

makkar IELTS

English for Exams

IELTS GENERAL TRAINING ESSAYS FROM THE PAST EXAMS (*PDF Edition*)

DR. KIRANPREET KAUR MAKKAR

(MBBS, DGO - Makkar Hospital, Phagwara)

ER. INDROOP SINGH MAKKAR

(MS in IE & OR Pennsylvania State University, USA)

First PDF Edition: 2020

International Edition: Not For Sale in India

Written by: Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

Copyright © Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar 2020

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system without written permission from the author, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review.

PREFACE

This book is the fourth in the series of my books for IELTS, which contains questions from the past exams. My earlier books on Academic Writing and Speaking have fetched remarkable sales. This book is meant to help the average student crack the IELTS essay. Over 14 years of my IELTS coaching experience has taught me a lot about what all would help the students do better in the writing module of the IELTS. Over the years, I have seen fairly good students getting 7+ in the other modules of the IELTS, fall to less than 6 bands in the writing module, but I have also seen those with less than 6 in the other modules, get a 6+ in writing. Over the years, I have coached thousands of students, checked their writings almost every day, and so I somehow know what precisely they have written in their exam. From their writing band scores, I have made important deductions as to what works, and what does not work in an IELTS writing section.

The IELTS essays should have a plan. Time spent on the plan is time well invested. A plan is surely going to produce an essay which works. A crisp but brief and to-the-point introduction and conclusion, and two to three well planned paragraphs with sentences relevant to the topic is all that is needed for the IELTS Writing Section.

This book has over 180 essays seen in the actual IELTS exams, most of which have been repeated many times.

IELTS Writing: General Introduction

The IELTS General Training Writing Test lasts for 1 hour and includes 2 tasks.

Writing Duration
60 Minutes

Test Parts
2 Parts

- Task 1 is a letter and you must write at least 150 words. You should spend about 20 minutes out of 60 minutes for Task 1.
- Task 2 is an essay and you must write at least 250 words. You should spend about 40 minutes for Task 2.

TASK 1	TASK 2
You are presented with a situation and asked to write a letter. The letter may be personal, semi-formal or formal in style.	You are asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, problem or an argument. The essay can include a more personal response as compared to an Academic Essay.
You are required to write at least 150 words	You are required to write at least 250 words
You should spend about 20 minutes	You should spend about 40 minutes

Note: Task 1 writing is less important than Task 2 and to calculate the final writing marks, more weight is assigned to Task 2 than to Task 1. However, to get a good overall band score, both tasks have to be well answered; so don't practice less for Task 1 or give yourself too little time to answer it properly.

General Training Writing Task 2 - Essay

The IELTS essay is the second part of the writing section of the IELTS test. It requires you to write an essay with a minimum word count of 250, within a period of 40 minutes. There is no limit to the maximum word count. This part accounts for 2/3rd of the overall score of the writing section.

Essay Structure

The body of the essay should be divided into different paragraphs with each paragraph serving a clear purpose. The number of body paragraphs depend on the type of the question asked and ideas that you may have. Following is the most commonly used essay structure in the IELTS exam.

Introduction

- **Sentence 1:** Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- **Sentence 2:** Thesis statement. For example, if the questions asks whether you agree or disagree with the given statement, you could mention that, "I agree with the given statement"

Body Paragraphs

First paragraph:

- Sentence 1: Topic sentence
- Sentence 2-5/6: Here you should mention your idea and then develop it further in the subsequent sentences. You can also include examples to support your idea. A paragraph can contain one or more ideas linked to the central theme of the paragraph. For every idea/reason you should follow the approach of Idea → Explain → Example(Optional)

Second paragraph:

- Sentence 1: Topic sentence
- Sentence 2-5/6: Here you should mention your idea and then develop it further in the subsequent sentences. You can also include examples to support your ideas. A paragraph can contain one or more ideas linked to the central theme of the paragraph. For every idea/reason you should follow the approach of Idea → Explain → Example(Optional)

Third or Fourth paragraph: (Optional – depending upon your ideas)

Conclusion: The restatement: Restate your opinion

Common Essay Questions

Four different types of IELTS Essays

1. Opinion essays
 - Opinion 1 – Agree/Disagree.
 - Opinion 2 – Is this a positive or a negative development.
 - Opinion 3 – Do you think that the advantages are more than the disadvantages.
2. Discuss essays
3. Problem and solution essays
4. Direct question essays (some might be two questions)

General things to know about any type of IELTS essay

The key to writing a good IELTS essay is uniformity throughout the essay. The introduction, the body paragraphs and the conclusion should convey the same thing.

The three elements of an essay

1. Introduction
2. Body Paragraphs
3. Conclusion

Introduction has two elements - Essay topic paraphrasing and thesis statement. So, to write a good introduction you need to write one sentence to introduce the topic, which can be done by paraphrasing the question and the second sentence to answer the question.

Body Paragraphs have three elements - Topic sentence, points and supporting points.

Conclusion - It is the repetition of the opinion/thesis but in a different way. It may also include a suggestion.

Thesis statement

An essay's thesis is only one sentence long, but it is the most important sentence in the entire essay. The reason for this is because it is the sentence that states our opinion in relation to what is being asked of us by the essay question. A thesis is very easy to write. Often, the thesis will reflect and

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

even borrow words from the essay question. However, a good thesis cannot be written without a proper plan.

Topic sentence

A topic sentence is the most important sentence in a paragraph. Sometimes referred to as a focus sentence, the topic sentence helps organize the paragraph by summarizing the information in the paragraph. In formal writing, the topic sentence is usually the first sentence in a paragraph. To understand the importance of a topic sentence, one should look at the band descriptors task 2 for band 7, cohesion and coherence, where it is written – *“Present a clear central topic within each paragraph”*. So, the topic sentence helps the examiner understand the central theme of each paragraph.

The Opinion Essay

Opinion 1 – Agree/Disagree.

Opinion 2 – Is this a positive or negative development.

Opinion 3 – Are the advantages more than the disadvantages.

Opinion 1 - Agree/Disagree Essay

In these essays the question asks for **YOUR** views.

A. Strongly one-sided view

Introduction - Paraphrase the topic, then state a strong opinion (e.g. I completely agree)

Body paragraph 1: explain reasons for YOUR opinion

Body paragraph 2: explain some more reasons for YOUR opinion

Body paragraph 3: Explain reasons for why the opposite opinion is wrong.

(If you do not have the points, you can go for more reasons for your opinion)

Conclusion: Reiterate your view.

B. You are one sided but at the same time you do not wish to say that the other side is totally wrong

From the structure of a one-sided essay, you can see that you can put the other side in your essay and yet be one sided. But there are a few topics in which you have no option but to acknowledge the other side. In such essays I have seen students struggling with the thesis statement. So, please learn how to write a thesis statement for such essays.

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

C. Where the question has two parts and you agree with one, but disagree with the other

Example: Some children find some subjects such as mathematics and philosophy too difficult to learn, so some people argue that those subjects should be optional rather than compulsory. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (essay number 74 in this book)

While brainstorming the ideas, the thesis I reach is that mathematics should be compulsory, but philosophy optional. So, it would be wrong to agree or disagree with the entire statement. My thesis would be - I believe that mathematics should be compulsory in schools even if students find it difficult, but philosophy can be made optional. Remember, there is no need to force the word agree or disagree in the intro. Your opinion should reflect that.

Another example:

If children behave badly should their parents take responsibility and also be punished? State your answer and give your reasons.

When I looked at the above question, I felt that parents are definitely responsible, but they should not be punished. So, my thesis statement would be – While parents should be held responsible for the actions of their child, punishing them would be wrong.

Opinion 2 - Is this a positive or a negative development

Example: *It has been seen that recently many parents are sending their children to boarding schools. Is it a positive or a negative development?*

There are three options with a student

A. Completely one sided	B. Discussing both sides but favouring one.	C. Completely Balanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely Negative • Completely Positive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having negatives but overall positive • Having positives but overall negative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equally positive and negative

Opinion 3 – Do you think the advantages of are more than the disadvantages

This type of essay matches the 'Is this a positive or a negative development essay, except that you cannot mention only the advantages or disadvantages. You have to mention both sides, but state clearly what is more. The mistake that students do in such types of essays is that they say – I will discuss both advantages and disadvantages of, but they do not mention whether the advantages or the disadvantages are more.

Discuss Essay Template

Example: Some people believe that studying literature is important for individual character building while others think it is a waste of time. Discuss both points of view and provide your own opinion.

Intro:

People are divided on the importance of the study of literature. Some individuals hold the opinion that studying literature is significant for developing a person's personality, whereas others think that it is futile to study literature. In this essay I shall analyse both perspectives. I am personally in favour of the former view.

Body Paragraph 1:

There are many reasons why some people assert that it is very essential to study literature.

Body Paragraph 2:

On the other hand, those who say that studying literature, such as poetry and prose, is useless give their reasons as follows. Firstly,

Body Paragraph 3:

I believe that it is imperative to study literature. Apart from the above-mentioned benefits, it expands our vocabulary.

Conclusion: To sum up, it is definitely worthwhile to study literature as it shapes personality, creates awareness about culture and tradition and polishes language skills too.

Causes/ Effects/ Solutions Essays

Useful sentences for the intro of a problem solution essay

1. The issue of has caused considerable concern
2. What factors lead to this phenomenon and what can be done to solve the problem will be discussed in this essay. OR
3. It is crucial that we analyze the causes of this disturbing issue and explore the effective solutions.

Useful sentences to begin the reasons paragraph

1. There are a number of reasons for this (expand by saying what the word 'this' refers to) phenomenon. OR
2. The following reasons for the should be taken into consideration. OR
3. It is obvious that the causes of are diverse.

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

4. There are several, many, a number of, numerous, two main reasons for the
5. The main reason for the is that
6. The lack of interpersonal skills among employees can be attributed to many reasons.

Useful sentences to begin the effects paragraph

1. There are many effects of
2. The lack of interpersonal skills leads to many negative consequences.
3. The lack of interpersonal skills gives birth to many negative consequences.

Useful sentences to begin the solution paragraph

Do NOT write – ~~On the other hand~~ there are some solutions to address the problem

1. The issue of should be well taken into consideration. To address the problem, many steps can be taken. OR
2. I strongly suggest that effective steps be taken as soon as possible to address the problem of OR
3. Looking at the reasons, I think there are some ways to deal with the problem. OR
4. There are many reasons which result in this unpleasant phenomenon. However, something should be done as soon as possible to mitigate/alleviate/ameliorate the problem.

Useful conclusions of a problem solution essay

1. To conclude, this the disturbing problem of stress at the workplace is attributed to many factors/causes/reasons and I believe with the joint efforts of the employees and employers, it can be eventually resolved.

OR

To conclude, several factors/ contribute to I am convinced that many steps/ actions/ measures can be taken to solve (mitigate, ameliorate, alleviate, lessen, tackle, address, overcome, handle) this disturbing problem.

