

# Ideas for IELTS Essay Topics



Useful Ideas & Vocabulary  
for over 150 IELTS Essay  
Topics.

For Academic & GT IELTS Writing Task 2.

**IELTS Liz**

# Volume I

## Topics A - E

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This book contains useful ideas for essay topics which can be used for IELTS writing task 2. The ideas presented are not intended to influence any person's personal opinions and do not represent the opinions of the author.

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## Message from IELTS Liz



*I hope you find this e-book useful not only for your IELTS exam preparation but also for your English language development as a whole. I believe that the joy of learning a language never stops. For this reason, I have tried to fill this e-book with as much useful and interesting language as possible. I hope you will continue learning from it well after you have received your IELTS results and moved forward with your future plans.*

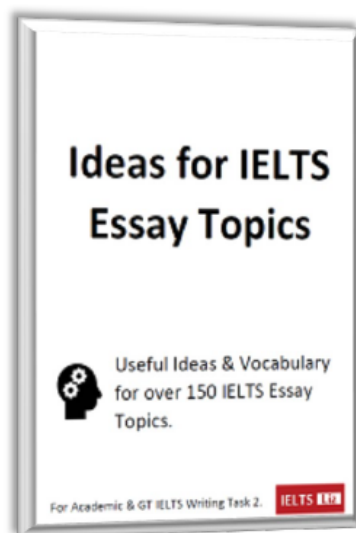
*To help you prepare ideas for IELTS writing task 2, I have tried to cover all the main topics that commonly appear. These topics are presented in a way to help you develop range and accuracy in your English vocabulary. I hope you enjoy the exercises.*

*Please watch the introduction video that comes with this e-book. It will give you an insight into how to use these materials appropriately to improve your score in IELTS writing task 2.*

*The keys to success in IELTS are adequate preparation, strong English and confidence. This e-book will help you take one very large step along that road. I wish you lots of luck in your test. You can do it!*

*All the best  
Liz*

## About “Ideas for IELTS Essay Topics”



This e-book is for IELTS candidates taking either the Academic or General Training writing task 2 test.

The aim of the book is:

1. to provide you with useful ideas that you can use in your IELTS writing task 2 essay.
2. to help you learn topic related vocabulary for your essay.
3. to help you develop accuracy and awareness of collocations and use of English language through exercises.

Without ideas for topics it is difficult for any IELTS candidate to score well in writing task 2. You are marked on your ability to present and explain relevant ideas that directly address the issue in the essay question. This book will help you gain useful ideas that

you can use in your IELTS essay.

You will find a list of common topics and subtopics listed on the contents page. Each main topic covers the most common sub-topics that appear in IELTS writing task 2. There are 30 main topics in total with ideas for over 150 essay topics.

The ideas are presented as simple exercises to help you think more carefully about the ideas and to help you focus on essential vocabulary for that topic. Once you have completed the exercises, you should review them carefully to learn and remember the ideas.

Please watch the Information video that comes with this e-book to learn more about how to use these materials.

### Can I use these ideas in my essay?

Of course, you can. These ideas are for you to learn and use. You can use the ideas and the vocabulary from this book in your essay.

### Can I memorise sentences from this book to use in my essay?

No. It is not a good idea to memorise full sentences for your essay. IELTS is an English test that is aimed to assess your own level of English, not your ability to memorise someone else's English. This means you can learn the ideas and learn the vocabulary, but in the test you must present the ideas by creating your own sentences.

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## ADVERTISING

## Companies Sponsoring Sports Events for Advertising Purposes

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports teams or players are given free <u>equipment</u> which they could not afford otherwise.</li> <li>Players can focus on their sport instead of being <u>distracted</u> by financial worries.</li> <li>Companies can <u>link their name</u> to successful players.</li> <li>People think positively of companies that <u>donate</u> products and equipment.</li> <li>Sports fans are more interested in the event than in the <u>sponsors' advertising messages</u>.</li> <li>Sports sponsorship provides increased <u>media exposure</u> for a company and its <u>brands</u>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some companies advertise products <u>harmful</u> to health.</li> <li>Tobacco companies, among others, should not be allowed to sponsor sports events.</li> <li>Companies can <u>showcase</u> their products.</li> <li>If the player is unsuccessful, it might <u>affect product sales</u>.</li> <li>The company's <u>reputation</u> can be too tightly linked to a player's reputation.</li> <li>A player who does drugs or <u>misbehaves</u> will have negative consequences for the company and vice versa.</li> </ul>

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** Identify the two arguments which are in the wrong category.

Check the meaning of the words underlined and practise using them.

## Advertising Targeting Children

Problem	Solution
Advertising food and drinks that have high levels of fat and sugar causes child obesity.	⇒ Food advertisements should encourage children to eat only healthy foods.



Little children pester their parents to buy the products advertised on TV and social media.

⇒ Some countries have already banned advertising targeted at young children.

Children are unable to differentiate between the actual TV programmes and commercials.

⇒ It should be illegal to use children's film heroes and favourite cartoon characters in advertisements.

Children have not yet learnt that things cost money or that money needs to be earned.

⇒ Instead of consumerism, advertising could promote creativity and values such as friendship and honesty.

Advertising gives children the illusion that everyone has free access to all material things.

⇒ Both schools and parents need to teach children critical thinking skills.

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Complete these definitions with a suitable word from the sentences about children and advertising.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ is an economic system that encourages people to buy more and more things.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ is the fact of being very fat, in a way that can be harmful to health.
- 3 An \_\_\_\_\_ is something that seems to be true or real, but is not.
- 4 If you \_\_\_\_\_ between two things, you can recognise or show the difference between them.
- 5 If you \_\_\_\_\_ someone for something or to do something, you ask them all the time in a way that is very annoying.
- 6 To \_\_\_\_\_ something means to prohibit it officially.

## Advertising Fast Food

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freedom of choice is one of the key principles of a democratic society.</li> <li>For many people, fast food is more affordable than health food.</li> <li>Without advertising, people would not be able to make informed choices.</li> <li>Nowadays, many fast food products have a 'diet' version and a 'classic' version.</li> <li>Effective advertising helps us understand the difference between fast food and junk food.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Studies have shown a clear link between the regular consumption of fast food and obesity.</li> <li>What people need is more information about how to eat a balanced and healthy diet.</li> <li>There is no need to advertise fast food because it is already everywhere: in school canteens, in supermarkets and in the high street.</li> <li>Fast food is unhealthy and advertising it is irresponsible.</li> <li>Advertising should encourage people to keep fit, not to ruin their health.</li> </ul>

**Matching Exercise:** Match these sentence halves.

**1** If you **make an informed choice** or **decision**,

**a)** is done without thinking about the possible bad consequences.

**2** An **irresponsible** action

**b)** you mean that you have enough money to buy it.

**3** A **balanced diet**

**c)** you mean that there is a connection between them that is easy to see.

**4** If you say that something is **affordable**,

**d)** it is based on knowledge of the situation.

**5** If you say that there is a **clear link** between two things or events,

**e)** is one that gives your body the nutrients it needs to function properly.

## Advertising Encourages Spending

Encourages Unnecessary Spending	Provides Information on Products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertising is often for products and services that we do not really need.</li> <li>A lot of adverts create <b>artificial wants</b>.</li> <li>People often buy things only because of the image of power, success and <b>glamour</b> associated with them.</li> <li>Children are easily influenced by commercials and then pester their parents to buy certain products.</li> <li>The ultimate aim of advertising is to subtly persuade people to buy things.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverts help people save money by informing them about real <b>bargains</b>.</li> <li>Catalogues and brochures enable people to compare products and services at leisure.</li> <li>If you do not have time to <b>shop around</b>, you can <b>rely on</b> advertising to learn about new products.</li> <li>Advertisements inform consumers about the environmental <b>impact</b> of products.</li> <li>Consumers can easily find out if a company supports <b>fair trade</b>.</li> </ul>

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**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Study the words in **bold** in the sentences above. Then use those words to complete the following sentences.

- Advertisements featuring women very often use images of \_\_\_\_\_ and luxury.
- \_\_\_\_\_ ensures that producers and workers in the developing world are paid decently.
- People often buy things not because of real needs, but due to \_\_\_\_\_
- People who have time to \_\_\_\_\_ often manage to pick up some really good \_\_\_\_\_.
- Some countries have laws to prevent and control the negative \_\_\_\_\_ of advertising.
- Today, a large number of consumers \_\_\_\_\_ social networks to guide their purchase decisions.

## Types of Advertising

See answer key for a list of types of advertising.

## ANIMALS

## Protecting Wild Animals

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People have a responsibility to protect the species on this planet.</li> <li>• Loss of species can disrupt the balance of the ecosystem.</li> <li>• Biodiversity is essential _ _ _ (1) the well-being of the planet.</li> <li>• New medicines and treatments can be found by studying animal species.</li> <li>• It is the only way some species can be protected _ _ _ (2) extinction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is too costly. It involves law enforcement, research and security.</li> <li>• Humans should be prioritised _ _ _ (3) animals.</li> <li>• Money should be spent _ _ _ (4) education and healthcare for people.</li> <li>• Species will become extinct. It is part _ _ _ (5) life.</li> <li>• Not all animals are worth saving. Some animals are dangerous.</li> </ul>

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Complete these arguments *for* and *against* protecting wild animals with the correct prepositions.

## Animal Testing

- 1 Animal suffering can be kept to a minimum.
- 2 Animal testing does not mean it is 100% safe for humans.
- 3 Animals are often killed during testing.
- 4 Animals frequently suffer extreme pain.
- 5 Animals have rights as well as humans.
- 6 Drugs must be tested for side effects and safety reasons.
- 7 It can be costly to run experiments on animals.
- 8 It is better for an animal to suffer than for a human to die.
- 9 Research can lead to new treatments and save lives.
- 10 Testing medicines on animals ensures the medicine is safe for human use.

**1 Categorisation Exercise:** Mark the arguments above *for* (+) or *against* (-) animal testing.

**2 Collocations Exercise:** Match items 1 – 3 with items a) – c) to make common collocations. Then read the sentences above again to check your answers.

1 to suffer

a) experiments

2 to run

b) side effects

3 to test for

c) pain

## Decrease in Some Animal Species

1. Declining numbers due to illegal hunting or poaching.
2. Endangered animal products are used in traditional medicines or the fashion industry.
3. Loss of habitat due to deforestation and human habitation.
4. Low breeding numbers.

- a) Develop breeding programmes for endangered species.
- b) Educate people to avoid buying products made from certain species.
- c) House people away from animal habitats.
- d) Organise guards to protect animals, and have harsher punishment for poaching and illegal hunting.

