealth take second place. Do you agree or disagree? (G)
3. In Britain, when someone gets old, they often go to live in a 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. (G, A)
4. In most countries disabled people are not catered adequately, e.g. 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? (A,G)
5. In some countries the average worker is obliged to retire at the age of 50, while in others people can work until they are 65 or 70. Meanwhile, we see some politicians enjoying power well into their eighties. Clearly, there is little agreement on an appropriate retirement age. Until what age do you think people should be encouraged to remain in paid employment? Give reasons for your answer. (G, A)
6. In developed and developing countries, people are moving from countryside to city in order to live in better conditions. What are the problems in the countryside that make the rural population migrate? (G, A)

7. In the late twentieth century, the proportion of the world's population living in cities has increased substantially. People have moved in ever-growing numbers from rural to urban areas. As migration from rural areas to the cities continues, it is inevitable that the infrastructure in these cities will collapse. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? (A)
8. In your opinion, should government intervene in the rights of the individual with regard to family planning? (G, A)
9. It has been claimed that workers over 50 are not responsible to rapidly changing ideas in the modern workplace and that for this reason younger workers are to be preferred. To what extent would you support or reject this idea? (A)
10. Some governments say how many children a family can have in their country. They may control the number of children someone has through taxes. It is sometimes necessary and right for a government to control the population in this way. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer. (G)
11. Many famous pop and sport stars earned millions of dollars each. Many other entertainment and sport personalities also have very high incomes. On the other hand, most people in 'ordinary' professions like nurses, doctors and teachers earn only a small fraction of the incomes of these 'stars'. What do you think about stars receiving very high salaries? Is it fair that people with jobs that directly help people are paid much less? Give reasons for your answer. (G)
12. 'Money cannot buy happiness' it is often claimed. But with money you can buy most of the things that are necessary for happiness: good food; accommodation etc. No wonder most people want to make as much money as possible. Discuss. (G)
13. People can no longer expect a job for life. What should individuals and governments do to prepare the current and future environment for different working conditions? (G, A)
14. People in modern cities live under too much stress and something should be done about it. Do you agree? (G)
15. People should not work too hard – they should remember the importance of leisure activities. Do you agree? (G, A)
16. The age of Information technology has taken a lot of people by surprise. While it has become a way of life for some, others know very little about it and may be unlikely to learn. Eventually we will have a polarized society and this will lead to serious social problems. To what extent do you agree with this statement? (A)
17. To what extent has the traditional male role changed in the last 20 years? (G, A)

SPORT

1. It is very important that children should study hard at school. Time spent playing sport is time wasted. Do you agree? (G)
2. International sports competitions are the best way to prevent conflict. National feelings can be expressed in friendly competitions, rather than fighting and sports heroes are better role models than fighters. The large sums of money spent on international sport competitions such as the Olympic Games are therefore justified. Do you agree? (G, A)
3. Popular events like the football World Cup and other international sporting occasions are essential in easing international tensions and releasing patriotic emotions in a safe way. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (A, G)
4. Sports which depend on violence for their entertainment, such as boxing and wrestling, have no place in a civilised society and should be banned. To what extent do you support or reject this idea? (A)

TECHNOLOGY

1. computers are essential in the modern office these days. Write about the advantages and disadvantages of relying on computers to run a small business. (G, A)
2. Mobile phones have changed our lifestyles for ever, but not all the changes are for the best. Discuss pros and cons of owning a mobile phone. (G)
3. Advances in science and technology and other areas of society in the last 100 years have transformed the way we live as well as postponing the day we die. There is no better time to be alive than now. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (A)
4. Describe the role of the Internet in modern society. (G)
5. In the future robots will be used in many everyday life situations. We hear about their benefits, but closer examination reveals many more disadvantages. There are more advantages than disadvantages to robots. Do you agree? (A)
6. In what ways has information technology changed work and working practices in the past 10 years? (G, A)
7. Many people believe that the Internet is the most revolutionary new invention of the last century. Do you agree? (A)
8. Modern science and technology can solve environmental problems, such as pollution and global warming, if we apply enough resources to research. How far do you agree with this statement? (A)
9. Modern technology has increased our material wealth but has decreased our personal happiness. To what extent do you agree? (A)
10. People throughout the world are ignoring the dangers of environmental pollution and of global warming in the hope that science and technology can find solutions. This is not true. We all need take the responsibility for the damage we are causing, and must change our lifestyles. Do you support this opinion? (G)
11. There have been many technological developments in the 20th century, for example in transport, telecommunication and health. What technological development do you think has been the most important? How has it changed people's lives? Have all the changes been positive? Give reasons for your answer. (G, A)
12. We live in a technological age. However, technology cannot solve all the world's problems. Therefore some people argue that we need to place less emphasis on technological solutions and more on other values. To what extent do you agree with this opinion? (A)
13. Will modern technology, such as the Internet ever replace the book or the written word as the main source of information? (G, A)
14. What do you consider the major achievement of the 20th century? (G)
15. When a country develops its technology, the traditional skills and ways of life die out. It is pointless to try and keep them alive. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (A)
16. Face-to-face communication is better than other types of communication, such as letters, email, or telephone calls. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (G)
17. Some people say that computers have made life easier and more convenient. Other people say that computers have made life more complex and stressful. What is your opinion? (G, A)
18. Some people think that the automobile has improved modern life. Others think that the automobile has caused serious problems. What is your opinion? (G, A)
19. Telephones and email have made communication between people less personal. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (G)
20. Some people think governments should spend as much money as possible exploring outer space (for example, traveling to the Moon and to other planets). Other people disagree and