Linking Words for IELTS Essay

Linking words, sometimes called as cohesive devices, discourse markers or transitional words are one of the most important parts of the IELTS Writing module as they bring overall structure and flow to your essay.

Most of the students pursuing IELTS exam, know these words as Firstly, Secondly, Furthermore, However, etcetera. But, once the students become aware about them, they tend to either overuse these words or use them inappropriately. So please make sure, that the linking words are used judiciously in your essay in order to get a high band score for Coherence and Cohesion.

Following is a list of the linking words that you can use in your essay, categorized according to the use.

- **Sequencing** - Firstly, Secondly, Next, Then, After, To begin with, First of all

www.makkarielts.com

www.youtube.com/makkarielts

www.facebook.com/makkarielts

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

- **Addition** - And, also, Furthermore, What is more, Moreover, Additionally, To further strengthen this view, another point/fact/factor is
- **Contrast** - In comparison, On the other hand, In Contrast, On the contrary, Admittedly, However, Although, Having said that, That said
- **Comparison** - Also, equally, similarly, likewise, compared with
- **Adding examples** - For example, For instance, To illustrate, To cite an example, To exemplify
- **Result** - So, therefore, As a result, thus, because, consequently, owing to this
- **Highlighting** - In particular, especially, mainly, particularly, above all
- **Restating** - In other words, Put more simply, rather, in simple terms
- **Conclusion** - To sum up, To conclude, To summarise, In conclusion

Useful phrases:

- Not only... but also
- This coupled with (to state an additional related point)
- Undoubtedly, Without a doubt, Indubitably (To state a fact)
- To state further points supporting the same view/point:
- Moreover, Furthermore, What's more, In addition, Additionally, To further strengthen my viewpoint, another point/fact/factor is
- To state opposite view/points:
- In contrast, By contrast, On the other hand, However, Having said that, That said
- To state an advantage regardless of a fact or evidence: Despite this, Nevertheless, Nonetheless, Notwithstanding.

Difference between Academic and GT Essays

There are very few differences between Academic and GT Essays.

- The biggest difference is that the writing task topics for GT are generic and simple as compared to the Academic Exam. The topics for essays in GT are generally related to Family, education and job etc. whereas in Academic the topics can come from a wide variety of subjects such as science, economics etc.
- The essay can be less formal in style as you are normally asked to include personal examples in General Training essays.
- The marking criteria and essay types (Opinion, Problem-Solution, Discuss) are same for both GT and Academic Writing Task 2.

Marking Criteria - Task 2

Each essay is marked on 4 different criteria, which share equal proportion of the overall band score.

1. Task Response(TR)

Answer the question given with relevant ideas and examples. Do not digress. For example, if your essay asks you to write the problems faced by cities because of rapid urbanization, and you write the causes of urbanization, you will be off track and lose out on task response.

2. Cohesion and Coherence (CC)

Coherence means that your essay is easy to read and understand which goes with handwriting and language used in the essay. Cohesion means your essay stays on-topic and does not provide any irrelevant and redundant details. Cohesive devices or transition signals like 'however', 'despite this' and 'In conclusion' should be used more in academic writing. However, this does not mean that you should try to insert as many of these words in to your writing as possible. This is a common mistake in IELTS writing. Using too many of them, or using them inappropriately, can be detrimental. They are important, but must only be used at the appropriate time.

3. Lexical Resource (LR)

This criterion assesses how effectively and accurately you can use your vocabulary to develop your ideas. Big words and phrases might lead to your essay becoming forced and unnatural.

4. Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA)

This means, you can use simple, complex and compound sentences, along with proper punctuation correctly.

IELTS Band Descriptors for Task 2 - Band 6,7,8,9 (Source: IELTS.org)

Task Response	Cohesion and Coherence	LR – Lexical Resource	GRA– Grammatical Range and Accuracy
<p>Band 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others - Present a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive - Present relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrange information and ideas coherently and have a clear overall progression - Use cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical - Use referencing clearly or appropriately, although at some places there may be flaws - Use paragraphing, but not always logically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use an adequate range of vocabulary for the task - Attempt to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy - Be able to communicate, although you may have some errors in spelling and/or word formation (but they should not impede communication) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a mix of simple and complex sentence forms - Be able to communicate, although you may make some errors in grammar and punctuation (but they rarely reduce communication)
<p>Band 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address all parts of the task - Present, extend and support main ideas, but there may be a tendency to over generalize and/or supporting ideas may lack focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Logically organize information and ideas; and have a clear progression throughout - Use a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-use or over-use - Present a clear central topic within each paragraph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision - Use less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation, although you may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a variety of complex structures - Produce frequent error-free sentences - Has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
<p>Band 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficiently address all parts of the task - Present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sequence information and ideas logically - Manage all aspects of cohesion well - Use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings - Skillfully use uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation, and you have only rare errors in spelling and/or word formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a wide range of structures - Write a majority of error-free sentences - Make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
<p>Band 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fully address all parts of the task - Present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention - Skillfully manage paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy, with rare minor errors occurring only as 'slips'

Essays - Index

S. No.	Essay	Category
1.	Stress at the workplace – Problem solution	Job
2.	Dress Code – Uniform at work	Job
3.	Telecommuting and stress at home	Job
4.	Telecommuting – advantages / disadvantages	Job
5.	Going abroad for work with family – Advantages/disadvantages	Job
6.	Hiring methods – Interview and other methods	Job
7.	Retirement age should be extended or not	Job
8.	Change jobs or stick to one	Job
9.	Self-employed or working for others	Job
10.	Work-life balance – Problem/ solution	Job
11.	High earnings of celebs	Job
12.	Promotions should be given to employees within the company or new hiring	Job
13.	Decision making in company – managers or workers	Job
14.	University students and part time jobs	Job
15.	Women doing jobs traditionally done by men	Job
16.	Young workers vs. older workers in a company	Job
17.	A high salary or job satisfaction	Job
18.	Teenage students and part-time jobs	Job
19.	Doctors should not focus on profit making activities such as plastic surgeries and focus on patients' health	Job
20.	Some professions are more honest than others. Why	Job
21.	Are women really suited for police jobs	Job
22.	Why are some professionals like doctors, lawyers paid higher?	Job
23.	Women in the workforce when children are young	Job
24.	Employers can call employees anytime even during holiday	Job
25.	Reducing the number of school hours is good or bad	Education
26.	Homework and student stress	Education
27.	Children and parenting classes at school	Education
28.	Uniform in schools	Education
29.	Cooking classes in schools	Education
30.	Should money management be taught in schools	Education
31.	Importance of imparting health education in schools	Education
32.	Science study in schools	Education

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

33.	Physical activities (sports) in schools	Education
34.	Should teenagers study all school subjects or only those in which they are interested in	Education
35.	Unpaid internships – pros and cons	Education
36.	Importance of the skill of handwriting	Education
37.	Importance of arts, drama, creative writing in schools	Education
38.	Students who don't do well become successful in life. Reasons for this. What is needed for successful life	Education
39.	Should teachers be friendly or strict//Should students be afraid or have friendly relationship with teachers	Education
40.	To be a good teacher is training required or is experience enough	Education
41.	Should public speaking be taught in schools	Education
42.	School starting age	Education
43.	Private tuitions - advantages/disadvantages	Education
44.	Nursery schools – advantages/disadvantages	Education
45.	Schools open till late – pros and cons	Education
46.	Science and technology vs. history and geography in primary schools	Education
47.	Academic subjects like history and physics vs. practical subjects like car machinery and cookery	Education
48.	Practical subjects like car maintenance and managing a bank account in addition to academic subjects	Education
49.	Traditional subjects like history vs. communication skills and business management	Education
50.	Music vs. science in primary schools	Education
51.	Should schools impart moral values	Education
52.	Who is better at learning a foreign language – Young or old	Education - Language
53.	What is the difficult part of learning a foreign language	Education - Language
54.	Should foreign language be mandatory in schools	Education - Language
55.	No need of human interpreters of language because computers can translate languages	Education - Language
56.	Some languages losing their importance and may become extinct	Education - Language
57.	Should schools invest in teachers or technology with their limited resources	Education
58.	Students and school administration	Education
59.	Road transport is taking over rail transport – positive or negative	Transport - Travel
60.	Cars vs. public transport -	Transport - Travel
61.	Should cars be banned in city centres	Transport - Travel
62.	Air travel has become cheaper – positive or negative	Transport - Travel
63.	Should roads be widened to solve traffic problems	Transport - Travel
64.	Increasing number of private cars is positive or negative	Transport Travel

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

65.	Decrease in international travel in future will be positive or negative	Transport/ Travel
66.	Youth tourism – travelling abroad is positive or negative for the youth	Transport/ Travel
67.	Travelling alone or with someone	Travel Tourism
68.	Free public transport	Transport Travel
69.	Should visitors follow host country's customs	Tourism
70.	Noise pollution	Environment
71.	Tourist destinations being damaged - Reasons and solutions	Environment - Tourism
72.	Negative environmental effects of tourism	Environment - Tourism
73.	Do tourists learn or not by touring	Tourism
74.	Why people are travelling. Is it good or bad for host country	Tourism
75.	Car vs. bicycle in city centres	Environment
76.	Should companies which cause pollution be taxed	Environment
77.	Why people don't care for the environment	Environment
78.	People prefer bicycles – effects of this	Environment
79.	Rubbish is increasing – Problem/ solution	Environment
80.	In spite of technological developments in transportation, many people believe that a bicycle is the best way to reach any destination. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using bicycles nowadays?	Environment
81.	Most countries allow 18 year olds to start driving a car. Some say it is good to allow driving at that age. Others think that the age to start driving should be at least 25 years. Discuss both views and opine.	Environment Age of driving
82.	Weekly pocket money is good for children – agree or disagree	Money matters
83.	Plastic money -	Money matters
84.	Money and happiness	Money matters
85.	Spending money on looks is good or not good	Money matters
86.	Spending on birthdays and other events	Money matters
87.	Death penalty or capital punishment	Crime
88.	People watching crime in movies – reasons and effects	Crime Media
89.	Prisons vs. education and job training	Crime Prisons
90.	Should the purpose of TV be to educate or to entertain	Media - TV
91.	Watching TV is enjoyable or is it a waste of time.	Media - TV
92.	Comparison of newspaper, radio, TV and Internet	Media - TV
93.	Radio vs. TV and internet	Media - Radio
94.	More media attention to celebs – Reasons and effects	Media and celebs
95.	Should media publicize people's private lives	Media and private lives
96.	TV contributes more than other inventions to the life of man	Media TV vs. other inventions