**Matching Exercise:** Match each problem (1-4) to the appropriate solution (a-d).

## Zoos

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoos provide a safe environment for endangered _ _ _ _ _ (1).</li> <li>• Zoos educate people to respect wild animals.</li> <li>• Zoos offer professionally-run breeding programmes.</li> <li>• Zoos provide opportunities for people to have contact with wild animals.</li> <li>• Zoos sometimes provide rehabilitation programmes for animals going back into the _ _ _ _ _ (2).</li> <li>• Animals should have the right to live in their natural _ _ _ _ _ (3).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some animals suffer _ _ _ _ _ (4) at the hands of zoo keepers, staff or visitors.</li> <li>• Holding wild animals in _ _ _ _ _ (5) is wrong.</li> <li>• People do not learn to respect animals if these are held behind bars.</li> <li>• The _ _ _ _ _ (6) and enclosures are often too small for the animals.</li> <li>• Some animals live in social groups in the wild and cannot adapt to a solitary life in a zoo.</li> <li>• Zoos are artificial environments that constrain an animal's natural behavior.</li> </ul>

captivity   cruelty   habitat   species   cages   wild

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the words in the box to complete the arguments *for* and *against* zoos.

## Man's Relationship with Animals

Past	Present
Animals were used predominantly for agricultural purposes.	⇒ In the developed world, farmers now use machines for agriculture.
Man's diet often tended to be meat-based.	⇒ There are many vegetarians and vegans nowadays.



Wild animals were hunted for food or sport.	⇒ Many animal species are now protected by law, and hunting them is illegal.
In earlier times, horses, oxen and dogs were working animals.	⇒ Dogs can be trained to guide or rescue people and also to track down criminals.
Animals were essentially a source of food.	⇒ Some animals are being used as companions.
All animals used to be wild.	⇒ A large number of animal species have become domesticated.

**1 Spot the Mistake Exercise:** Identify the pair of statements which does not provide a Past/Present contrast.

**2 Vocabulary Exercise:** Find words and phrases in the sentences above that mean:

- 1 people or animals to spend a lot of time with
- 2 an animal that has been tamed or is kept as a pet
- 3 people who do not eat or use products derived from animals
- 4 to detect or uncover

## ART

Art : things such as paintings, sculptures, drawings, etc that are made for people to look at and admire or think about.

The arts: art, music, dance, theatre, film, literature, etc all considered together.

## Supporting the Arts

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art is a way to express ideas and communicate concepts.</li> <li>• The government is responsible for protecting culture.</li> <li>• People can learn from art and be inspired by it.</li> <li>• Art encourages creativity and promotes harmony in society.</li> <li>• Art teaches people about their own culture and history.</li> <li>• Without government funding, some artists would not be able to work.</li> <li>• Most artists do not make enough money to support themselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art does not play a vital role in society.</li> <li>• Artists should earn their own living.</li> <li>• Funding could be better granted to more pressing social issues.</li> <li>• The healthcare system needs more funding than the arts.</li> <li>• Education should be prioritised over art.</li> <li>• People's basic needs should be put before luxuries such as art.</li> <li>• There are enough wealthy patrons around to subsidise the arts.</li> </ul>

**Collocations Exercise:** Match the verbs 1 – 5 with the nouns a) – e) to make common collocations. Answers can be checked in Exercise 2.

1 to promote

2 to encourage

3 to grant

4 to communicate

5 to subsidise

a) the arts

b) harmony

c) concepts

d) creativity

e) funding to sb/sth



## Censoring the Arts

**1 Matching and Categorising Exercise:** Match these sentence halves. Are the completed sentences *for* (+) or *against* (-) censoring the arts? See the Answer Key for more ideas for this topic.

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Some art criticises religion     | a) creativity without any restrictions.           |
| 2 Children need to be protected    | b) whether a work of art is suitable or not.      |
| 3 Art should encourage             | c) and is deeply offensive.                       |
| 4 People can decide for themselves | d) from certain forms of art that are unsuitable. |

**2 Collocations Exercise:** Match the verbs 1 – 4 with the nouns a) – d) to make common collocations.

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 to fuel        | a) hatred         |
| 2 to incite      | b) guidelines     |
| 3 to develop     | c) violence       |
| 4 to work within | d) original ideas |

## Children Learning Art

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children learn to express themselves through creativity.</li> <li>Children enjoy creating images.</li> <li>Children can learn about the history through art. (1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art is not an essential subject for children to learn it. (3)</li> <li>Art will not help children develop useful skills.</li> <li>Art will not help for children find a job later on. (4)</li> </ul>

- Art can teach a children about their culture. (2)
- Children can develop social skills by doing art projects.

- The school curriculum should focus on core subjects such as maths and science.
- Children can pursue their interest in art at the home. (5)

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** In arguments 1 – 5 above, there is *one extra word* which does not fit. Spot the incorrect extra word.

## Free Admission to Art Galleries and Museums

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free entry enables the general public to _ _ _ _ _ (1) about their own history.</li> <li>• Children will be _ _ _ _ _ (2) to visit.</li> <li>• It helps promote a country's cultural heritage.</li> <li>• It promotes national pride.</li> <li>• Art should be accessible to people of all income groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The money can be used to _ _ _ _ _ (3) and protect works of art.</li> <li>• People _ _ _ _ _ (4) what they pay for.</li> <li>• The income from entry fees means that the government has more money to spend on more vital areas.</li> <li>• Free admission leads to overcrowding, which soon discourages art-loving visitors.</li> <li>• The money generated from entry fees can _ _ _ _ _ (5) for insufficient government subsidies.</li> </ul>

restore   respect   compensate   encourage   learn

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the correct form of the verbs in the box to complete these arguments *for* and *against* free admission to art galleries and museums.

## BUILDINGS AND HOUSING

## Renting or Buying Houses

Renting	Buying
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more economical in the short term.</li> <li>• People can easily downsize when money is short.</li> <li>• People are not affected by changing house prices.</li> <li>• People can relocate more easily for work.</li> <li>• The landlord is responsible for repairs and maintenance, not the tenant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly mortgage payments benefit home owners not landlords.</li> <li>• Buying can be an investment if house prices rise.</li> <li>• You renovate and decorate as you want.</li> <li>• You cannot be asked to move.</li> <li>• Your property becomes a reflection of your lifestyle, a place you can really call 'home'.</li> </ul>

**1 Sentence Completion Exercise:** Complete these definitions with a suitable word from the sentences about renting / buying a house.

- 1 A \_\_\_\_\_ is money you borrow from a bank to buy a house.
- 2 A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who pays for the place they live in.
- 3 If people or businesses \_\_\_\_\_, they move to a different place.
- 4 If you \_\_\_\_\_, you move to a smaller house or flat.
- 5 Something that is \_\_\_\_\_ is not too expensive, so that you are able to buy it.

**2 Synonyms Exercise:** Find the odd-one-out in each of the groups of synonyms below.

- 1 rise / go up / climb / increase / steep
- 2 cheap / affordable / thrifty / low-cost
- 3 enrich / spruce up / do up / decorate
- 4 homeless / strapped for cash / stone-broke / hard up

## Planting Trees or Building Houses

Planting Trees	Building Houses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green spaces are necessary for people's wellbeing.</li> <li>• Improving living conditions can reduce crime rates.</li> <li>• Trees buffer sound.</li> <li>• Trees are an essential part of a city's ecosystem.</li> <li>• Trees are necessary for urban wildlife.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overpopulation is a problem in most cities.</li> <li>• Poor living conditions can result in serious health concerns.</li> <li>• Urban space is limited and housing is more essential than trees.</li> <li>• Without affordable housing, cities are unable to develop further.</li> <li>• Housing is a basic human need.</li> </ul>

**1 Sentence Building Exercise:** Put the words and phrases in the correct order to make sentences.

1 will / without / living conditions / suitable / deteriorate / housing

2 oxygen / which / trees / air pollution / produce / counteracts

3 and / areas / relaxation / parks / for / provide / exercise

4 suitable / lack / overpopulation / of / to / housing / leads / a

**2 Question:** Do these sentences support planting trees or building houses?

## Building Houses in Urban or Rural Areas

Building in Urban Areas	Building in Rural Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More housing in cities will promote a bigger workforce.</li> <li>• Workers will not need to _ _ _ _ (1) long distances to get to work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New towns can be properly planned in the countryside.</li> <li>• Rural areas offer healthier living conditions without _ _ _ _ (3) pollution</li> </ul>

- People will be able to walk or cycle to work.
- Walking to work will benefit the environment.
- Many cities have \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (2) areas that could be turned into housing or public spaces.
- More people will have access to public facilities such as libraries and sports centres, as these are often located in urban areas.

or \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (4) problems.

- The countryside is a better place for children to be brought up in.
- Urban areas should be used for economic development rather than housing.
- Land in rural areas is cheaper, which will \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (5) the cost of housing.
- New job opportunities will \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (6) for rural residents.

widespread   commute   sanitation   derelict   open up   reduce

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

## Protecting Old Buildings IELTS Liz

- 1 A building is not necessarily valuable just because it is old.
- 2 Buildings offer an insight into a country's past.
- 3 Land in cities is needed for businesses and commerce.
- 4 Many old buildings are aesthetically pleasing to the eye.
- 5 There are financial advantages to attracting tourists.
- 6 Old buildings represent the cultural identity of a country.
- 7 Space is needed for housing to deal with overcrowding.
- 8 The historical or cultural value of a building is more important than its age.
- 9 Tourists are drawn toward old historical buildings.
- 10 Urban space can be better used to promote development.

**Categorisation Exercise:** Mark the above arguments for (+) or against (-) protecting old buildings.

## Open Plan Office Designs

**1 Matching and Categorising Exercise:** Match these sentence halves. Are the completed sentences for (+) or against (-) an open plan office design? See the answer key for more ideas for this topic.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Illness can spread more easily | a) other people's mess and clutter.        |
| 2 It can sometimes feel          | b) more communication between staff.       |
| 3 It offers a flexible           | c) when everyone works in close proximity. |
| 4 Staff can be affected by       | d) workspace for a high turnover of staff. |
| 5 Without walls, there will be   | e) disorganised with a lack of hierarchy.  |

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## BUSINESS

## The Closure of Small Businesses

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local businesses do not offer as broad a range of products as bigger businesses do.</li> <li>Large, international businesses provide more job opportunities.</li> <li>Globalisation renders international companies inevitable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small businesses are more aware of local needs and demand for specific products or services.</li> <li>Local businesses support local communities and get involved in their activities.</li> <li>Local businesses build a sense of community.</li> </ul>

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Complete the explanations with appropriate words and phrases from the sentences.