think governments should spend this money for our basic needs on Earth. Which of these two opinions do you agree with? (A)

21. A report written in the 1960s made the following claim: "Machine translation (MT) is slower and less accurate than human translation and there is no immediate or predictable likelihood of machines taking over this role from humans." To what extent do you think this is still true today? Could a machine ever take the place of a human translator or interpreter? (A)

TV, MASS MEDIA

1. Children spend far too much time in front of television and computer screens. How their time could be controlled? (G)
2. Do we become used to bad news? Would it be better if more good news was reported? (G)
3. Have newspapers become a medium of the past or do they still play an important role in people's lives? (G)
4. In almost every country there are laws regulating the content of films, videos, books and newspapers. Should the media be controlled in this way? What are the benefits and risks of censorship? (G, A)
5. It is often claimed that television and films encourage violence. What is your opinion? (G)
6. Many modern children spend a great deal of their time sitting in front of a television or computer screen. This is extremely harmful for their development. Therefore parents should strictly limit the time that children spend this way. Do you agree? (G)
7. Many newspapers and magazines feature stories about the private lives of famous people. We know what they eat, where they buy their clothes and who they love. We also often see pictures of them in private situations. Is it appropriate for a magazine or newspaper to give this kind of private information about people? Give reasons for your answer. (G)
8. News editors decide what to broadcast on TV and what to print in newspapers. What factors do you think influence their decisions? (G, A)
9. Television does more harm than good, according to many critics. Do you agree with this? (G)
10. Television is now widespread in all communities. Almost everyone has access to this medium on a daily basis. However, the effects of television are not always positive. What are some of the negative effects of television? What can be done to minimize these bad effects? Give reasons for your answer. (G, A)
11. 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. (G, A)
12. The average British child between the ages of 4 and 15 watches more than 20 hours of television a week. Studies show she/he spends about 7 hours per week on physical exercise. How does this compare with the situation in your country? How can parents make sure children get enough exercise? Give reasons for your answer. (G)
13. TV: could you be without it? Discuss. (G)
14. How do movies or television influence people's behavior? (G)
15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television has destroyed communication among friends and family. (G)
16. We are surrounded by advertising. Some people think that it is good because it gives us choice as consumers, but others argue that it makes people selfish and greedy for more and more goods. Do you think there should be less advertising? (G, A)
17. With modern telecommunications, even people who live in very remote areas have access to television. However, even though television is clearly very popular, the effects on people of

watching television are often negative. What can be done to protect the community from these negative effects? (G, A)

18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television, newspapers, magazines, and other media pay too much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public figures and celebrities. (G)
19. It is generally agreed that society benefits from the work of its members. Compare the contributions of artists to society with the contributions of scientists to society. Which type of contribution do you think is valued more by your society? (A)
20. When famous people such as actors, athletes and rock stars give their opinions, many people listen. Do you think we should pay attention to these opinions? (G)

TOURISM

1. It has been suggested that in the not-too-distant future, people will take their holidays on the moon. How realistic do you think this is? What type of holidays do you think people will take in the future? (G)
2. According to those in the travel business, the nature of the average 'holiday' is changing. Rather than seeking a relaxing break in a far-away place, people now want excitement on their holidays and are keen to participate in an unusual and challenging activities. Do you agree or disagree? (G)
3. Give useful tips for a foreigner coming to your country: how to become successful in everyday communication in Russia? (G)
4. Most of the world's poor live in countries where tourism is a growing industry. The issue is that tourism does not benefit the poorest. How can income generated by tourism benefit the poor? And how can we ensure that tourism does not destroy traditional cultures and ways of life? What are your views? (A)
5. Tourism is becoming increasingly important as a source of revenue to many countries but its disadvantages should not be overlooked. (A)
6. Tourism is a modern form of colonialism. It distorts local economies, causes environmental damage and ruins the places it exploits. To what extent do you support or reject this idea? (A)
7. Some people prefer to live in places that have the same weather or climate all year long. Others like to live in areas where the weather changes several times a year. Which do you prefer? (G)

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