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

97. National news vs. international news	Media - News
98. Use of internet for shopping and information – Advantages and disadvantages	Media - Internet –pros and cons
99. Films as educational tools for children	Media - Films
100. Internet vs. traditional books	Media Internet and book
101. Latest technology's effect on communication	Technology – Communication
102. Is there less communication than past	Technology - Communication
103. People use electronic equipment – Is it good or bad	Technology - Electronic equipment
104. Computers have made the world better – Agree or disagree	Technology- Computers
105. Adults playing computer games – reasons and whether it is good or bad	Technology – Computer games
106. Manual jobs being done by machines is good or bad	Technology -Machine automation
107. Mobile phones are more useful in personal or professional lives	Technology – Cell phones
108. Social networking sites – Good or bad for making friends	Technology – Social network sites
109. Many adults think that childhood and schooldays are the best years of a person's life. What's the reason for this? Do you agree or disagree?	Children - Childhood
110. Should parents control the behaviour of children from a very young age	Children - Rules
111. Children brought up in joint families	Children – Joint families
112. Teenagers and their problems	Children – Problems
113. Children and cell phones	Children – Cell phones
114. Children and computer games – vs. outdoor games	Children – Computer games
115. Children and computer games vs. reading	Children – Computer games
116. Young people are less polite than past Reasons and solutions	Young people - less polite
117. People marrying late	Family – Late marriages
118. Paid maternity leave	Family
119. Childcare courses for all parents-to-be	Family
120. Children and violent cartoon characters on TV	Children and TV
121. Children and too much TV	Children and TV
122. TV can help in children's development or not	Children and TV
123. Children wanting to watch same TV programmes and play same video games as friends	Children and parallel play

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

124. Children leave parents homes and live on their own	Children living alone
125. Family more important than friends	Children and family vs. friends
126. Children learn more from team sports or solo sports	Children – team sports
127. Why people live alone	Family
128. Rural young people moving to cities, old people live in villages	Family
129. Urbanization and its problems	Family Urbanization
130. Children and toys	Children toys
131. Generation gap	Children Family
132. Children being brought up in cities or countryside	Children family
133. Children and responsibility	Children
134. Children and health	Children
135. Childs success depends on parents bringing up	Children family
136. Children and official adulthood	Children
137. Should children obey parents or take own decisions	Children
138. Old people looked after by children or old age homes	Old people
139. Old people being looked after by professionals in their homes	Old people
140. More old people than young – Why and advantages disadvantages	Old people
141. Why people are living longer	Old people
142. People and stress	People and stress
143. Was life better in the past	People and life
144. People like hot climate vs. cold climate	People climate
145. Should government be held responsible for homelessness and unemployment	Government - homelessness
146. Should hobbies be difficult to be enjoyable	People - hobbies
147. Should old buildings be restored or new ones made	Buildings architecture
148. Reasons why historic buildings are being destroyed and ways to protect them	Buildings/ architecture
149. Modernization of cities	Buildings/architecture
150. House vs. apartment	Buildings/architecture
151. High rise apartments and people's loneliness	Buildings/architecture
152. Should new houses be built in existing towns or should there be new towns	Cities / Urbanization
153. Renting vs. buying 5/1/2020 CDI	People housing
154. Should zoos be abolished	Animals
155. Purpose of zoos	Animals
156. Should government preserve wildlife	Animals
157. Ads - advantages and disadvantages	Ads
158. Effects of ads	Ads
159. Ads and children	Ads

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

160. Modern clothes vs. traditional clothes. 11/1/2020 - India	Globalization
161. Globalisation is negative Agree/Disagree	Globalization
162. Animal experimentation For and against	Animals
163. Fashion	Miscellaneous 14/3/20 CDI
164. Goods have to be transported a long distance. Positive or negative	Globalisation
165. People don't eat healthy and don't do enough exercise	Health
166. People doing excessive exercise - Causes and solutions	Health
167. Fast food	Health – Food
168. International sporting events contribute to peace and stability in the world.	Sports
169. Why people do dangerous sports	Sports
170. Should dangerous sports be banned	Sports
171. Hosting international sporting events	Sports
172. Does technology reduce the role of Olympics	Sports
173. Football hooliganism	Sports
174. Professional sportsman behaviour on and off the field	Sports
175. Competitive sport and children	Sports
176. Why people are purchasing more second hand goods	Shopping
177. Shopping as an entertainment or hobby	Shopping
178. Shops open 24/7. Is it good or bad	Shopping
179. Online shopping	Shopping
180. It is better to get advice from old people compared to young people.	Miscellaneous
181. Happiness depends on the individual or other factors	Miscellaneous
182. Is it good that ordinary people copy famous people whom they see on TV and magazines	Famous people
183. Should teenagers follow older people or challenge what old people say.	Young people / family
184. Violence in TV and video games. Problem solution essay.	Media
185. Some people become famous at a very young age. Do you think it is good or bad? 5/1/2020 ?	Young people
186. It is better for children if the whole families (e.g. aunts, uncles and grandparents) are involved in the children's upbringing, rather than their fathers and mothers only. Agree/disagree 1/2/2020 India	Family
187. It is better for children if the whole families (e.g. aunts, uncles and grandparents) are involved in the children's upbringing, rather than their fathers and mothers only. Agree/disagree 1/2/2020 India	Family
188. some people believe that technology such as mobile phones have destroyed social interactions. Do you agree or disagree. 7/3/2020	Technology

1. Nowadays, many people have to work longer hours, and they feel more stressed out than before. What are the reasons for stress at the workplace? What can employers do to make their employees' life easier?

Stress is a big problem in today's workplace. While some stress is a normal part of the workplace, excessive stress can impact the physical and emotional health of employees. There are several factors responsible for this situation, but if proper steps are taken, the problem can be mitigated.

There are many causes of stress in the workplace. Firstly, excessively high workloads, or even insufficient workloads, makes people feel stressed. Moreover, there may be times when employees are asked to do a job for which they have no experience or training. Stress can also be caused by lack of job security. For instance, if a person feels that he may be laid off any time it may cause stress.

Furthermore, stress may be caused by bullying, or harassment by management, which can leave employees feeling undervalued. In addition, there may be poor rapport among colleagues leading to a sense of isolation. Last but not least a poor physical working environment such as excessive heat, cold or noise, inadequate lighting, uncomfortable seating and malfunctioning equipment may also lead to stress.

Employers can take a lot of steps to cope with workplace-stress. To begin with, they should ensure that their employees' targets are challenging, but realistic, and make sure that employees take their full holiday entitlement. They should also check that individuals are well matched to the jobs they've got. Employers should also vary the work of their employees to break their monotony. Finally, employers should ensure that the workplace is comfortable as the employees have to spend a lot of time there.

To sum up, stress at the workplace is an issue of great concern. Unless the employers take some steps to alleviate the problem, it can reduce the efficiency of workers, which ultimately is detrimental for the company.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

2. Some companies and organizations require their employees to wear uniform. What are the advantages and disadvantages of wearing uniform?

Setting a dress code in the workplace is becoming increasingly common. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of wearing uniform at work.

There are many advantages of having a dress code. Firstly, a dress code makes the company look professional in the eyes of its clients. The way customers perceive a company is important for the type and amount of business it does. Secondly, when all employees are in a similar dress they feel united, because of which they tend to work with more dedication.

Furthermore, a dress code is also very important for keeping employees safe from injury. For example, protective clothing, gloves and head gear ensures employees safety when working with chemicals or other machines. A dress code is also very beneficial for other places of service, such as food factories or grocery stores as it portrays a feeling of cleanliness and also ensures safety of consumers. Finally, having a uniform also saves time of employees as they don't have to wonder what to wear or whether something would be appropriate to wear to work.

On the other hand, there are a few disadvantages of a dress code. First, it can become very boring to wear the same clothes daily. Secondly, the uniform may not be very comfortable to wear, which can affect the productivity of employees. Last but not least, restricting employees to a certain dress code limits their creativity. Individuals like to express themselves through their clothes.

To conclude, a dress code is very essential nowadays in the workplace. The disadvantages are negligible as compared to the advantages.

Plan followed

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages of uniform

Para 3: Disadvantages of uniform

Conclusion:

3. More and more people are working from home rather than at the workplace. Some people say this will bring benefits to the workers and their families, but others think it will bring stress to the home. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Telecommuting has become very popular in jobs related to the IT sector. Some individuals are of the opinion that it is advantageous for the employees and their families, whereas others think it leads to tension at home. This essay shall discuss both perspectives. I, personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people opine that telecommuting has advantages for employees and their families. To begin with, it saves time as no time is wasted commuting to and from the office. It also saves money as no spending on private or public transport has to be done. Furthermore, the worker can look after minor family commitments like dropping the child to school etc. Finally, the tele-worker can do some side business also because of the time saved.

On the other hand, those who say that telecommuters and their families face stress at home, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, a quiet corner of the house has to be reserved for office work, which may not be possible if there are small children in the home. The family members also may forget that the person working from home cannot be disturbed every now and then. All these factors may cause a lot of stress.

I believe that the advantages of telecommuting are far more as compared to the disadvantages. The coffee breaks and lunch breaks can be spent with family, which is definitely not possible if the person is at office away from home. Perhaps the best advantage of telecommuting is that the person can work in any corner of the world, sitting at his home. For example, a person from India can work in the US and vice versa.

To conclude, the pros of telecommuting are far more than the cons. Some amount of stress at the home is a small price to pay for the vast amount of benefits associated with telecommuting.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

4. Nowadays, a lot of people are able to do their work from home. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.

Telecommuting has become very popular in jobs related to the IT sector. Many companies provide their employees with computers and a good internet connection to work from home. This is largely advantageous to both employees and employers but has a few disadvantages as well.

On the positive side it saves time and money of employees as they don't waste time commuting to and from office and also do not need to spend on public or private transport. The time they save can be given to personal or family needs. For instance, they can look after minor family commitments such as dropping their child to school. Finally, they can work for anyone in any corner of the world sitting in their homes.

Similarly, telecommuting helps the employers also because they do not need to build and maintain big offices. Moreover, it has been seen that telecommuters don't take much sick leave or other leave, which in turn benefits the employers. In addition, there are advantages to the environment. Less people going and coming from offices means less congestion on the roads and also less pollution.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of telecommuting to the employees are that they have to reserve a corner in their home for office, as they have to sit there undisturbed during office hours. Secondly, they do not get the office atmosphere to work, and so it can get very boring at times. They can also be disturbed by the family, who fail to realise that the person sitting at home is not free. The employers also find it very difficult to supervise tele-commuters.

To sum up, telecommuting has pros as well as cons but definitely the advantages have an edge over the disadvantages.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of telecommuting to employees

Para 2: Advantages to employers

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

5. Nowadays, many families move overseas for job opportunities and take their children along with. Some people think that this is beneficial for the children of these families, while others think children will find it difficult. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Immigrating to developed countries has become very common nowadays. While moving to a foreign country, some individuals take their family with them. Some people hold the view that if children accompany their parents when they immigrate, then it is advantageous for them, whereas others assert that it could be challenging for such children. In this essay I shall discuss both perspectives. I personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people say that children who accompany their parents abroad are benefited. To begin with, they have more bonding with family. The family relationship is not weakened by distance. Secondly, they get international exposure as they are exposed to various cultures as people from various countries immigrate to those developed countries. They also get better education, because of which they get better placed in life later on.