1 'A \_\_\_\_\_ of products' means the same as 'a wide selection of products'.

2 If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it cannot be avoided or prevented.

3 If you \_\_\_\_\_ in an activity or in an event, you take part in it, or you are connected with it in some way.

4 'To \_\_\_\_\_' means 'to cause someone or something to be in a particular state'.

5 'To be \_\_\_\_\_ of something' means 'to know that it exists'.

## Problems with International Businesses for Local Communities

Problem	Solutions
Local businesses cannot compete with large, international businesses.	⇒ Local businesses should be subsidised by the government.

Large businesses do not shape the local community, whereas local businesses do.

⇒ Big companies should work alongside local businesses to support the community.

The burden of high taxation makes it difficult for many small businesses to survive.

⇒ Global corporations should be granted further tax cuts.

Local communities lose their uniqueness as international companies are the same the world over.

⇒ Local people should remain loyal to local businesses.

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** Identify the pair of statements where the solution to the stated problem does not make sense.

## Businesses Providing Sports Facilities for Employees

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff have the chance to improve their health.</li> <li>• Healthy staff means increased productivity.</li> <li>• It provides an incentive for staff to remain loyal to the company.</li> <li>• It can encourage new staff to join the company.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A person's health is their own responsibility, not a company's problem.</li> <li>• Sports facilities are too expensive for small businesses.</li> <li>• It would be better for companies to spend more money on other aspects of work, such as salary increases, bonuses and extra time off.</li> <li>• Paid maternity and paternity leave is a much better incentive than sports facilities.</li> </ul>

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Find words and phrases in the sentences that mean:

**1** time that a parent can spend away from their job when they have a new baby.

**2** things like swimming pools, tennis courts, gyms, etc.

**3** something that encourages a person to do something.



4 an amount of money added as a reward to someone's usual pay.

5 time when you are allowed not to be at work.

## Businesses should Support Local Communities

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It ensures the cooperation of the community.</li> <li>A _____ (1) community is essential for good business.</li> <li>It offers a chance for marketing and promotion.</li> <li>People realise that not all businesses are run with the sole purpose of making as much profit as _____ (2) for their owners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities should be supported by the government, not by businesses.</li> <li>Most businesses do not have the funds _____ (3).</li> <li>Businesses should focus on their own growth.</li> <li>International companies should not be _____ (4) for solving local problems</li> </ul>

available   possible   responsible   thriving

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the words in the box to complete the arguments *for* and *against* the idea that businesses should support local communities.

## Marketing is the Key to Success

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marketing helps promote products to the public.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-trained, competent staff are the key to success.</li> </ul>

**Matching and Categorising Exercise:** Match these sentence halves. Are the completed sentences *for* (+) or *against* (-) the key role of marketing?

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Without good budgeting,             | a) to buy and increases sales.           |
| 2 Unless people hear about a product, | b) should sell itself.                   |
| 3 Marketing encourages people         | c) better known and raise their profile. |
| 4 Companies can become                | d) public access to a business.          |
| 5 A good product                      | e) they are unlikely to buy it.          |
| 6 A good location is essential for    | f) a business can go bankrupt.           |

## People Buying Things They Do Not Need

Cause	Effect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertising influences people and encourages them to buy things</li> <li>Some people always want the latest model of anything in order to enhance their self-image.</li> <li>People like to compete with their neighbours to have the latest gadgets – the “Keeping up with the Joneses” syndrome.</li> <li>Some people become addicted to shopping and fashion.</li> <li>People who are unhappy think ‘retail therapy’ will help them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consumerism can boost the economy. It can create business and jobs. (+)</li> <li>People can keep pace with the fast-changing technology. (+)</li> <li>People may overspend and get into debt. (-)</li> <li>Society becomes a ‘throw-away society’ producing unnecessary waste. (-)</li> <li>Increased demand for products can result in more low-quality products being made. (-)</li> </ul>

**Collocations Exercise:** Match the verbs 1 – 5 with the phrases a) – e) to make common collocations.

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 to enhance      | a) into debt        |
| 2 to keep up with | b) one's self-image |

3 to become addicted

4 to keep

5 to get

c) pace with the technology

d) to something

e) the Joneses

Note: The above topic is based on consumerism.

## Business & Staff Uniforms

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A branded work uniform sets a company apart from its competitors.</li> <li>It promotes equality between a staff. (1)</li> <li>Uniforms look professional and project a good image.</li> <li>It fosters solidarity between staff and makes them feel part of a team.</li> <li>Some uniforms they are essential for hygiene or safety reasons. (2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People should have the right to wear what they want.</li> <li>Uncomfortable uniforms can have a negative effect and on work performance. (3)</li> <li>It is better to have a dress code than for a uniform. (4)</li> <li>Some uniforms are not flattering for some employees.</li> <li>Some staff do not like wearing the uniforms. (5)</li> </ul>

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** In arguments 1 - 5 above, there is *one extra word* which does not fit. Spot the incorrect extra word.

## Business Success is Measured by Money

- 1 Good customer feedback shows that people are satisfied with the product or service offered.
- 2 A successful business must make a profit.
- 3 If a business fails to make money, it will close.
- 4 Job satisfaction in running a business is a sign of success.
- 5 No company can be successful if they are failing financially.
- 6 Shareholders naturally expect a company to make a profit.
- 7 The number of customers shows the potential of a healthy company.
- 8 The reach of a company is more important than the money it makes.

9 Employee performance is a good way to measure productivity and efficiency.

**Categorisation Exercise:** Mark the arguments above *for* (+) or *against* (-) the idea that business success is measured by money. There are four of each.

## Family-run Businesses are Best

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work schedules can be adjusted and cover more easily found.</li> <li>• Family members trust each other.</li> <li>• Decisions will be made that benefit the entire family.</li> <li>• Family members have a shorter learning curve because they have grown up with the business.</li> <li>• Non-family employees may find it difficult to integrate.</li> <li>• The business can be passed down through the generations.</li> <li>• Directors and managers who are family members will work harder and be more dedicated.</li> <li>• The work atmosphere will be more relaxed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all family members will have the same aims for the company.</li> <li>• Family members might not have the required skills to be successful managers or directors resulting in mediocre business performance.</li> <li>• Business disputes can lead to family conflicts because issues become subjective rather than objective.</li> <li>• Family businesses are usually a lot less bureaucratic.</li> <li>• There might be a bias toward promoting family members ahead of non-related staff.</li> <li>• Ideas may become stale and fresh perspectives might be difficult to find.</li> </ul>

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** Identify the two arguments which are in the wrong category.

## CHARACTER &amp; PEOPLE

## Success: Is it Innate or Achieved?

Innate	Learned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imagination and creativity are inborn qualities necessary for success.</li> <li>Being naturally gifted makes you successful earlier in life, and success breeds success.</li> <li>Some people are born with talent, which gives them a head start in life.</li> <li>There are many examples of child prodigies. Mozart could compose music at the age of five.</li> <li>It is undeniable that some people have natural abilities that make them successful.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some very talented people are lazy and do not achieve anything in life.</li> <li>We can learn a lot from our mistakes.</li> <li>Success results from determination and hard work.</li> <li>Giftedness is not a guarantee for success later in life.</li> <li>The more effort we put in, the more we practise a skill, the better we become.</li> </ul>

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Complete these definitions with a suitable expression from the sentences about success.

1 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a young child who is extremely skilled in something.

2 A \_\_\_\_\_ is an advantage that you have over other people.

3 If you say that something is \_\_\_\_\_, you are absolutely sure that it is true.

4 '\_\_\_\_\_' means the same as 'causes'.

5 '\_\_\_\_\_' means the same as 'innate'.

6 '\_\_\_\_\_' means the same as 'talented'.

## Celebrities are Role Models and Should Behave Well in Public

Agree	Disagree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebrities should behave responsibly because they exert an enormous influence on teenagers.</li> <li>Celebrities are always in the spotlight.</li> <li>Young people need positive role models in order to live with hope, integrity and compassion.</li> <li>Young people need to see that you can be very successful and a very good person at the same time.</li> <li>Celebrities are needed to compensate for the lack of positive role models among politicians and business people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A celebrity's job is to entertain people, not to set a moral example.</li> <li>Some stars only want to gain a lot of publicity and achieve fame.</li> <li>Parents and teachers rather than celebrities should be role models.</li> <li>Like everyone else, celebrities may have moral shortcomings or make the wrong life choices.</li> <li>Celebrities do not ask people to worship them.</li> </ul>

**Collocations Exercise:** Match the verbs 1 – 5 with the nouns a) – e) to make common collocations used in the sentences about celebrities.

1 to set

2 to live with

3 to gain

4 to exert

5 to achieve

a) fame

b) a moral example

c) an influence

d) publicity

e) integrity

## Leadership: Are Leadership Skills Innate or Learned?

Innate	Learned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some people are born with a _____ (1) personality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ (5) to stand up for what you believe in can be learned through training and practice.</li> </ul>



- Having a powerful presence is not something that can be learned.
- Being \_\_\_\_\_ (2) and having good \_\_\_\_\_ (3) skills to influence people through words is essential for a leader.
- People cannot learn to be positive, inspiring or enthusiastic.
- Some people are genetically \_\_\_\_\_ (4) to become leaders.

- Some people only become leaders later in life.
- Life experience is important for leaders to learn essential skills.
- Leadership requires \_\_\_\_\_ (6), which can be developed and learned over time.
- Leadership consists of several skills which can all be learned and developed.

confidence oratory charismatic predisposed articulate assertiveness

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the correct words in the box to complete the sentences above.

## Change: Some People Like Change while Others do Not

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Change	No change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People prefer to experience different aspects of life by changing their environment.</li> <li>• Change is a healthy way to live and grow.</li> <li>• Change is unavoidable.</li> <li>• Change makes life more interesting.</li> <li>• Getting into a rut leads to dissatisfaction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People prefer to avoid change to stay within their comfort zone.</li> <li>• Change is often considered unsafe and unpredictable.</li> <li>• Change can cause anxiety and worry.</li> <li>• Some people only thrive in a stable environment.</li> <li>• Many people find happiness in a stable relationship and a stable job.</li> </ul>

**Matching Exercise:** Match the sentence halves below.

## Ideas for IELTS Essay Topics

1 Your **comfort zone**

2 **Dissatisfaction**

3 If you **get into a rut**,

4 If you say that something is  
**unavoidable**,

5 If you say that something is  
**unpredictable**,

6 If a company, a person, etc **thrives**,

a) is the feeling you have when you are  
not pleased or successful.

b) you mean that it cannot be made to  
stop happening.

c) they become successful or strong  
and healthy.

d) is the range of situations in which  
you feel confident and at ease.

e) you start living in a fixed way that  
you find boring and cannot easily  
change.

f) you mean that you cannot say in  
advance whether it will happen or  
what it will be like.