On the other hand, those who say that children who accompany their parents abroad have to face some challenges, give their reasons as follows. First of all, these children find it challenging to adapt to the sudden change of culture and language. They are exposed to a foreign culture, and while living and mixing with people of different cultures, they are pressurised by parents to stick to their traditions, which can be very confusing for them. They also feel insecure and isolated if they are not fluent in English.

I believe that it is better for children to accompany parents when they move abroad. It has been seen that if children have family support, they overcome the culture and language barrier very soon, but if they are left behind, they suffer a lot emotionally. A survey found that children left behind by migrant parents lack emotional support and have difficulty overcoming parental separation, both socially and as individuals.

To conclude, there are both advantages and disadvantages for children who go overseas with their migrant parents. However, I reiterate that the pros are far more than the cons

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusions: reiterate your opinion

6. Most people take interviews to select a person for job. What are the other ways? What do you think is the best way to recruit new employees?

Recruiting new employees can be a long and painful process. The success of any business or organisation depends on the quality of its staff. Some employers conduct interviews to select new workers. However, there are various other approaches. This essay intends to analyze methods of hiring new employees and pick out the best one.

There are many reasons why interview is preferred by some employers. Firstly, by the interview the recruiters can get an idea about the personality and social skills of the potential employees. In interviews, there is face-to-face interaction and the candidates have to answer impromptu questions, from which personality traits can be judged. Also, by asking some case study type questions, employees can judge traits like ability to handle pressure, confidence and ability to think outside the box.

However, there are many other selection methods with varied advantages. One other method is the written test. It is preferred when the focus is on judging the theoretical knowledge of the person. Another conventional selection basis is group discussion. This method is good for sales jobs as it can determine the convincing power of an individual. A combination of all the three methods can be used like written tests, followed by group discussion and finally interviews.

It is evident that different methods have different advantages and the best method cannot be singled out. It depends upon the situation. For example, interviews assess a person's individual traits better, whereas written tests are more about knowledge and expertise in an area. There are shortcomings of every method too. For example, there is a chance of personal bias in interviews. The combination of methods can take too long to select a candidate and may be too expensive to conduct for small companies.

To conclude, hiring method depends upon the job and company requirement. In some situations, conducting interviews is more apt, whereas in some situations the other methods may be more advantageous.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para 1: Importance of interviews

Para 2: Other methods,

Para 3: More methods and own opinion.

Conclusion:

7. Some people believe that no one should be allowed to continue working after the age of 65. However, others say there should not be any limitation on retirement age and people should be allowed to work regardless of their age. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the issue of fixing an age for retirement. Some people hold the opinion that retirement age should be fixed at 65 years. Others assert that mandatory retirement age should be extended. In this essay I will discuss both perspectives. I personally side with the former view.

The main reason why some people hold the opinion that retirement age should be set at 65 years is that otherwise it may lead to youth unemployment. Unemployment among youth may lead to increase in the crime rate, violent behavior and drug addiction. Increasing the retirement age will definitely worsen the problem of youth unemployment especially in developing countries, like India and China.

On the other hand, those who are in favour of extending the retirement age give their reasons as follows. Firstly, increasing the retirement age will help decrease the government's burden of providing pension and other benefits for the elderly such as senior citizen discounts, healthcare benefits, travel benefits, etc. Secondly, these people have years of experience, which can go waste if they retire early. No doubt, young people are more energetic and work more enthusiastically, the older employees know the ins and outs of the company.

I believe that the elderly should be retired at 65, as they have worked all their life and now it is time for them to relax and enjoy. They should utilize that time in travelling and pursuing their interests and hobbies, which they couldn't because of their hectic work life. Moreover, young people have to be employed as they are very energetic and if this energy is not channelized in the right direction then they can go astray and cause problems.

To sum up, there are convincing arguments both for and against fixing the retirement age at 65, but I reiterate that old people should be retired at that age.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

8. Many people prefer to stay in the same type of work all their life, whereas others prefer to change the type of work. Discuss both sides and state your own opinion.

In the job market today, the trend to change jobs and professions has been noticed. While some people consider this beneficial, others opine that they should not change their jobs or professions throughout their lives. In this essay, I intend to analyze both perspectives. I, however, believe that changing the type of work brings more benefits if done once, or at the most twice.

There are several arguments in favor of remaining in the same profession for life. The main reason is job security. If there is no risk of being laid off, people don't have to stress about meeting their basic needs and paying their bills. Another important reason to consider is that people become very experienced in one field and know the way to handle various issues related to their area of expertise. Choosing a different line of work would mean more investment of time and money, which many people consider a waste.

On the other hand, those who favour changing the profession also have some valid points. Firstly, they want to achieve job satisfaction. When people begin their career, they usually make a compromise and do any job that comes their way. After some time they can afford to invest in a new type of work. Secondly, in today's competitive world, a person needs to be updated, upskilled, and have a varied experience to keep up with the changing job market and economies.

In my opinion, it is good to change the type of work once or at the most twice. If a change in job or career is done too often, then there is no stability in life and the person ends up being dissatisfied with everything. An occasional job change is good because of the volatility of job markets and economies all over the world.

To sum up, both sides have some strong supporting arguments. However, I reiterate that an infrequent career change brings more benefits to the employees.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: reasons why some people like sticking to one job

Para 2: benefits that can come from job hopping

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: changing jobs is better if done once or twice at the most

9. Some people prefer to be self-employed, whereas others like working for companies or institutions. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches. Which do you think is a better approach?

Many people prefer to work in a company or institution, whereas some choose to open their own business and be self-employed. It is necessary to look into the pros and cons of both before deciding which situation is more advantageous.

There are numerous advantages and disadvantages of being self-employed. Firstly, self-employment allows greater freedom and the working day can be planned allowing the person to work when he wants rather than when he has to. In addition, the self-employed person decides his pay check. If he wants more, he works more. The main disadvantage is that self-employed people may face financial difficulties because any business or work involves initial set-up cost. There are also no benefits like a pension, sick leave etc.

On the other hand, there are obvious advantages and disadvantages of working for companies or institutions. The main advantage is that the employees don't have to make any investments and so have nothing to lose. Additionally, if the company does well, the employees get bonuses and perks from time to time. Another important benefit is that the employees get their regular pay check even if the company is going in loss. Finally, working for a reputed company is a status symbol. However, the disadvantage is that there is always a limit on the salary and employees have to work under someone.

I believe that both approaches have their own set of pros and cons. Being self-employed can be very gratifying but it can also be very challenging. A 1996 study found that over a quarter of businesses run by newly self-employed people failed within the first two years. A wise thing would be to work for few months or a couple of years in a company to get the know-how before embarking on one's own venture.

To conclude, being self-employed can be very fulfilling but not without difficulties, so working for a company would be a much safer option in the initial stages of a person's work life.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of being self-employed

Para 2: Advantages of working for others

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: working for others is better in the initial stages

10. Many people strive to maintain a successful career and happy family life at the same time, but fail to do so. What are the causes of this failure? What are the possible solutions?

It is undeniable that everyone dreams to have both - a prosperous career and a contented family. However, a lot of reasons prevent people from achieving that goal. This essay shall discuss these causes and suggest some solutions to mitigate these problems.

The first reason for the inability to achieve a work life balance is the technology of today. Everyone is more reachable than ever in the past. The cell phone has thinned the line between personal and professional lives. The second blame goes to the materialistic society of today. People want to avail all the luxuries of life, and in that quest, they become workaholics and then that attitude becomes a way of life, because the desires go on increasing and increasing.

Furthermore, people cannot achieve a work-life balance because the definition of a work-life balance is different for different people. Making choices is what the balance between work and life is all about. There may be times when the choice between moving ahead with one's career takes a back seat to one's health or happiness at home. The priorities one identifies as important keep changing and that is why achieving a perfect work-life balance is difficult.

The solutions are not simple. People must try to introspect and see what makes them happy and then set priorities in life. When they come home from work, they must learn to switch the office button off. Another key is adopting some flexibility. It never works if people are too rigid with the goals they set for themselves. Last but not least, people should learn when enough is enough, and then begin downshifting to enjoy life in its true form.

To sum up, everyone perceives work life balance in a different light, and so achieving a perfect work life balance is difficult. However, people must realise that contentment is the key to a perfect work-life balance.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall discuss these problems and suggest some solutions.

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Reasons

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

11. Nowadays, some celebrities such as film stars, sportsmen and pop musicians are paid too much money. Do you agree or disagree? Which jobs should be highly paid?

The high incomes of celebs in the field of sports and entertainment have always been a matter of dispute. I agree that they are getting high remuneration for what they are doing, and I also firmly believe that they well deserve it. In the following paragraphs I shall put my arguments to support my opinion, and also suggest some other jobs, which should be highly paid.

My first argument in favour of the high salaries of these celebrities is that they entertain and inspire people and they also bring name and fame to their country. Secondly, they have a very short career span. Most of the people in the sports and entertainment field start their career at the age of 19-20 and retire by 33-35 years. Whatever these celebs earn is during these few years and after that they face struggles.

Furthermore, these celebs sacrifice their personal life completely and so they do deserve these high salaries. They cannot enjoy the common things of life like the normal people do. They are always followed by the paparazzi and their children too always need security. This is the price to pay for the high salaries they receive.

There are many other professions, which deserve high salaries. Doctors, teachers and nurses also serve humanity and should be paid higher salaries. Then, there are people working in our defense services such as the army, navy and air force also merit higher salaries. Because of them, we are leading secure lives. Furthermore, people working in high-risk professions such as fire-fighters and security guards should be paid more and finally people in administrative posts such as IAS and IPS officers should have higher salaries.

To sum up, people in the field of sports and entertainment well deserve their high incomes. However, there are many other professions, which also deserve high salaries.

Plan followed

Intro: agree

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: Other professions, which require higher salaries

Conclusion:

12. Promotions to higher levels should be from within a company and not to a new person from outside. Do you agree or disagree?

It is a highly debatable issue whether promotions should be given to employees from within or to hire someone new. The given statement is in favour of in-house promotion. I believe that promotions should be done on a case to case basis as there are pros and cons of both approaches.

On the one hand, there are many benefits of promoting from within. To begin with, it is quicker because the candidate is already an employee with the company, and is therefore already familiar with operations and business methods. The training process is also faster. Secondly, hiring from within sends a message to other employees that there are real career opportunities with the company. Often, this boosts company's productivity, as it creates added incentive for increased productivity. The costs associated with hiring a new employee are also lower, as no advertisements have to be given and no interviews conducted.

On the other hand, new candidates often bring with them new ideas full of creativity and new opportunity for growth and learning, which can be beneficial for the entire business. Moreover, the established policy of hiring from within makes some employees feel that they are entitled to promotion just because they have spent time with the company. This can also hurt the feelings of other employees who are not promoted. They may feel that they deserved the position better.

In my opinion, a manager or business owner needs to remember that all the hiring decisions need to be made with the idea of strengthening the business. If the company is looking for a fresh perspective for the position, then external hiring is better, but if it is looking for stability and a smooth transition then internal hiring is the answer.

To conclude, each promotion needs to be done after analysing the needs of the company as the correct choice can lead to success of the organisation.

Plan followed

Intro: It is necessary to look at the pros and cons of promoting from within the company before forming an opinion

Para 1: benefits to hiring from within

Para 2: disadvantages of hiring from within/ advantages of hiring new

Para 3: Own opinion

Conclusion: each promotion needs to be done on a case to case basis

13. Some people think that managers alone should make decisions in the company, while others think that employees should be involved in the decision-making process too. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the issue of who should be the decision makers for any company or organisation. Some people hold the opinion that decision making should be on the managers alone, whereas others say that employees should also have a say. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I side with the latter view for trivial routine decisions and with the former view for the crucial top-level decisions

There are many reasons why some people say that decision making should be done by managers alone. Firstly, managers are educated in management skills and know well about the company's goals and policies. Secondly, confidential matters should be shared only among the top personnel of the organisation as only the top managers know the loopholes and trade secrets of a company and can handle the challenges of the organization better.

On the other hand, those who wish to see the employees in the decision making, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, actively engaging workers in the decision-making process increases their overall morale and they work with a positive attitude. Secondly, participation in the decision-making process improves the relationship between managers and employees, and also encourages a strong sense of teamwork among workers.

I believe decisions pertaining to various policy matters of the organisation should be taken by the top management as it has long term impact on the functioning of the company. For example, decisions regarding location of plant, volume of production and giving bonus to staff etc., are policy decisions and should be taken by managers. Operating decisions relate to day-to-day functioning or operations of business and can be left on the employees.

To sum up, it would be best to involve the employees in the day-to-day decisions and keep the key level decisions to the managers alone.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: Why managers are better

Para 2: Why employees should have a say

Para 3: More reasons in favour of employees,

Conclusion

14. Many students take part-time jobs while studying in universities. Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?

It is irrefutable that the cost of tertiary education has become very high and students have to work part-time to fund their education. While there are a few drawbacks of this situation, on the whole the benefits are much more.

There are many reasons why working part-time is beneficial while studying in universities. Firstly, the extra cash from part-time work lets the students cover the cost of living more comfortably and also partly fund their education. Secondly, students who earn their own money learn budgeting. They tend to spend it wisely as it is their hard-earned money. This also instils some discipline in their lives because they have to manage time effectively so that their studies don't suffer.

Furthermore, when students work in their after college hours, they do not indulge in any violence and crime and drugs. This is because they don't have time for such activities. This also means that students have little time to get bored or even homesick. Finally, these jobs can provide valuable on-the-job training that will make the students much more competitive once they graduate from college. They also develop a network of friends from diverse backgrounds. This network may help them later on in their work lives.

On the other hand, the disadvantage is that it leads to stress, as sometimes students cannot strike a balance between work and study. Employment may affect the student's sleep time, which may result in absenteeism from classes. The student may not get time for socialising and other activities. Another disadvantage is that part-time work may distract the student from studies.

On balance, I believe that doing part time job while studying is a positive development. However, there should be a limit to the number of hours students are allowed part time work, otherwise their studies will suffer.

Plan followed

Intro: situation is largely positive

Para 1: Why it is positive

Para 2: How it is a positive

Para 3: How it is a negative development

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

15. In many places women are taking jobs which are traditionally done by men. What do you think make these changes happen? What's your opinion about it?

The gender lines are blurring in many occupations that were previously dominated by one sex or the other. In today's scenario it has been seen that women are proving their mettle even in the traditionally male-dominated jobs and the vice versa is also correct. This essay shall delve into the reasons for this change. I believe it is a good thing. When people pursue careers based on interest everyone benefits.

The first and foremost reason is that we are slowly heading towards an egalitarian society, and male vs female culture has become a thing of the past. Earlier, women worked in the homes in most cultures. Even if there were employed women, they tended to dominate the so-called 'caring professions' such as teaching, nursing or social work. But today, men and women are walking shoulder to shoulder in every field.

Secondly, today's woman is also going for higher education and because of this, even the highest positions in science, politics or law can be held successfully by women. There is also increasing scientific evidence that individual differences between people may be more important than gender differences. In other words, some women may be physically stronger than some men, while some men may be more sensitive, or more caring than some women.

I believe that it is a good thing that jobs are not driven by gender any more. Job competencies develop by experience and not gender and women are doing as well in male dominated jobs as men are doing in female dominated ones. For example, many women are successful CEO's and lawyers, and many men are successful nurses and chefs.

To sum up, in the modern world individual men and women can be trained to develop similar abilities. Differences in aptitude and talent are greater at the individual level than at the gender level. That is why women are taking up jobs traditionally thought to be men's jobs.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into the reasons for this change.

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: more reasons

Para 3: your opinion

Conclusion

16. Some people believe that young people bring more profits to a company. Others say that older people actually bring more profits. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some people are of the opinion that the tech-savvy youth make an organization more profitable, whereas others opine that the experienced older employees are more important for the success of any organisation. In this essay, I shall discuss both perspectives. I believe that only a combination of the creativity and innovation of the younger workers along with the wisdom and experience of the older employees would lead to the success of any company.

There are many reasons why some people say that only young workers can lead to the success of any business. Firstly, young workers are energetic, creative and bring new and innovative ideas with them, all of which are very important factors in making any business successful in this age of competition. Younger people are also more suitable for the jobs which require more physical work and are labor-intensive, like construction work.

On the other hand, those who assert that older and experienced employees are better, give their reasons as follows. An older employee already knows the ins and outs of the work, whereas, a company might need to spend resources on training and induction of a new inexperienced, younger employees. Moreover, young people are impulsive and may take hasty decisions without thinking of the far-reaching consequences of their actions.

In my opinion, for any business or company to be successful, both innovation and experience play an indispensable role. The loyalty, trust and experience of the older employees are as important as the innovation, creativity and enthusiasm of the younger employees. So, in today's competitive world, a combination of older and younger employees is needed.

To recapitulate, it can be said that there should be a right balance of both for any work or business to be successful. Having only young employees or only older employees cannot lead to the success of any company.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: benefits of young workers

Para 2: Benefits of older workers

Para 3: Own opinion- combination of both

Conclusion

17. Big salary is much more important than job satisfaction. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the given statement, which says that monetary benefits are far more important than job-related contentedness. While I believe that money is important in life, doing a job one loves definitely has an edge over the size of the pay package.

Undoubtedly, money is necessary in order for people to meet their basic needs. Most people consider it a priority to at least earn a salary that allows them to cover these needs and have a reasonable quality of life. If people chose their jobs based on enjoyment or other non-financial factors, they might find it difficult to support themselves.

However, Job satisfaction is more important mainly because it increases productivity. If people like their jobs, they perform their job with utmost interest and concentration, which automatically improves the results and help them achieve more in less time. By contrast, people who choose a particular job just because it is paying well find it rather difficult to stay motivated. They have to push themselves to work every morning. Because of this, they take longer to finish tasks, which eventually affects their health and family life.

Secondly, spending so much time doing work that does not make a person feel satisfied can have a negative effect on his overall being. It can result in lack of confidence, and suffer from stress and anxiety. Research shows that, working long hours in a harsh environment can also lead to relationship issues. Taking up a job of one's liking may eventually help the person to evolve into a better professional with a steady growth in knowledge, skills and even finances. In such a scenario, both job satisfaction and money will go hand in hand.

In conclusion, it is clear that choosing a career that one loves has many advantages. If one loves what one does, the chances of success are pretty high and money will follow. High salary is also important but job satisfaction is definitely more significant.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Importance of high salary

Para 2: Importance of job satisfaction

Para 3: Importance of job satisfaction

Conclusion: Job satisfaction is more important

18. In many countries, teenagers are encouraged to do part-time jobs. What's the situation like in your country? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of doing part-time jobs?

Some countries such as the USA and UK encourage their secondary school students to do part time jobs. There are many pros and cons of this practice, which shall be discussed in this essay. In India, teenagers generally do not work part time. This practice has recently started in big cities but is not very popular yet.

On the positive side, a job can teach work skills that prepare teenagers for careers in adulthood. The right jobs may expose them to new work possibilities and set them on the path to a lifetime career. Teens also gain useful skills such as improving their communication and team work etc. To add to it, they become confident, responsible and independent. They also learn how to do budgeting.

Furthermore, studies find that students who work a moderate amount, 10 to 15 hours a week, during the school years tend to earn higher grades than those who don't work at all. What is more, students can save for their own college fund. Finally, work provides constructive use of their free time. Keeping teens busy, instead of idle, just might be key to keeping them out of trouble during the afternoon and evening.

On the other hand, there are some drawbacks of teenagers doing part-time jobs. Firstly, working more than 13 to 20 hours a week is associated with lower grades. Students also find it difficult to do extracurricular activities, which are also very important. Some studies have found that teens who work long hours are more likely to engage in such risky activities as using illegal drugs or alcohol because they are exposed to older co-workers who may lead them astray.

Summing up, teenagers are definitely benefited by working part time. However, the type of work should be carefully chosen and they should not be allowed to work more than 10-15 hours a week.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Para 4: Situation in India | Conclusion: Advantages more than disadvantages

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

It is true that many medical professionals are earning a lot, but I disagree that doctors should not delve into money-making plastic surgeries and treatment of rich patients, and focus on patients' health instead of looking at their pocket. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main argument in favour of doctors earning high from their profession is that it takes years to become a doctor and medical education is also very expensive nowadays. To serve the poor or needy, first they have to generate their own sources of income. A doctor has to treat anyone who comes to him. By rendering his services to the rich, he can provide help to the weaker sections and thus help society.

Secondly, cosmetic surgeries are also part of people's health. They are part of emotional health, which is also very important. It is not just the celebrities who go in for such surgeries, people having accidents in which facial features are affected, also need to go in for such surgeries. Can you imagine the mental status of a woman who has lost her external ear or has disfigured her nose in an accident?

Finally, there are children born with cleft lip or palate, who also need plastic surgery. Therefore, it would be wrong to say that doctors should not focus on such surgeries. There are doctors who are doing plastic surgeries absolutely free for children suffering from cleft lip and palate. They charge their rich patients but they never say no to a poor and needy one.

To sum up, a doctor's duty is to treat patients, and there is nothing wrong if he charges money from those who can afford to pay, as long as he is looking after the poor ones too. It would also be wrong to label all cosmetic surgeries as unnecessary and money-making activities as they are also a part of the health of patients.

Plan followed

Intro: I disagree

Para 1: it takes years to become a doctor and medical education is also very expensive nowadays.

Para 2: cosmetic surgeries are also part of people's health – mental health

Para 3: children born with cleft lip or palate, who also need plastic surgery

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

20. According to a survey, people involved in certain occupations and professions are seen to be honest. What is the situation in your country? Why?