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## CRIME &amp; PUNISHMENT

## Increase in Crime Rates

Causes

- 1 A lack of police on the streets can result in more opportunistic crime.
- 2 All too often, criminals get off very lightly.
- 3 Poverty encourages some people to turn to crime in order to pay bills and meet family responsibilities.
- 4 Unemployment can lead people to crime due to financial pressure and also lack of structure in their daily lives.
- 5 Young people can easily turn to crime from peer pressure or lack of parental guidance.

Solutions

- a) Harsher punishment can deter people from crime.
- b) Offering training programmes can stimulate employment, bring hope and give structure to people's lives.
- c) Schools and parents should teach young people to shun criminal and anti-social behaviour.
- d) Seeing more police officers on the beat might put people off criminal behaviour.
- e) The government should increase social benefits to alleviate poverty.

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**Matching Exercise:** Match each cause (1 – 5) with its solution (a – e).

## Long Term Prison Sentences

- 1 Criminals are locked away and society is effectively protected.
- 2 Criminals leaving prison after long periods of incarceration find it hard to adapt to life on the outside.
- 3 It keeps criminals off the streets and prevents them from re-offending so often.
- 4 A lengthy punishment illustrates that the crime is wrong.
- 5 Offenders are deterred by long sentences.
- 6 Criminals receive punishment only rather than training or rehabilitation programmes.
- 7 Taxpayers must foot the bill for long term accommodation.

**Categorisation Exercise:** Label the arguments above for (+) or against (-) long term prison sentences.

## Re-Offending After Release from Prison

Causes	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with a criminal record are not accepted by society.</li> <li>• Ex-convicts are unable to find paid employment.</li> <li>• They are conditioned by life in prison and cannot adapt to life outside prison.</li> <li>• Criminal behaviour is a mindset.</li> <li>• Peer pressure from other offenders has a negative effect.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ex-convicts should receive counselling before re-entering society.</li> <li>• Training programmes in prison can help offenders develop new skills.</li> <li>• Criminals must be rehabilitated to avoid anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>• Rehabilitation programmes should help them make the right choices in life.</li> <li>• Rehabilitation programmes should tackle the social exclusion of offenders and their families.</li> </ul>

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Find the odd-one-out in each of these groups of words and phrases. Use a good dictionary to help you if necessary.

1 a criminal / an offender / a prosecutor / a delinquent / a lawbreaker

2 to imprison / to incarcerate / to put behind bars / to jail / to sentence

3 to break the law / to commit an offence / to turn to crime / to go on trial / to get into trouble /

## Internet Crime / Cybercrime

Types of Crimes	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hacking computers and databases to obtain financial and private information.</li> <li>• Hacking people's emails and computers to hold them for ransom.</li> <li>• Money laundering online.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People need to take responsibility for their own internet security.</li> <li>• People should not pay a company that they do not know.</li> <li>• The government needs stricter control of the internet.</li> </ul>

- Fraudulent companies selling online.
- Racial and sexual harassment.
- Targeting and exploiting children.

- Parents need to monitor their children's online activities.
- People should buy good anti-virus software and use strong passwords.
- Parents need to talk to children about the internet and its dangers.

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Find words and phrases in the sentences above that mean:

1 behaviour intended to trouble or annoy someone

2 dishonest and illegal

3 gaining unauthorised access to a computer system

4 money to be paid to a criminal in order to get back something they have stolen

5 processing money that has been obtained illegally through legitimate businesses or banks so that it seems to have been obtained legally

6 to watch and check carefully for a period of time.

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## Advanced Technology to Solve & Prevent Crime

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminals or criminal groups can be tracked by electronic surveillance.</li> <li>• Data mapping allows the police to access information.</li> <li>• Online chatter can be monitored in real-time.</li> <li>• Plans for crime can be uncovered online.</li> <li>• Bystanders can record crimes in action on their smart phones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many low-tech crimes are still being committed.</li> <li>• Some crimes are spur of the moment and cannot be tracked beforehand.</li> <li>• Re-education is the best prevention of crime.</li> <li>• The internet is too vast to effectively control or monitor.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some criminals have better technological skills than the police.</li> </ul>
--	--

1 Police can gain \_\_\_\_\_ to information online by data mapping.

2 Not all crimes being \_\_\_\_\_ are high tech.

3 Police can \_\_\_\_\_ online communication channels.

4. Unpremeditated crimes cannot be prevented by electronic \_\_\_\_\_.

**Collocations Exercise:** Complete the sentences above using words from the table.

## Fixed Punishment for all Crimes

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Punishment will be objective and not depend on the judge's opinion.</li> <li>It means that being able to afford a good <b>defence attorney</b> will not affect the punishment given, which leads to greater equality.</li> <li>It saves time in court and is more cost effective.</li> <li>It is a more effective <b>deterrent</b> when people know the exact consequences for the crime they commit.</li> <li>It prevents any <b>corruption</b> within the legal system affecting the punishment given.</li> <li>It prevents criminal slipping through <b>loopholes</b> in the law.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not all crimes are committed under the same circumstances.</li> <li>A person who plans a violent crime with clear intention should not receive the same punishment as someone who acts in <b>self-defence</b>.</li> <li>Personal circumstances, such as extreme poverty or mental health, should be taken into account.</li> <li>Not all people who commit a crime are violent or aggressive by nature.</li> <li>A person who has never committed a crime should not receive the same punishment as a <b>repeat offender</b> with a long prison record.</li> </ul>

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Study the words in **bold** in the sentences above. Then use those words to complete the following sentences.

1 At his trial, Alex Verknoopf pleaded \_\_\_\_\_ and was jailed for four years for manslaughter.

- 2 It may well be that the prospect of being caught and punished is a more potent \_\_\_\_\_ than the prospect of a harsh sentence.
- 3 People often get worried when a \_\_\_\_\_ is released back into their community.
- 4 Tax avoiders sometimes use the services of accountants to locate and exploit \_\_\_\_\_ in the tax system for them.
- 5 The job of a \_\_\_\_\_ is to fight for their client no matter what.
- 6 Youth unemployment, organised crime, \_\_\_\_\_ and a stagnating economy are the main problems facing our country.

## Juvenile Crime

Causes	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Violence in the media can affect young people's attitudes and behaviour.</li> <li>Lack of parental guidance can lead teenagers to delinquency.</li> <li>Peer pressure and gangs can _____ (1) an adverse influence on the young.</li> <li>Lack of interests and direction can _____ (2) youngsters astray.</li> <li>Domestic violence can force young people onto the streets and into bad company.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ (3) the viewing time of violent films and online games.</li> <li>Parents must set clear guidelines and rules.</li> <li>_____ (4) parents to take an active role in their child's life.</li> <li>The government should have supervised social clubs where youths can go in their free time.</li> <li>Encourage youngsters to _____ (5) a sport or a hobby.</li> <li>Set up more helplines and support groups for young people from troubled family backgrounds.</li> <li>Schools should organise more interesting and involving extracurricular activities.</li> </ul>

encourage   exert   lead   limit   take up

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the correct form of the verbs in the box to complete the sentences about juvenile crime.



## Juveniles Receiving Adult Punishment

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juveniles need to know that the law is serious and punishment is a good way to teach them this.</li> <li>Violent crime should carry the harshest sentence.</li> <li>Teenagers are fully aware of their actions and know the rules of society.</li> <li>People with a violent nature should be removed from society as early as possible.</li> <li>Adult sentences are too severe for youngsters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juveniles are not fully responsible for their actions.</li> <li>Teenagers need re-education and re-socialisation, not punishment.</li> <li>A crime is a crime regardless of age.</li> <li>Bad behaviour is easier to change when a person is young.</li> <li>Youngsters might be negatively influenced by time in adult prisons.</li> </ul>

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** Identify the two arguments which are in the wrong category.

## The Death Penalty

Note:

the death penalty (with "the")

~~the~~ capital punishment (without "the")

For	Against
Capital punishment deters criminals from _ _ _ (1) crime.	Innocent people wrongly _ _ _ _ (3) might be killed.
It sends a clear message that crime is _ _ _ (2) wrong.	Executing someone is _ _ _ _ (4) to killing or murdering someone.
It eliminates the possibility of criminals re-offending.	There is no pain free way to kill someone.

It is a cost-effective punishment and a cheaper alternative to prison	It is better to re-educate and _ _ _ _ _ (5) criminals.
Criminals who commit heinous crimes should be put to death to protect society.	The death penalty does not effectively reduce the crime rate.

equivalent    contemplating    convicted    morally    re-socialise

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the verbs in the box to complete the sentences.

## Responsibility for Crime in Society

The Government	Individuals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government has the responsibility to allocate more funds to policing the streets.</li> <li>The government should set up a more counter-terrorist units. (1)</li> <li>Cybercrime units should be better funded.</li> <li>Only the government has the ability to alter society on a national scale through the implementation of new laws and stricter punishment.</li> <li>The government is responsible for keeping the public informed about risks and how important those risks can be reduced. (2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals should ensure their belongings and its house are secure on a daily basis. (3)</li> <li>It is only the individual's responsibility to change their passwords regularly and keep their online transactions secure.</li> <li>People should learn self-defence and they be aware of their safety on the streets. (4)</li> <li>People should take responsibility for protecting their own neighbourhood by reporting suspicious behaviour and setting up neighbourhood watch schemes.</li> <li>People should avoid making choices that put them at the risk such as walking alone late at night. (5)</li> </ul>

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** In arguments 1 – 5 above, there is *one extra word* which does not fit. Spot the incorrect extra word.

## Broadcasting Criminal Trials on TV

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The public <b>have a right to</b> information, so they can form their own opinions.</li> <li>The public can learn about court proceedings and the legal system in their country.</li> <li>Seeing the criminal <b>on trial</b> might <b>act as a deterrent to</b> others contemplating crime.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public and media pressure might <b>influence</b> the outcome.</li> <li>Public opinion might invalidate the jury's role in the long run.</li> <li>Legal representatives might use TV as an opportunity to <b>promote</b> themselves rather than focus on the task in hand.</li> <li>It might turn criminals into TV stars, which might <b>negatively</b> influence young people.</li> </ul>

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Study the words and phrases in **bold** in the sentences above. Then match each one to the word or phrase (**a - j**) that has a similar meaning in the context of the sentence. You will only need six of the ten words and phrases given.