It is well known that some professions require people to demonstrate extra levels of honesty than other professions. The situation is the same all over the world and my country is no exception. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth some reasons for this phenomenon.

The main reason why honesty is required is that in some professions being honest is the best way to maximize profits in the long run. For example, for a businessman the most effective way to maximize profits over a long period of time is to follow the highest standards of ethics. Ethical conduct will gain him the reputation that earns repeat business.

Moreover, in some professions there is no room for dishonesty. For instance, in the medical profession, the doctor has to tell the correct diagnosis to his patients. A lawyer has to stick to facts and cannot afford to distort them based on his judgments. Similarly, journalists must provide news based on facts and cannot afford to present ill-founded news.

On the other hand, there are some professions such as insurance agents and advertisers, who are seen to be less honest than others. This dishonesty may not be apparent, as they may not be lying about their products or services, and they may just be hiding facts. Thus, focusing on complete honesty in these cases might result in lower profits and perhaps ultimate business failure.

However, it is difficult to generalize professions based on honesty. For instance, in the medical profession, some doctors may be prescribing an unnecessary battery of tests just for their personal benefit and some insurance agents may be telling all the positive and negative points of their insurance plans to their clients.

To conclude, some occupations seem to be more honest than the others. The situation is the same all over the world. To survive in the long run, honesty always pays.

Plan followed

Intro: Start with a quotation. Acknowledge the statement and tell about the situation in your country.

Para 1: One reason for honesty – beneficial in the long run

Para 2: Another reason – some professions have no room for dishonesty

Para 3: Reason for dishonesty in some professions with example

Para 4: Difficult to generalize honesty – individual variation

Conclusion:

21. Although there are more and more women police officers in reality, are they really suitable for this job?

Increasing numbers of women are choosing to work in the police force nowadays, and have showed their mettle in this field. The issue raised is whether women are actually suited for such jobs. I believe that not only are women suited for such jobs, they are in fact better than men in many areas of police force.

In many areas of police activity, women are especially adaptable and can even perform better than men. For example, policewomen are especially suitable in dealing with trafficking in women within the larger cities. They are also better in dealing with domestic violence and juvenile affairs. Policewomen are generally more acceptable to women and children who have been the victims of the misdeeds of men.

Furthermore, policewomen play their greatest role in crime prevention especially among juveniles. They are gifted in gaining the confidence of small children and in determining whether behaviour is normal or antisocial. The employment of policewomen offers the best method of finding out the real problem, and then determining the best course of action to pursue.

Finally, research conducted internationally clearly demonstrates that women officers use less physical force and are therefore better at dealing with violent confrontations with citizens. Additionally, women officers often possess better communication skills than their male counterparts and are better in obtaining the cooperation and trust required in their job. They have also shown no differences in the quality of their performance in street patrolling. Those sceptical about their role as police officers base their argument on women's lack of physical strength. However, with proper training even this factor can be overcome.

To conclude, female officers are equally capable as their male counterparts. In some situations they have even proved themselves better than men. No wonder, we are seeing more and more women in police force.

Plan followed

Intro: Women are suitable for these jobs and are even better at places.

Para 1: Give examples where women are better than men – Prostitution, juvenile crime

Para 2: More examples of where they are better – crime prevention

Para 3: Better communication skills – as good in street patrolling. Opponents view – less physical strength – negate it

Conclusion: Reiterate your views.

22. Nowadays some professionals such as doctors, lawyers and engineers are paid much higher salaries than ordinary workers. What do you think of this trend? Are there any jobs, which you think should offer higher salaries?

It is irrefutable that doctors, lawyers and engineers are paid much higher salaries than ordinary workers. I believe it is fair to do so. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss this issue and also suggest some other occupations which deserve higher salaries.

The main reason why doctors, lawyers and engineers are paid more is that these professionals have to study for more years than others. For example, for a basic M.B.B.S. degree, more than 5 years of study is required, and after that to specialize in any specific field another three to five years are required. A person with a simple M.B.B.S degree does not earn all that high. Similar is the case with engineering and law professions. They have to undergo many years of struggle and training to finally reach their high salaries.

Secondly, it requires a lot of financial input to attain these degrees. Many students have to take loans to study, which they have to repay later on. They may remain in debt for many years while they pay off their student loans. Therefore, their higher salaries are justified. Ordinary workers, on the other hand, do not have to spend huge amounts on their college and university fees. Finally, some of these higher paid professions are round-the-clock professions and very challenging physically as well as emotionally.

There are many other jobs, which merit higher salaries. Teachers and nurses are doing commendable jobs for the society and should be paid lucrative salaries. Then, there are people working in our defense services such as the army, navy and air force. Because of them, we are leading secure lives. Furthermore, people working in high-risk professions such as fire-fighters and security guards and people in administrative posts such as IAS and IPS officers should have higher salaries.

To sum up, there is no doubt that doctors and lawyers are receiving high salaries, but they rightly deserve them; there are several professions which should to be paid more.

Plan followed

Intro: agree

Para 1: 1st reason

Para 2: 2nd reason

Para 3: Other professions, which need higher pay

Conclusion: Reiterate what you have already said

23. In some countries, it is common for women to participate in the workforce when their children are young. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

In many parts of the world, more than half the women with young children work, and their employment status affects families and children. These effects can be both – positive and negative which shall be discussed in this essay.

On the positive side, this additional income helps to provide better education and other facilities to the children. What is more, it has been seen that the children of working mothers do better academically, have better behaviour and adjust themselves better socially. Most families also learn to accommodate to the mother's employment and provide a family environment that works well. In nuclear families, the fathers take on a larger share of the household tasks including child-care and this seems to have benefits for the children.

Furthermore, employed mothers have a higher level of well-being because they are not giving up on careers they have spent years on developing, and this affects their parenting in positive ways. Therefore, the mother's employment itself does not seem to have any negative effects on the children. Along with motherhood, work adds to the completeness of being a woman. The society also has changed and today we have affordable and quality day-care centres, which are a blessing for working mothers. Finally, women have proved their mettle in many fields and the modern workplaces need their services more than anything else.

The disadvantages, on the other hand, are that children need the loving and affectionate care of mothers in the early years of their lives and if mothers go to work then they are deprived of this to some extent. Women also need some rest after child birth as it is a physically and emotionally challenging time for them. Finally, working mothers have less time for family on the whole.

To sum up, it can be said that there are both advantages and disadvantages of women going to work when their children are young. However, the pros far outweigh the cons.

Plan followed

Intro: Balanced intro as it is a discuss essay

Para 1: advantages

Para 2: more advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion: advantages outweigh disadvantages

24. Some employers want to be able to contact their staff at all times, even on holidays. Does this development have more advantages than disadvantages?

In some workplaces, the managers or bosses expect their employees to be available to take work related calls at all times, even on weekends and on holidays. I believe that such expectations of the employers have more negative effects than positive.

The major benefit of the 24/7 connectivity between the employer and the employee is that a person can work any time and from anywhere. This means that he doesn't need to be in the office in the regular 9-to-5 work hours. This is especially helpful for on-the-go business owners. This leads to better relations between employer and employee. This further helps the employee being more creative and productive. To add to it, in some emergency situations, requiring immediate attention, critical decisions can be taken without any delays.

On the other hand, there are many drawbacks of this development. It is one of the leading causes of the work-life imbalance. The employee is not able to give time to the family or sometimes has to leave a family outing or a meal or an important family occasion to deal with the work related issue. Furthermore, the employee may always be stressed about the fact that the employer can call them anytime, and so they are not able to enjoy anything fully. This may also create a rift in the employee-employer relationship.

Furthermore, the employee may not be able to cope up with the stress, which not only affects the productivity and efficiency at work, but also leads to many health related problems, like hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and so on. Moreover, such employers are more likely to be resented by others at the workplace and again this will add to the pressures and anxieties they are already dealing with.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that if used prudently, the 24/7 connectivity between employer and employee can be a boon for both. However, the detrimental effects can be quite grave, if the employer doesn't respect the staff's personal and family time.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of the 24/7/employer employee relation

Para 2: Disadvantages of the 24/7/employer employee relation

Para 3: More disadvantages of the 24/7/employer employee relation

Conclusion:

25. Some developed countries have reduced the number of school hours. Is this a positive or a negative development?

Shortening of the school day is a topic that has been debated a lot recently. There are advantages and disadvantages associated with shortening the school day, which shall be analysed in this essay. I believe it is largely a negative development.

On the downside, a shortened school day would reduce the amount of instruction time. Even the laboratory classes would be decreased. Shorter segments of instruction time might diminish the quality of instruction of all subjects. Secondly, if the school hours were decreased, the authorities might have to reduce the number of vacation days or add days at the beginning or end of the school year in order to complete the syllabus. Finally, it would add to the stress of finding day care for after school hours for those parents who are working full time.

On the positive side, reducing the number of hours would allow extra time for students to participate in additional educational or vocational experiences. Students from lower income families would have more time for an after-school job to provide supplemental income to their parents. Students might also have the opportunity to participate in internships or perform community service.

Furthermore, there may be some financial savings to the school as teachers would work fewer hours and therefore, would get less pay. The utilities, such as heating, air conditioning, electricity, of the actual school buildings would be used less and contribute to the savings. For example, the potential savings of shortening a school day by 1.5 hours might result in a saving of 6 percent to 20 percent of the overall budget, depending upon buildings and staffing.

To sum up, shortening the school hours would have pros and cons, but the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Negative effects

Para 2: Advantages

Para 3: Advantages

Conclusion:

26. In many countries, children spend long hours on homework. Some people think less homework can reduce student's stress and give them a chance to develop other skills. Do you agree or disagree?

People have been deeply divided over the amount of homework given to students. The given statement raises a concern about too much homework and says that homework should be light and non-stressful. I completely agree with the given notion.

Undoubtedly, homework gives the chance to a student to learn lessons in a more comfortable environment. It helps to consolidate and clarify what was learned during the school day. It is an extension of classwork that allows students to achieve mastery of the content or skills to be learned. Secondly, it reduces time for TV and video games and promotes good study habits. It teaches self-discipline and time management and above all, it lets parents see what their children are doing at school.

However, when the children are overburdened with homework, all the advantages of homework seem to fade away and the dark side becomes prominent. Too much homework reduces family time. Most parents have to work full time in order to support their family today. When they come home, they want to spend time with their children, but the children are too busy in homework. It also prevents students from helping parents in household chores.

Moreover, students do not get time to relax, play and pursue sports and hobbies. It may also keep them up too late at night. What is more, homework is often meaningless busywork, which does not promote real learning. It is not designed to deepen students' understanding, and facilitate mastery of the material to be learned. There should always be reasonable homework and it should be age appropriate. It can range from one hour or a little less per night in the lower school, to three hours or a little more per night in the upper school.

To sum up, homework should be there, as it has many benefits, but it should be within reasonable limits and should promote real learning.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages of homework

Para 2: Disadvantages of too much homework

Para 3: More disadvantages

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

27. Some people think that children should receive formal training at school on how to be good parents in the future. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

In recent years, childcare has gained as much importance as any other subject of academic studies. Traditional childcare skills, which are passed on from one generation to another through oral and informal instruction, are not sufficient to guarantee quality care. So, some people opine that childcare should be added as a subject in schools. I, however, do not agree with this notion.

Those who advocate parenting courses in schools, say that these classes will make children better parents in future. Children get an insight into adult responsibilities. Childcare is a complex science that involves the physical and emotional well-being of children. Secondly, when students attend such classes, they realise that parenting is no joke and will refrain from irresponsible sex. This will also prevent teen pregnancies to happen. Finally, parenting classes improve parent-child relationship.

However, adding childcare as a subject in schools would add to the burden of children as well as schools. The children of today are already burdened with tough academic competition. Their school bags are at times heavier than their own weight. Moreover, teaching childcare would not register in their minds at that tender age, when they themselves are children. I believe, that would be taking away some of their childhood.

Another argument which goes against childcare as a subject, is that nowadays youngsters are very career conscious and are marrying late and having children late in life. They plan to have children when they are prepared for the added responsibility. At that time they are mature enough to face the challenges of parenthood. Finally, what may be a good parenting strategy today, may not seem right by the time they become parents. Times are changing very fast, as we all know. So, such classes are not needed.

To summarise, successful childcare is a challenge. The healthy development of children is measured not only by physical wellbeing but also by growth in other dimensions. However, adding parenting as a subject is not a practical idea.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Arguments of those who advocate such courses in schools

Para 2: Arguments against

Para 3: More arguments against

Conclusion

28. Some people think that uniform in schools is unnecessary and should be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give examples from your own experience.

Schools uniforms are mandatory in most schools, but some students do not like wearing a uniform. Therefore some people opine that uniform should not be there in schools. I, however, oppose such a notion. I firmly believe that uniform should be compulsory in schools.

Those against school uniform say that uniform is unattractive and old fashioned. They believe that students can express themselves better through their clothes and should be given the chance to show their individuality. Finally, they say that uniforms are expensive and sometimes, the schools also specify the retail outlets through which uniform can be bought, which creates an unnecessary burden on parents.

However, there are numerous advantages of having a uniform in schools. Firstly, uniform gives a sense of identity to the school. It instills a sense of discipline in school children. The students feel that they belong to the school. Secondly, uniform is a social leveller, as in schools pupils are drawn from a wide cross-section of society. A uniform erases these differences and thus reduces the gap between the rich and the poor. The teachers also tend to treat all students equally when they are in the same uniform.

Another big advantage is that if students play truant and bunk school, they can be easily identified. Finally, the uniform provides security. For example, if some miscreants come in the school, they can be easily spotted from afar. Even on school excursions, it is easier for the teachers to manage if all students are in same uniform.

To sum up, school uniforms should be retained in all circumstances. Students should not be given the liberty to wear clothes of their own choice. Uniforms can be modernized and changed according to circumstances but a uniform is a critical aspect of education.

Plan followed

Intro: uniforms should be compulsory

Para 1: Advantages of uniforms

Para 2: More advantages of uniforms

Para 3: Why some people oppose uniform

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

29. Many people believe that cooking is an essential life skill and should be taught to boys and girls in schools. Others disagree and believe it is a waste of school time. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

People are divided on the issue of teaching cooking in schools. Some say that cooking is a valuable skill and should be taught as a subject in schools. Others are opposed to it. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people are opposed to having cooking as a subject in schools. Firstly, today children are already burdened with many academic subjects. Adding another subject like cooking is not at all wise. Cooking is something which children can learn as and when the need arises, from their parents or from the vast resources on the internet. Secondly, cooking has more of a practical component, which would put an added burden on the infrastructure of the schools.

On the other hand, proponents of having cooking as a subject say that today children belong to nuclear families and in most cases both parents are working. If children know cooking, they can cook for themselves in times of need. Secondly, today many students go abroad for their higher education. There they would not face any food problem if they have culinary skills. Another big advantage would be that children would also know the value of healthy ingredients of food. Definitely, they would refrain from eating too much fast food.

I believe that it would not be practical to add cooking as a mandatory subject in schools. It could be added as an optional subject for the secondary classes, for those students interested in learning cookery, or would like to pursue it as a career. I do realise that children should know some basic cooking, but schools are not the place to learn this skill. It would be best learnt at home from the parents.

To conclude, although there is no doubt that home cooking is a disappearing skill in many countries, it would not be advisable to add it as a subject in schools.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

30. Some people think students in primary school / secondary school should be taught how to manage money because it is an important life skill. Do you agree or disagree?

Having financial literacy is one of the most important things needed for a happy and secure life. I agree that money management is a vital life skill and hence should be taught to primary and secondary school students. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main advantage of incorporating financial planning at school level is that students grow up to be economically successful adults. It can empower and equip young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take charge of their lives and build a more secure future for themselves and their families. For example, individuals who start a business or even start a family require certain level of financial know-how to function efficiently.

Furthermore, if financial education is taught in schools, it would ensure all children have an equal opportunity to learn about finances regardless of their family's financial background or experience. Historically, the skills of financial literacy have been taught by parents based on the family's values and resources. However, sometimes parents don't have the financial literacy knowledge to pass on to their children. Therefore school is the best place to add financial management along with other core subjects such as science and maths.

Finally, early financial education can also be of benefit in their school days itself, as children are encountering money earlier and earlier in life. A survey conducted found that the average age at which children have their first mobile phone is eight years, while the average age that children borrow a debit or credit card to purchase items online is just 10. So, today's children need to be money-savvy very soon and primary and secondary school years are the best to teach them all that.

To conclude, financial planning classes at school level can help a lot in the short term as well as long term. Therefore these classes are an absolute must in school.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: advantages

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

31. Some people think that schools do not do enough to teach young people about how to look after their health. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

School health program can be the most cost effective method to simultaneously improve health and education of any nation. Unfortunately, health education is not given any place in most schools. Wherever it has been started, it has brought enormous benefits. This essay shall delve into the advantages that can be brought about by school health programmes.

To begin with, it has been seen that schools that provide health services and education not only benefit school-aged children, but also the entire community. This is because school children can act as messengers for other out-of-school children and members of their communities to communicate better practices in hygiene and overall health. It has also been demonstrated that de-worming programs in schools benefit out-of-school children by reducing disease transmission in the community as a whole.

Furthermore, healthier children are more likely to attend school, and absenteeism is reduced. Education and good health offer children a better life, as health education in childhood can help establish lifelong positive behaviors. What is more, health education can help protect individuals, particularly young women, from HIV infection and pregnancy. It is widely recognized that school health and nutrition programs are essential to prevent further HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Finally, it is well known that today childhood obesity is a big problem because of the trend of fast foods. Obesity is not just one problem; it can lead to many other problems such as hypertension and diabetes at a young age. If health education is incorporated in the school curricula, this problem can be tackled to a large extent.

To conclude, it can be said that health education should be a mandatory part of all school curricula. It would bring many benefits in times to come, not only for children but for entire communities.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into the advantages that can be brought about by school health programmes.

Para 1: advantages

Para 2: more advantage

Para 3: more advantage

Conclusion:

32. Some people say that the study of Science should be mandatory in schools, whereas others argue that it is unnecessary. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

People are divided on the issue about science being a part of school studies. Some people are of the opinion that it is a very important subject and must be taught in the school years. Others opine that it shouldn't be a compulsory subject at schools. I will discuss both these perspectives in this essay. I, however, side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people hold the opinion that science should be taught compulsorily in schools. Firstly, this subject develops critical thinking among children. It provides answers to all the questions that children are curious about and about how things work. For instance, why the moon looks different on different days of the month or why there are different seasons. This also increases children's knowledge and understanding. It makes children question everything and not accept anything as it is.

Those who say that science should not be taught to schoolchildren, say so because they think that science is very difficult subject at least for the elementary classes. They shouldn't be burdened with difficult concepts of science. Even the high and secondary school students don't need to learn about the big-bang theory, sub-atomic particles, neurotransmission and so on. If they have an interest in science, students can take it up as a specialization in college or university.

I believe that the study of science increases awareness about technology and various issues like pollution, conservation of natural resources, endangered wild animals, different weather conditions and so on. It is a practical subject and students can learn easily by performing experiments in laboratories. Furthermore, it cannot be denied that the countries that support science programs are more progressive than those, which don't give importance to science.

In conclusion, study of science subjects clearly has more pros than cons. It may be difficult to understand concepts, but if taught in an engaging and interesting way, it will help with the holistic development of children.

Plan Followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

33. Physical activities should be introduced to school children on a regular basis? Do you agree or disagree? What kind of sports are the most useful?

It is very important for the holistic development of children that regular physical activity be a part of their routine. The best way to do that for children is to include it in their school timetable. There are a number of sports that children can play to stay both physically and mentally fit. The numerous benefits of physical exercise for children will be discussed in the upcoming paragraphs.

The main benefit of incorporating physical activity in schools is that it helps with proper growth and builds strong bones and muscles. In addition, including sports or any other exercises in a child's daily schedule helps set a good habit very early, which goes on throughout their lives. Exercising during early childhood years helps prevent many diseases later in life, like obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and so on.

Furthermore, sports and any other form of physical exercise also help reduce stress and anxiety. This in turn helps the children do well academically, as they are able to concentrate better, do their tasks on time and achieve better grades. Another very important benefit is that students learn skills like teamwork, co-operation, discipline, sportsman spirit, punctuality etc. These skills have become the need of the hour, with the ever-growing competition in every field.

There are many sports that can be easily incorporated by schools. If there is sufficient open area available at a school, sports like basketball, volleyball, cricket, football etc. can be easily included. If a school premises doesn't have enough open area, then many indoor games can be taught to the students, like table tennis, badminton, basketball and so on. Many other indoor games like chess and scrabble can also be included, which can help students develop strategy-related skills.

To conclude, I would reiterate that it is very essential that physical activity be a part of every child's daily routine, so that they develop skills and good health, which helps them throughout their lives.

Plan followed

Intro: Yes

Para 1: advantages of sports

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: What physical activities could be there

Conclusion

34. Some people believe teenagers should concentrate on all school subjects, even the ones they do not enjoy. Others, however, believe that teenagers should only focus on the subjects they are best at or find the most interesting. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the issue of the number of subjects which teenagers should be required to study. Some believe that these young school goers should be made to study all subjects, whereas others say that they should be given the choice of studying subjects of their interest. This essay shall analyse both perspectives. I, personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people hold the opinion that students should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study. Firstly, the students will probably be more enthusiastic about their study. If students are forced to study all subjects, they can easily lose interest in education. What is more, if all subjects are compulsory for studying, students will not have enough time for extra-curricular activities.