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>a)</b> adversely       | <b>f)</b> determine  |
| <b>b)</b> affect          | <b>g)</b> discourage |
| <b>c)</b> are entitled to | <b>h)</b> encourage  |
| <b>d)</b> being convicted | <b>i)</b> inevitably |
| <b>e)</b> being tried     | <b>j)</b> sell       |



## ECONOMY AND MONEY

### Gap between Rich and Poor

Problem	Solution
The distribution of global wealth is unequal.	⇒ Wealth should be equally distributed.
As the rich grow richer, poverty worsens in poor countries.	⇒ Developed countries should provide financial support to poor countries.
Some countries cannot even cater for basic human needs.	⇒ Improving road infrastructure would boost the economy.
The richest 1% own half of the world's wealth while poorer people cannot even afford health care or education.	⇒ Taxes on wealth could be used to fund health care and education for all.
People leave poor countries to be educated in developed countries.	⇒ Rich countries should offer training programmes in poor countries.
Some people do not return to their own country after graduation, which can cause a brain drain.	⇒ People should agree to return to their country of origin after education.
Low wages cause many professionals in developing countries to migrate.	⇒ Developing countries should provide more job incentives for educated people.
Poverty will increase in less developed countries.	⇒ More countries need to implement a proper minimum wage policy.

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** Identify the sentence which does *not* state a solution directly relevant to the problem.

## Rich Countries should Support Poor Countries

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor countries need investment to develop.</li> <li>• Without financial help, poor countries cannot get out of the circle of poverty.</li> <li>• Rich countries can benefit from creating new markets.</li> <li>• Poor or rich, people should help each other.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich countries have their own issues to deal with.</li> <li>• Countries should solve their own problems by themselves.</li> <li>• Poor countries may grow dependent on rich countries.</li> <li>• The best form of aid is to help people to help themselves.</li> </ul>

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Mark each adjective below "+" if it denotes a desirable quality, and "-" an undesirable one. Use a good dictionary to help you if necessary.

affluent

developed

economically backward

high-income

industrially advanced

underprivileged

resplendent

impoverished

destitute

poverty-stricken

laborious

prosperous

opulent

underdeveloped

wealthy

benign

Which three adjectives are not used to describe a country as 'poor' or 'rich'?

## Personal Debt

Problem	Solution
People are being encouraged to use credit cards.	⇒ Banks should be stricter about issuing loans.

People overspend without banks stopping them.	⇒ Banks should set credit limits depending on people's history of debt management.
Some people are addicted to using their credit cards.	⇒ Banks should monitor people's accumulation of debt better.
Advertising entices people to spend indiscriminately.	⇒ School should teach children about the problems incurred by debt .
Advertising tempts people to squander money on unnecessary items.	⇒ People should be taught how to budget sensibly.

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Find words and phrases in the sentences above that mean:

- 1 to make people want to have or to do something, especially something wrong or unnecessary
- 2 to plan and control how much money you spend
- 3 to spend more money than you can afford
- 4 to try to persuade someone to do something
- 5 to waste

## Using Credit Cards

NB: 'A debt' [Countable] is a sum of money that you owe, whereas 'debt' [Uncountable] is the state of owing money.

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Credit cards offer flexibility of spending.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People overspend or can be addicted to spending.</li> </ul>

- People do not need to wait for payday to buy what they need.
- Cards are useful in emergency situations.
- Cards can allow gradual payments.
- Cards encourage people to spend, which benefits business.

- People are tempted to buy things they do not need.
- People run up debts.
- People may turn to loan sharks for help in debt repayments.
- Debt puts strain on families.
- Debt can cause problems for a country's economy.

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Use the words in the box to complete these synonymous expressions.

be faced   clear   fall into   heavily   incur

1 to have huge debts = to \_\_\_\_\_ with massive debts

2 to run up debts = to \_\_\_\_\_ debts

3 to repay one's debts = to \_\_\_\_\_ one's debts

4 to get into debt = to \_\_\_\_\_ debt

5 to be deeply in debt = to be \_\_\_\_\_ in debt

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## Saving Money is Good for a Country's Economy

Saving	Spending
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If spending is based on the credit, it will result in increased debt. (1)</li> <li>• A country which has too much debt has financial problems.</li> <li>• Saving for an old age is essential and eases the strain on social welfare. (2)</li> <li>• Old people without enough of money drain a country's economy. (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased spending reflects the consumers confidence in a country's economy.</li> <li>• When people spend money, it stimulates with the economy. (4)</li> <li>• Consumer spending can be considered the driving force behind an economy.</li> <li>• New businesses will open to cope with increased customer demand.</li> </ul>

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An increase in savings allows banks more flexibility in lending money for investment.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More jobs will they be created as more businesses open. (5)</li></ul> |
|---|---|

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** In arguments 1 – 5 above, there is *one extra word* which does not fit. Spot the incorrect extra word.

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## EDUCATION

## Discipline in Schools

Separating Naughty Students	Other Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removing problematic students offers an immediate solution to discipline problems.</li> <li>Students _____ (1) their studies with little interruption.</li> <li>Other students will not suffer because of classroom disruption.</li> <li>Naughty students may need special support away from the class.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools should review the reasons for _____ (2) behaviour.</li> <li>Parents should be contacted if their child _____ (3) at school.</li> <li>Teachers should _____ (4) students in front of others as an example.</li> <li>Classroom assistants can support difficult students without removing them from the classroom.</li> <li>Punishment can be _____ (5) as a deterrent.</li> </ul>

administered    discipline    misbehaves    disruptive    resume

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the words in the box to complete the sentences above.

## Parents Should Push Children to Do Well

- 1 Too much pressure will have a detrimental impact on children.
- 2 Some children need an extra push and encouragement to perform well.
- 3 Some children commit suicide.
- 4 Parents want the best for their child and understand the importance of educational achievement.
- 5 Parents understand how much competition there is in the world.
- 6 Parents should be actively involved in their child's education.

- 7 Learning should be enjoyable, not stressful.
- 8 Encouragement should be gentle, not forceful.
- 9 Children may suffer from stress and anxiety which can lead to more serious mental health problems.
- 10 Children may rebel and refuse to cooperate.
- 11 Children do not understand the value of education due to a limited experience of the world.
- 12 Children are too young to handle pressure well.

**Categorisation Exercise:** Mark the arguments above (+) if there are *in favour of* the idea that parents should push their children to do well at school, or (-) if they are *against* it.

## Art and Music at School are a Waste of Time

Agree	Disagree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art and music offer a creative _ _ _ _ _ (1).</li> <li>• Children have the chance to express themselves through other means.</li> <li>• Art and music are an essential part of any civilisation.</li> <li>• Children can learn about history through art.</li> <li>• Children need to develop a broad _ _ _ _ _ (2) of skills.</li> <li>• Children learn to appreciate other _ _ _ _ _ (3) of communication.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art and music are overrated and do not prepare children for future careers.</li> <li>• Children would be better off learning IT or other useful _ _ _ _ _ (4).</li> <li>• Art and music are not functional to the society.</li> <li>• Science is more useful as it can lead to the _ _ _ _ _ (5) of medicine and disease.</li> <li>• Not all students are gifted in part and music, and do not benefit from learning them.</li> <li>• Being articulate and capable of mathematical _ _ _ _ _ (6) are more important than to be able to draw or sing.</li> </ul>

study forms outlet calculations range skills



**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the nouns in the box to complete the sentences about children learning art and music at school.

## Streaming

### Grouping Students into Different Classes based on Ability

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students of the same level can learn at the same pace.</li> <li>Students with less ability are not left behind.</li> <li>Students who need to go more slowly are not made to feel inadequate.</li> <li>Advanced students can be challenged with more difficult materials.</li> <li>There is less disruption in class from bad behaviour as lessons are tailored to meet students' needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Streaming brings about labelling.</li> <li>Students in the lower class are stigmatised.</li> <li>Students of different levels are not able to help each other as they are separated.</li> <li>Gifted students do not learn the skill of helping others.</li> <li>Students in the lower group may feel content to stay at that level rather than try to challenge themselves.</li> </ul>

**Sentence Building Exercise:** Put the words and phrases in the correct order to make sentences.

1 a / class / difficult / is / it / mixed-ability / teach / to / very

2 end up / they are / students / not / the bottom class / believing / smart / in

**Question:** Are these sentences *for* or *against* streaming?

## Exams as a Means of Assessment

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a controlled way to assess a person.</li> <li>• The questions have been reviewed by experienced exam makers.</li> <li>• It is a time-effective way to assess a person's abilities and knowledge.</li> <li>• The controlled conditions avoid cheating or plagiarism.</li> <li>• Scoring is simplified.</li> <li>• It can be a national standardised way to assess students.</li> <li>• Results can be compared nationally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some people suffer from nerves when they are under pressure.</li> <li>• Nerves make people perform worse than usual.</li> <li>• It is wrong to assess people when they are not performing their best.</li> <li>• Continuous assessment over the year is a better representation of people's work.</li> <li>• Exams do not assess ability, only knowledge.</li> <li>• A person's potential cannot be assessed in an exam.</li> <li>• Students may only study to pass tests rather than to learn.</li> <li>• Students cannot get feedback on their mistakes from exams.</li> </ul>

**Collocations Exercise:** Match items 1 – 5 with items a) – e) to make common collocations. Then read the sentences above again to check your answers.

1 to prevent

a) from nerves

2 to simplify

b) one's best

3 to standardise

c) scoring

4 to perform

d) plagiarism

5 to suffer

e) assessment

## Wearing Uniforms at School

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniforms promote equality.</li> <li>• Rich and poor both wear the same clothing.</li> <li>• Discrimination can be avoided.</li> <li>• Uniforms promote unity within the school as students feel they are all part of the same group.</li> <li>• They are more cost-effective for parents.</li> <li>• Students can focus on their studies rather than on their image.</li> <li>• There is less peer pressure to conform.</li> <li>• They support discipline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniforms do not help students increase their grades.</li> <li>• Schools should encourage children to explore their differences.</li> <li>• School uniforms make it difficult for students from other schools to mix.</li> <li>• Uniforms do not allow for individuality.</li> <li>• Uniforms encourage conformity, which can restrict a child's development.</li> <li>• Lack of individual expression can lead to rebellion.</li> <li>• Rich and poor will still be easily differentiated even with uniforms.</li> </ul>

**Collocations Exercise:** In each group, identify the word which does not normally collocate with the keyword in **bold**. Use a good dictionary to help you if necessary.

1 to promote / achieve / conform / fight for / increase **equality**

2 to encourage / focus on / continue / resume / complete / interrupt **one's studies**

3 to avoid / behave / fight / stop / experience **discrimination**

4 to support / keep / enforce / accept / commit / tighten / relax **discipline**

## Obligatory Extra-Curricular Activities

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Extra-curricular</u> activities help students develop their character.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students should be allowed to choose their own extra activities.</li> </ul>

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some students prefer to focus only on their academic subjects.</li><li>• Unlike extra activities, academic subjects do not teach students <u>social skills</u> and team work.</li><li>• Extra-curricular activities, such as <u>community service</u> and sport, can be beneficial to students.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forcing extra-curricular activities on students does not promote independence or <u>autonomy</u>.</li><li>• Adding pressure to students is not healthy for them.</li><li>• Some students are already overloaded with homework.</li><li>• Students benefit from activities that are not academic.</li></ul> |
|---|--|

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** Identify the two arguments which are in the wrong category.

Check the meaning of the words underlined.

## Studying Abroad

**Matching and Categorising Exercise:** Match these sentence halves. Are the completed sentences *for* (+) or *against* (-) studying abroad? See the Answer Key for more ideas for this topic.

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 Not all students can thrive | a) culture shock and struggle to adapt to a new culture. |
| 2 Students may suffer from    | b) self-reliance and a sense of independence.            |
| 3 Students will have access   | c) away from their home and family support.              |
| 4 Students will learn         | d) to superior facilities and tutors.                    |

## Home Schooling

**NB: This means educating a child at home rather than at school.**

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is useful for families who live far from good schooling or need to move often.</li> <li>• Class schedules can be easily changed.</li> <li>• Lessons can be tailored to the child.</li> <li>• Children can get as much support and help as they need.</li> <li>• A child's interests can be incorporated into the lesson to make it more interesting.</li> <li>• Children will not be bullied or experience peer pressure.</li> <li>• Religion can be incorporated into the curriculum.</li> <li>• The speed of learning can be altered to suit the child.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children do not have the chance to interact with other children.</li> <li>• They lose the opportunity to develop important social skills and make friends.</li> <li>• The child might be lonely due to a lack of school friends.</li> <li>• The parent-child relationship might be affected by the additional role of teacher.</li> <li>• Parent and child may spend too much time together.</li> <li>• One parent will not be able to work and earn money.</li> <li>• Children will have limited resources and sports facilities.</li> </ul>

**Vocabulary Exercise:** The words in *italics* all appear in the sentences *for* and *against* home schooling. Choose the best option (**a**, **b** or **c**) to complete the following statements.

**1** If you *tailor* something to someone's needs, you...

- a)** describe it in great detail
- b)** adapt it to make it more suitable
- c)** ask people to tell you what they want.

**2** If someone *bullies* you, they...

- a)** frighten you and threaten to hurt you
- b)** lie to you and make false promises
- c)** tell other people when you do something wrong.

**3** If a child does something because of *peer pressure*, they do it because...

- a)** the teacher has ordered them to
- b)** they are afraid their parents will punish them

c) everyone else in their group does it.

4 The school *curriculum* is...

- a) a room where corporal punishment is administered
- b) a person who assists the head
- c) all the subjects taught by a school.

5 If you *interact* with other people, you...

- a) communicate with them
- b) make contact with them when they are far away
- c) make them do what you want.

## Corporal Punishment in School

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical punishment is the strongest deterrent.</li> <li>Students will think twice before breaking the rules.</li> <li>After receiving corporal punishment, students have a deep respect for authority.</li> <li>It is a quick and effective punishment that stops bad behaviour.</li> <li>Children learn quickly between what is right and what is considered wrong.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children should not be hit.</li> <li>Children should feel safe in their learning environment.</li> <li>Children learn to loathe authority and might rebel.</li> <li>It teaches children that physical punishment is acceptable.</li> <li>Children might grow up and use physical punishment on their own children.</li> <li>This perpetuates a cycle of abuse.</li> <li>This type of punishment is belittling, controlling and affects a person's self-esteem.</li> </ul>

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Complete these definitions with a suitable word or phrase from the sentences about corporal punishment in school.

1 A \_\_\_\_\_ is something that discourages you from doing something that could have bad consequences.

2 If someone \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ they disobey.



- 3 If you \_\_\_\_\_ before doing something, you think carefully because it might have bad consequences.
- 4 If you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you dislike it intensely.
- 5 Something \_\_\_\_\_ makes you feel unimportant or worthless.
- 6 'To \_\_\_\_\_ something' means 'to cause something to continue indefinitely'.
- 7 Your \_\_\_\_\_ is what you think of your abilities and how you feel about yourself generally.

## Single-Sex Schools

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children are better able to relax around other children of the same sex.</li> <li>Girls will not feel intimidated by boys.</li> <li>Some girls they mature faster than boys. (1)</li> <li>Children will be able to concentrate more on the education. (2)</li> <li>Lessons can be tailored to one gender.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same sex schools do not prepare a children for the real world. (3)</li> <li>Children need experience of interacting with the opposite sex.</li> <li>Children have much to learn about the opposite sex.</li> <li>Boys and girls think differently and this is for good to experience. (4)</li> <li>There is no any evidence that single sex schools result in better educational grades. (5)</li> </ul>

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** In arguments 1 – 5 above, there is *one extra word* which does not fit. Spot the incorrect extra word.

## A Good Teacher needs to be Intelligent

Agree	Other Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A teacher must have a good knowledge base in their subject.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers need to be able to communicate effectively.</li> </ul>

- A teacher's primary role is to impart information and knowledge.
- Students prefer teachers who are passionate about their subject area.
- A student's level of knowledge is in great part dependent on their teacher's level.

- Students need to be motivated or inspired by a teacher.
- Teachers need to know how to discipline students.
- Teachers need good classroom management skills.
- Teachers should be a good role model.
- Teachers need clearly defined goals for each lesson.

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** Identify the argument which is irrelevant.

## More Boys than Girls Study Science

Reasons	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boys and girls often differ in what they are <b>drawn to</b> and what they find easy or difficult.</li> <li>• More boys than girls develop an early interest in science and technology.</li> <li>• The world of science is often <b>depicted</b> as a man's world.</li> <li>• There are still many negative stereotypes about girls' abilities in science and maths.</li> <li>• Even today, most people implicitly associate 'male' with 'science' and 'female' with 'arts'.</li> <li>• Boys have more confidence than girls that they can succeed in science subjects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools should encourage all children to develop both their spatial and verbal skills.</li> <li>• Parents should avoid <b>reinforcing</b> stereotypes such as giving 'a chemistry set to Tom and a doll to Lucy'.</li> <li>• University science departments need to <b>ensure</b> that women are not under-represented.</li> <li>• We need to remember that girls generally do as well as or even <b>outperform</b> boys in science classwork.</li> <li>• More work needs to be done to <b>tackle</b> gender stereotypes.</li> <li>• When more women choose to go into science, girls will gain more self-confidence.</li> </ul>

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Study the words in **bold** in the sentences above. Then use those words to complete the following sentences.

- 1 According to a recent study, public-school students \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ their private-school classmates on maths tests.
- 2 In advertising, women have long been \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ as delicate, fragile and sexy.
- 3 Misbehaviour in class is a common problem, and there are many different ways to \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ it.
- 4 More people would be \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ teaching if discipline was less of a problem in schools.
- 5 Parents, teachers and employers need to find ways to stop \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ gender stereotypes.
- 6 The education reform wants to \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ that all boys and girls have all the support they need to become successful science students.

## Traditional Classroom / Online Learning

Traditional Classroom	Online Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers can provide help to individual students.</li> <li>Students can have face-to-face interaction with other students and their professor.</li> <li>Students can collaborate on projects.</li> <li>Teachers can provide instant feedback and support in the classroom.</li> <li>Classrooms give students a sense of unity and encouragement.</li> <li>Classrooms provide structured learning and an easy-to-follow schedule.</li> <li>Students are reminded of deadlines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It allows for a flexible class schedule, which is ideal for working people.</li> <li>People are able to work full time whilst studying.</li> <li>Online learning is usually cost-effective.</li> <li>Mature students do not need to study alongside immature, younger students.</li> <li>Online courses allow students to study at their own pace.</li> <li>Students can take breaks in their study schedule to suit their needs.</li> <li>Students can speed up their learning to complete a course sooner.</li> <li>It offers more diverse methods of learning.</li> </ul>

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Find words and phrases in the sentences above that mean:

- 1 a feeling of being joined together
- 2 able to change or to be changed easily

- 3 immediate comments or advice on work you have done (two words)
- 4 to make someone remember to do something
- 5 to make something go faster
- 6 to work with other people for a certain purpose.

## Types of Online Learning

- Self-education using materials found online.
- Asynchronous training which is pre-recorded without live interaction.
- Synchronous training which is done in real time online in virtual classrooms.
- Online college or university courses.
- Educational apps, YouTube tutorials, Videos, CDs.

## Education should be Free for Everyone

### For

- 1 (a) **Not everyone** / (b) **Everyone** should have equal rights to education.
- 2 Education (a) **should not be** / (b) **should be** accessible only to wealthy people.
- 3 Free education (a) **allows** / (b) **denies** poor people as well as the rich access to education.
- 4 (a) **Fewer** / (b) **More** educated people can help a country develop and prosper.

### Against

- 5 It is a financial (a) **strain** / (b) **boon** for some countries to offer free education to all people.
- 6 The government would need to (a) **decrease** / (b) **increase** taxes to afford it.
- 7 It would be better if (a) **not only** / (b) **only** gifted individuals were entitled to free education.
- 8 Students (a) **will not** / (b) **will only** appreciate and value education if it is free.

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Choose the correct option (a) or (b) in **bold** to present arguments *for* and *against* free education.

## ENVIRONMENT

## Pollution

Causes	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fossil fuels such as natural gas, oil and coal are used in electricity generation for industrial and private consumption.</li> <li>• Carbon dioxide is emitted from the burning of fossil fuels.</li> <li>• Power plants generate electricity but also produce carbon dioxide.</li> <li>• Road traffic emissions from petrol or diesel engines increase carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides.</li> <li>• A tax increase on budget airlines would lead to a reduction in the number of flights.</li> <li>• Chemicals used in agriculture, such as pesticides and insecticides, are released into the air.</li> <li>• Cleaning products and paints cause indoor air pollution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industries should be encouraged to use sustainable green energy.</li> <li>• Emissions from industries should be monitored more closely, and fines for exceeding the legal limit should be increased.</li> <li>• People can boycott products from companies known to pollute.</li> <li>• Limit the number of cars on the road by increasing petrol tax, improving public transport and setting up traffic-free zones in city centres.</li> <li>• People should control the use of energy in the home and avoid using products containing VOCs or other air pollutants.</li> <li>• People should be encouraged to recycle more.</li> <li>• An increase in the number of cars and low-cost airlines has contributed to air pollution.</li> </ul>

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** Identify the two arguments which are in the wrong category.



## Natural Beauty Spots

Why They are Important	Solutions to Protect Them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural beauty spots are tourist attractions which _____ (1) a country's economy.</li> <li>Natural beauty spots provide peaceful places for locals to enjoy.</li> <li>Places of natural beauty are often biodiverse, which promotes a healthy ecosystem.</li> <li>Natural beauty spots are a source of national pride and identity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stricter laws should be introduced to _____ (2) natural beauty spots from industrial pollution.</li> <li>Laws should _____ (3) using areas near beauty spots for the development of industry.</li> <li>Harsher fines and punishment can be _____ (4) for those who litter.</li> <li>Human habitation should not be allowed to _____ (5) on natural beauty spots.</li> <li>Poaching and illegal hunting should be more strictly controlled.</li> </ul>

boost   encroach   impose   prohibit   protect

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Use the correct form of the verbs in the box to complete the sentences about natural beauty spots.

## Deforestation

### Causes

- The spread of human habitation and urbanisation is one of the main causes of deforestation.
- Some land is no longer fertile due to pollution, so forests must make way for agricultural plantations.
- As the world's population grows, there is need for more agricultural land.
- Some forests are destroyed by wildfires or overgrazing.
- An estimated 18 million acres of forest are destroyed each year.
- Logging operations cut down many trees for paper production and wood.



**Problems**

- The lack of habitat for millions of species can result in the extinction of some species and in an ecological imbalance.
- It can cause an increase in global warming as there are not enough trees to absorb greenhouse gases.
- Trees are an essential part of the water cycle. Less water in the air means less water is returned to the soil, leading to soil erosion and barren land.
- Indigenous people can lose their homeland.

**Solutions**

- The government needs to curb the felling of trees by introducing better laws.
- Ban the cutting down of forests.
- Government should ensure reforestation of areas that have been affected.
- People can also contribute by recycling paper products, unsubscribing from physical junk mail and putting a "no junk mail" sticker on their letterbox.
- Introduce better farming methods to prevent felling trees for farm land.
- Crop rotation means land is used more effectively.

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Complete these definitions with a suitable word from the sentences about deforestation.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ are letters advertising products or services which are sent to people although they did not ask to receive them.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ is a method of farming where you grow different plants one after the other in order to keep the soil fertile.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ is a situation in which too many farm animals eat the grass in a particular area, which is bad for the environment.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ is the business of felling trees in order to use their wood.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ is the opposite of fertile.
- 6 If you \_\_\_\_\_ from a mailing list, you ask the sender to remove your name from the list.
- 7 If you \_\_\_\_\_ something that is not wanted, you control or limit it.

**Resource Depletion**

Causes	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The world's population is growing, and demand is growing with it.</li> <li>• The world does not have enough resources to support a rapidly growing population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The world needs to start saving water.</li> <li>• Recycling should not only be encouraged but should be mandatory in certain countries.</li> </ul>

- Currently, humanity uses 50% of the world's fresh water.
- In 40 years, the world will have consumed 80% of the fresh water available.
- Mineral and oil reserves are fast depleting.
- Human beings are over-exploiting their own planet.
- Pollution is having an adverse effect on the world's resources.
- Soil depletion has a direct impact on the quantity and quality of food produced for our growing population.

- Food waste should be collected for compost.
- Compost can be used to nourish the soil and reverse soil depletion.
- The government should control the amount of electricity used.
- Children should be taught about resource depletion.
- Sustainable green sources of energy should be promoted and subsidised by the government.
- Individual people should make the right choices to recycle, reduce energy consumption and purchase only environmentally friendly products.
- Unwanted or unsold food should be redistributed.

**Vocabulary Exercise:** Find words and phrases in the sentences above that mean:

1 compulsory, obligatory

2 decaying organic material used as fertilizer for growing plants

3 getting smaller and smaller in amount or size (e.g. money, energy supplies, etc)

4 harmful, negative; the opposite of beneficial

5 produced using the sun, wind, etc rather than fossil fuels that cannot be replaced

6 supported financially.

## Who should Take Responsibility for Solving Environmental Issues?

Individuals	The Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government cannot oversee or control the actions of all individuals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government can impose tighter controls on companies that do not treat or dispose of waste effectively.</li> </ul>

- Even with laws to protect the environment, individuals must cooperate.
- People should actively reduce the amount of energy they use on a daily basis.
- People should recycle plastics and other materials more.
- People need to be responsible and buy products that do not harm the environment.

- Only governments can change laws and ensure that they are enforced.
- The government has the financial means to tackle nationwide pollution and other environmental problems.
- The government can collect information on a national scale to see the whole picture and take effective steps to deal with the problems.

alleviate   anticipate   be faced with   deal with   ignore   solve   tackle

**Collocations Exercise:** Use the correct form of the verbs in the box to complete these explanations.

- 1 If you \_\_\_\_\_ a difficult problem, you try to deal with it.
- 2 If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem, it is going to affect you and you have to deal with it.
- 3 If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem, you find a successful way to deal with it.
- 4 If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem, you make it less difficult to deal with.
- 5 If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem, you pay no attention to it.
- 6 If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem, you take action in preparation for it because you think that it will happen.
- 7 If you \_\_\_\_\_ a problem, you take the necessary action in order to solve it.

## Solving Environmental Problems Globally or Domestically?

Domestically	Globally
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some pollution, such as river water pollution, is a localised problem.</li> <li>• The government knows best how to tackle their own domestic pollution problems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed countries are more responsible for global warming than other countries.</li> <li>• Global warming affects all countries around the world and needs a joint</li> </ul>

- The government of each country should be responsible for educating their own people about conserving energy and the importance of recycling.
- Local residents need to take responsibility for their actions.
- Only domestic governments can improve waste disposal and sanitation.
- Better public transport policies aiming to help reduce gas emissions must be implemented domestically.

effort to tackle it.

- The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions needs to be agreed at international conferences or summits.
- Air pollution and marine pollution affects more than one country at a time.
- Tackling environmental problems is a financial burden many countries cannot afford on their own.

**Matching Exercise:** Match these sentence halves. Then study the expressions in **bold**.

1 It **is the responsibility of** each one of us

a) addressing the issue of climate change.

2 The Environmental Protection Agency **has responsibility for**

b) of the world's carbon emissions.

3 Too many companies are reluctant to **take responsibility for**

c) to make sure that we keep our cities clean.

4 Tourism **is responsible for** almost one tenth

d) the environmental impact of their activities.

## Declining Biodiversity

### Decline in Plant and Animal Species

Causes	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining biodiversity is caused by the destruction of animal and plant habitat.</li> <li>• Due to industry, growing human population and agriculture, more land is needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As certain species decline in numbers, the ecosystem is thrown out of a balance. (3)</li> <li>• Maintaining the balance of the ecosystem is essential for the welfare of</li> </ul>

- As forest and other natural areas are claimed, plants and animals lose their habitat.
- Illegal hunting and poaching reduces some animal numbers to the endangered levels. (1)
- Pollution has affected plant and animal numbers.
- Plant and animal species depend on each other.
- If one species declines, it can affect other species which are dependent on it.
- Over-fishing can cause a lack of biodiversity in the oceans.
- Global warming and climate change have not had an impact on plant and animal species. (2)

our planet.

- Once a species is lost, it never cannot be brought back. (4)
- Loss of plant and animal species can affect our medical research and the development of treatments.
- Biodiversity is essential for human health in terms of food and health care.
- We should preserve the diversity of our planet's plants and animals as for future generations to enjoy. (5)

**Spot the Mistake Exercise:** In arguments 1 – 5 above, there is *one extra word* which does not fit. Spot the incorrect extra word.

## ANSWERS: ADVERTISING

### Companies Sponsoring Sports Events for Advertising

*Sports fans are more interested in the event than in the sponsors' advertising messages.* This is an argument *against* companies sponsoring sports events.

*Companies can showcase their products.* This is an argument *for* companies sponsoring sports events.

### Children and Advertising

1 Consumerism

2 Obesity

3 illusion

4 differentiate

5 pester

6 ban

### Advertising Fast Food

1 d    2 a    3 e    4 b    5 c

### Advertising Encourages Spending

1 glamour

2 Fair trade

3 artificial wants

4 shop around; bargains

5 impact

6 rely on

### Types of Advertising

- TV adverts
- radio adverts
- magazine or newspaper advertising



- billboards & posters
- direct mail
- brochures, leaflets & flyers
- product placement in movies
- online advertising

## ANSWERS: ANIMALS

### Protecting Wild Animals

1 for (or to)

2 from

3 over

4 on

5 of

### Animal Testing

❶ 1 + 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 + 7 - 8 + 9 + 10 +

❷ 1 c 2 a 3 b

### Decrease in Some Animal Species

1 d 2 b 3 c 4 a

### Zoos

1 species

2 wild

3 habitat

4 cruelty

5 captivity

6 cages

## Man's Relationship with Animals

❶

*In earlier times, horses, oxen and dogs were working animals. / Dogs can be trained to guide or rescue people and also to track down criminals.*

This pair does not constitute a contrast for at least two reasons.

Firstly, horses, oxen and dogs are still working animals in many countries today.

Secondly, guide dogs, search and rescue dogs and guard dogs are all examples of working animals.

❷

1 companions

2 domesticated

3 vegans

4 track down

## ANSWERS: ART

### Supporting the Arts

1 b    2 d    3 e    4 c    5 a

### Censoring the Arts

❶ 1 c (for)    2 d (for)    3 a (against)    4 b (against)

❷ Answers to the collocation exercise are contained in the extra ideas listed below for this topic.

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some art <b>fuels violence, incites hatred</b> and is morally harmful.</li> <li>Artists should <b>work within certain guidelines</b>.</li> <li>Some art encourages rebellion against the government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artists need freedom of expression in order to do their work.</li> <li>Artists should be free to express their own ideas.</li> <li>Being innovators, artists should be free to <b>develop original ideas</b>.</li> </ul>

## Children Learning Art

1 the    2 a    3 it    4 for    5 the

## Free Admission to Art Galleries and Museums

- 1 learn
- 2 encouraged
- 3 restore
- 4 respect
- 5 compensate

## ANSWERS: BUILDINGS AND HOUSING

### Renting or Buying Houses

①

- 1 mortgage
- 2 tenant
- 3 relocate
- 4 downsize
- 5 affordable

②

- 1 steep
- 2 thrifty
- 3 enrich
- 4 homeless

### Planting Trees or Building Houses

①

- 1 Without suitable housing, living conditions will deteriorate.  
(or Living conditions will deteriorate without suitable housing.)
- 2 Trees produce oxygen, which counteracts air pollution.
- 3 Parks provide areas for exercise and relaxation.  
(or Parks provide areas for relaxation and exercise.)
- 4 Overpopulation leads to a lack of suitable housing.

②

Planting Trees: Sentences 2 and 3.  
Building Houses: Sentences 1 and 4.

## Building Houses in Urban or Rural Areas

- 1 commute
- 2 derelict
- 3 widespread
- 4 sanitation
- 5 reduce
- 6 open up

## Protecting Old Buildings

- 1 -    2 +    3 -    4 +    5 +    6 +    7 -    8 -    9 +    10 -

## Open Plan Office Designs

①

- 1 c    2 e    3 d    4 a    5 b

②

For: Sentences 3 and 5.

Against: Sentences 1, 2 and 4.

More ideas for this topic.

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It promotes equality as everyone shares the same space.</li> <li>There is less distinction between levels of staff.</li> <li>People will feel part of a team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constant noise makes it hard to concentrate.</li> <li>Staff have less privacy for their work than in a closed office space.</li> </ul>

## ANSWERS: BUSINESS

## Closure of Small Businesses

- 1 broad range
- 2 inevitable

3 get involved

4 render

5 aware

## **Problems with International Businesses for Local Communities**

*The burden of high taxation makes it difficult for many small businesses to survive.*

⇒ *Global corporations should be granted further tax cuts.*

Taxing big businesses less will in no way lighten the burden of taxation for small businesses.

## **Businesses Providing Sports Facilities for Employees**

1 maternity/paternity leave

2 sports facilities

3 an incentive

4 a bonus (plural: bonuses)

5 time off

## **Businesses should Support Local Communities**

1 thriving

2 possible

3 available

4 responsible

## **Marketing is Key to Success**

1 f (-) 2 e (+) 3 a (+) 4 c (+) 5 b (-) 6 d (-)

## People Buying Things They Do Not Need

1 b    2 e    3 d    4 c    5 a

## Business and Staff Uniforms

1 a  
2 they  
3 and  
4 for  
5 the

## Business Success is Measured by Money

1 (-)    2 (+)    3 (+)    4 (-)    5 (+)    6 (+)    7 (-)    8 (-)    9 (-)

## Family-run Businesses are Best

*Non-family employees may find it difficult to integrate.* This is an argument *against* the idea that family-run businesses are best.

*Family businesses are usually a lot less bureaucratic.* This is an argument *in favour of* the idea that family-run businesses are best.

## ANSWERS: CHARACTER & PEOPLE

### Success: Is it Innate or Achieved?

1 child prodigy  
2 head start  
3 undeniable



4 breeds

5 inborn

6 gifted

### **Celebrities are Role Models and Should to Behave Well in Public**

1 b    2 e    3 d    4 c    5 a

### **Leadership: Are Leadership Skills Innate or Learned?**

1 charismatic

2 articulate

3 oratory

4 predisposed

5 Assertiveness

6 confidence

### **Change: Some People Like Change while Others do Not**

1 d    2 a    3 e    4 b    5 f    6 c

## **ANSWERS: CRIME & PUNISHMENT IDEAS**

### **Increase in Crime Rates**

1 d    2 a    3 e    4 b    5 c

### **Long Term Prison Sentences**

1 +    2 -    3 +    4 +    5 +    6 -    7 -

### **Re-Offending After Release from Prison**

1 a prosecutor

2 to sentence

3 to go on trial

## **Internet Crime / Cybercrime**

1 harassment

2 fraudulent

3 hacking

4 ransom

5 laundering

6 to monitor

## **Advanced Technology to Solve & Prevent Crime**

1 access

2 committed

3 monitor

4 surveillance

## **Fixed Punishment for all Crimes**

1 self-defence

2 deterrent

3 repeat offender

4 loopholes

5 defence attorney

6 corruption

## **Juvenile Crime**

1 exert

2 lead

3 Limit

4 Encourage

5 take up

## Juveniles Receiving Adult Punishment

*Adult sentences are too severe for youngsters.* This argument supports the idea that juveniles *should not* receive adult punishment.

*A crime is a crime regardless of age.* This argument supports the idea that juveniles *should* receive adult punishment.

## The Death Penalty

- 1 contemplating
- 2 morally
- 3 convicted
- 4 equivalent
- 5 re-socialise

## Responsibility for Crime in Society

- 1 a
- 2 important
- 3 its
- 4 they
- 5 the

## Broadcasting Criminal Trials on TV

have a right to: **c)** are entitled to

on trial: **e)** being tried

act as a deterrent to: **g)** discourage

influence: **b)** affect

promote: **j)** sell

negatively: **a)** adversely

## ANSWERS: ECONOMY AND MONEY

### Gap between Rich and Poor

*Improving road infrastructure would boost the economy.* This is highly unlikely to solve the problem of countries which cannot cater for basic human needs such as sanitation, food, water, clothing and shelter. Besides, the focus of the sentence is on stimulating the economy, not on catering for basic needs.

### Rich Countries should Support Poor Countries

affluent (+)	destitute (-)
developed (+)	poverty-stricken (-)
economically backward (-)	laborious (-)
high-income (+)	prosperous (+)
industrially advanced (+)	opulent (+)
underprivileged (-)	underdeveloped (-)
resplendent (+)	wealthy (+)
impoverished (-)	benign (+)

The three adjectives that do not belong to the *rich/poor* paradigm are: *resplendent* / *laborious* / *benign*.

### Personal Debt

- 1 to tempt
- 2 to budget
- 3 to overspend
- 4 to entice (sb to do sth)
- 5 to squander

### Using Credit Cards

- 1 to have huge debts = to be faced with massive debts
- 2 to run up debts = to incur debts
- 3 to repay one's debts = to clear one's debts
- 4 to get into debt = to fall into debt

5 to be deeply in debt = to be heavily in debt

### **Saving Money is Good for a Country's Economy**

- 1 the
- 2 an
- 3 of
- 4 with
- 5 they

## **ANSWERS: EDUCATION**

### **Discipline in Schools**

- 1 resume
- 2 disruptive
- 3 misbehaves
- 4 discipline
- 5 administered

### **Parents Should Push Children to Do Well**

- 1 (-)   2 (+)   3 (-)   4 (+)   5 (+)   6 (+)   7 (-)   8 (-)   9 (-)   10 (-)   11 (+)   12 (-)

### **Art & Music is a Waste of Time at School**

- 1 outlet
- 2 range
- 3 forms
- 4 skills
- 5 study
- 6 calculations

## Streaming: Grouping Students by Ability into Different Classes

- 1 It is very difficult to teach a mixed-ability class.  
2 Students in the bottom class end up believing they are not smart.

Sentence 1 is *for* streaming, while Sentence 2 is *against*.

## Exams as a Means of Assessment

1 d    2 c    3 e    4 b    5 a

## Wearing Uniforms

- 1 conform  
2 encourage  
3 behave  
4 commit

## Obligatory Extra-Curricular Activities

*Some students prefer to focus only on their academic subjects.* This is an argument *against* extra-curricular activities.

*Students benefit from activities that are not academic.* This is an argument *for* extra-curricular activities.

## Studying Abroad

1 c    2 a    3 d    4 b

1 Against    2 Against    3 For    4 For

More Ideas for this topic:

For	Against
-----	---------



- It provides a chance to learn about another culture and way of life.
- Learning a new language can be useful later in life.
- Foreign education can offer students better work prospects in their own countries.

- Homesickness can lead to poor academic performance.
- Some students refuse to return to their own country after their education.
- Some students might not be able to re-adapt back into their own culture.

## Home Schooling

1 b    2 a    3 c    4 c    5 a

## Corporal Punishment in School

- 1 deterrent
- 2 breaks (the) rules
- 3 think twice
- 4 loathe
- 5 belittling
- 6 perpetuate
- 7 self-esteem

## Single-Sex Schools

- 1 they
- 2 the
- 3 a
- 4 for
- 5 any

## A Good Teacher needs to be Intelligent

*Students prefer teachers who are passionate about their subject area.* This argument does not support the idea that a good teacher needs to be intelligent. Rather, it supports the idea that it is more important for a teacher to be enthusiastic than to be intelligent.

## More Boys than Girls Study Science

- 1 outperform
- 2 depicted
- 3 tackle
- 4 drawn to
- 5 reinforcing
- 6 ensure

## Traditional Classroom / Online Learning

- 1 a sense of unity
- 2 flexible
- 3 instant feedback
- 4 to remind (somebody to do something)
- 5 to speed up / to speed something up
- 6 to collaborate

## Education should be Free for Everyone

- 1 b    2 a    3 a    4 b    5 a    6 b    7 b    8 a

## ANSWERS: ENVIRONMENT

### Pollution

*A tax increase on budget airlines would lead to a reduction in the number of flights. This describes a possible solution.*

*An increase in the number of cars and low-cost airlines has contributed to air pollution. This describes one of the causes of pollution.*

## **Natural Beauty Spots**

- 1 boost
- 2 protect
- 3 prohibit
- 4 imposed
- 5 encroach

## **Deforestation**

- 1 Junk mail
- 2 Crop rotation
- 3 Overgrazing
- 4 Logging
- 5 Barren
- 6 unsubscribe
- 7 curb

## **Resource Depletion**

- 1 mandatory
- 2 compost
- 3 depleting
- 4 adverse
- 5 sustainable (energy)
- 6 subsidised

## **Who should Take Responsibility for Solving Environmental Issues?**

- 1 tackle
- 2 are faced with
- 3 solve
- 4 alleviate
- 5 ignore

**6** anticipate

**7** deal with

### **Solving Environmental Problems Globally or Domestically?**

**1** c    **2** a    **3** d    **4** b

### **Declining Biodiversity: Decline in Plant and Animal Species**

**1** the

**2** not

**3** a

**4** never

**5** as