On the other hand, those who think that students should study a broad range of subjects, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, all subjects are of great importance for the holistic development of the students. Secondly, most subjects are related to each other in some way or the other. For example, a basic knowledge of mathematics is needed to excel in computer languages. Finally, the job market is very demanding, and the recruiters select students who are skilled in various fields.

I believe that students should study all subjects at school level. In college time students can select the subjects of their choice and can explore them further. At school level the student may not know what his real interests are. Moreover, it is up to the teachers to develop the interest of the students in any subject. For instance, during my school days, my history teacher was so good that a boring subject like history was the favourite subject of the whole class.

To sum up, it can be said that students should learn all subjects at school level, as they are not mature enough to know their real interests at school level and a broad knowledge is also needed for their holistic development.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

35. Nowadays, as a part of the educational process, students work at a company for a short period of time without pay. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

Unpaid internships are a part of many degree programs nowadays. I believe the advantages of this trend fairly outweigh the disadvantages.

The main advantage of working in companies for free as part of course is that students gain valuable experience, which can help them in deciding the career of their choice. An internship can also give them the possibility of securing a job upon graduation or shortly thereafter. Former interns have a competitive edge over other job seekers since the company knows them.

These internships also benefit the employers in several ways. They get services at no cost. They can screen trainees and get acquainted with their quality of work. They can always hire employees who show good progress when performing duties assigned by them. In this way employers can convert interns to full-time employees seamlessly, which reduces or eliminates any training-related costs.

There are benefits to the educational institutes also. Their student interns tend to bring their real-world experience back to the classroom, which helps keep courses relevant and curriculum up-to-date with the current trends. This results in a richer learning experience for everyone.

On the other hand, unpaid internships also have a downside. Firstly, those who do unpaid internships can be exploited and made to work longer hours, which may affect the current employees. They may find these younger counterparts a threat. Secondly, many students can't afford to take an internship if it doesn't pay anything, which can contribute to social inequality. Finally, it has been seen that doing a free internship does not actually increase employability. Employers start thinking that such unpaid interns may also be willing to work for lesser money than their regular employees.

To sum up, unpaid internships have advantages to interns, employers and educational institutes. There are a few disadvantages, but the advantages out-weigh them.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages to students

Para 2: Advantages to employers

Para 3: Advantages to educational institutes

Para 4: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

36. Some people say that in our modern age it is unnecessary to teach children about the skills of handwriting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

A common opinion is that with the increasing role computers play in our society, handwriting is no longer an important skill to learn at an early age. Unfortunately, this opinion is misguided. I firmly believe that handwriting is very important even in today's era of technology. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main reason why handwriting is important is that it is a form of communication. When children learn how to write by hand, they also learn how to express themselves. Handwriting is so much more than simply putting letters on a page. It is a key part of learning to communicate. Writing is almost as important as speaking, as a medium for communicating thought. For this reason, writing which is difficult to decipher, can be likened to stammering speech.

Moreover, handwriting is a complex skill that affects cognitive development of children. When they write, they build hand-eye coordination and practice fine motor skills. Good handwriting can lead to better grades, too. There's also a direct link between writing skills and academic success. Studies show that elementary school children with good handwriting skills scored higher years later in reading and math than those with poor handwriting.

Furthermore, handwriting proficiency inspires confidence. Once it is mastered, children can move on to focus on the subject, rather than worry about how to form letters. Finally, handwriting aids memory. For example, if a person writes a list or a note — then loses it — he is much more likely to remember what he wrote than if he just tried to memorize it.

In summary, handwriting skills are very essential even today. Apart from being a tool of communication, it helps the brain develop, it can improve grades and confidence and also aids memory.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Writing is a method of communication

Para2: Handwriting improves grades

Para3: Improves confidence and memory

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

37. Some people say subjects like arts, music, drama and creative writing are more beneficial to children, and therefore they need more of these subjects to be included in their timetable. Do you agree or disagree?

There has been much emphasis recently on STEM courses (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Arts have little or no place in the educational curriculum so far, because it is felt that time spent on these things is time wasted. Recent studies, however, have shown that a good curriculum that includes arts education can have multiple benefits, which I shall highlight in this essay.

The most important benefit of art education in schools is that it improves vocabulary, communication and memory. Research has found a link between arts education and success in other subjects. Studies show that students who are lucky enough to have music education, receive higher grade point averages in core subjects (specifically math) than those who do not have music education.

Secondly, art education helps in the holistic development of children. Arts exercise the right side of brain, whereas academic subjects exercise the left side. According to experts it is necessary to exercise both sides of the brain to maintain balanced emotions. The arts unite life and learning and are essential in the development of the whole person.

Another big advantage is that these subjects brings out the creativity of children, and when such hidden abilities are exposed in school time then those with exceptional talent can be encouraged to adopt it as a profession later-on in life. Last but not least, such subjects are stress-busters. In the highly competitive era of today, pressure of academic subjects is too high. Arts like music, drama and creative writing break the monotony of tough academic studies.

To conclude, our educational curriculum needs a serious revision and more of such subjects need to be added to the school curriculum. They complement academic study, bring out hidden talent and break the ennui of tough academic studies.

Plan followed

Intro: a good curriculum that includes arts education can have multiple benefits, which I shall highlight in this essay

Para 1: advantage

Para 2: another advantage

Para 3: another advantage

Conclusion:

38. Some people who failed at school can be highly successful in their adult life. Discuss why does this happen? And what are the main factors to get a successful life?

It is often seen that some students who are not very brilliant in school, become very prosperous in their adult life. There could be many reasons for this phenomenon, a few of which I shall put forth in this essay along with some factors which contribute to a successful life.

The major reason why some people succeed despite not being good at studies is that they have some talent such as in music or sports, which made them reach the pinnacle of their careers and they could become rich and successful. For example, a boy in my neighbourhood always used to fail at school, but he was a born singer. He took part in a reality show of singing and reached the third last elimination round. Although he did not win the show, ever since then he has his evenings booked for shows and he is earning handsomely.

Another reason can be attributed to the education system, which relies on rote learning and in which too much emphasis is given to theory and very little to practical. Because of this some students can't develop interest in studies and fail in school. Later on in life, when they enter the world of work, they succeed because of their practical skills. Some people even succeed in life because they are born with a silver spoon in their mouth. For them the money they inherit, keeps multiplying and they become rich and successful.

It is very difficult to outline the main factors for a successful life, because the meaning of success is different for different people. Some relate success to material wealth, whereas others find success in leading a comfortable living with a happy family life. I believe true success is in having contentment. If a person is contented with what he has, he will find happiness and that is true success.

To conclude, there are many reasons why those who fail at school, succeed in adult life, and the factors responsible for success cannot be enumerated as success means different things to different people.

Plan followed

Intro: There could be many reasons for this phenomenon, a few of which I shall put forth in this essay.

Para 1: The main reason for success

Para 2: Another reason could be attributed to the education system,

Para 3: Factors for success

Conclusion

39. Some people think if students are afraid of the teacher it is better. Others say that having a friendly relationship is better. Discuss both points and give your opinion.

Young children are buildings under construction and teachers are the builders. It is a highly debatable issue whether teachers should be friendly or strict. In my opinion, extremes of both approaches are bad. A good teacher should know when to be friendly and when to be strict, and also know the extent of friendliness and strictness required.

There are many reasons why some people say that teachers should be strict. Firstly, a strict teacher makes students behave better, so the lesson can be taught without any interruption. Secondly, it teaches the students about responsibility of their actions. For example, if students don't do homework, they have to stay after class to do homework. Moreover, students are afraid of being punished when they violate the strict guidelines so that they obey their teacher. Moreover, students tend to be more respectful of the teacher.

On the other hand, those who say that teacher should be friendly, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, a friendly teacher is like a good mentor with whom students can share their problems. Students also take more interest in the subject. Students bloom under the guidance of such a teacher. The disadvantage, however, is that a too friendly or partial attitude results in diversion from studies.

In my opinion, a good teacher should neither be too strict, nor too lenient. But, from time to time, he should pull the reins and know when to be firm with his students and when to give them some room. After all, he is shaping the future of the nation. There is a well-known saying in Sanskrit that 'Acharya Devo Bhava' which means that a teacher is like a God.

To conclude, it has to be decided by the teacher when to be friendly or strict and also the degree of friendliness or strictness. Extremes of both approaches are detrimental to the future of a student and ultimately for the future of a nation.

Plan followed

Intro – Discuss

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

40. Some people say that to become a good teacher, you should acquire enough training, while others say that teaching capabilities can be developed with experience. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is a matter of intense debate whether training is required to become a good teacher or if one can become a good teacher just with experience. This essay shall look into both arguments. I believe that both, training and experience are needed to be a really good teacher

There are many reasons why some people opine that teacher training is necessary. To begin with, teachers have to fight against pressures from multiple fronts, and not just teach students. They have to cope with unending parental expectations, pressures from the management of the school, handling students who misbehave, etc. in class of at least 40 students. Above all since they are teachers, they have to do their best in making children learn. Teacher training ensures that teachers are well prepared to cope with all such challenges.

It is easy to understand why some believe that teaching capabilities can be developed with experience alone and therefore teacher training is not needed. They say that teacher training courses are just a formality. The trainers provide stray bits of advice, which actually are of no use to teachers but wastage of time. Such training is futile and therefore majority of the teachers learn through their own experience or through the experience and guidance of their senior colleagues.

In my opinion, teachers are the backbone of education. They play an important role in moulding our country's future. Therefore, teacher training should be regarded as a serious issue and should be given preference. It goes without saying that experience does matter, but teachers are expected to perform right from day one and unless they have gone through some training, they are unable to do so. If they have to rely on experience alone, it may take them ages to become a good teacher.

To conclude, I would like to say that both teacher training and experience are needed to be really good teachers. Teacher training is very important in the early stages of a teacher's career. However, this training should be really good and not just a formality.

Plan followed

Intro: Balanced view as it is a discuss essay

Para1: Why teacher training is considered necessary

Para 2: Why some believe that teaching capabilities can be developed with experience

Para 3: Own opinion

Conclusion: Teacher training should be there

41. People find it very difficult to speak in public or to give a presentation before an audience. Do you think public speaking skill is really important? Give reasons. Some people say public speaking should be taught at school. Do you agree or disagree?

Public speaking or oration are the most valued skills that an individual can possess. Unfortunately, speaking in public is one of the most feared activities today. In the following paragraphs, I shall delve into the importance of the skill of public speaking. I believe that it should definitely be a part of the school curricula.

There are many reasons why public speaking is important. Firstly, speaking in front of others is inevitable. Whether a person is a student, a chef in a kitchen, a coach, or a CEO, there will always be situations where he has to speak publicly. Secondly, practicing public speaking will make a person an overall better communicator. This is because he improves all aspects of oral communication, such as clarity, coherence and confidence.

Furthermore, this skill helps in personality development. When a person successfully delivers a good speech, it gives a sense of self-worthiness. Last but not least, the art of public speaking improves relationships. A person who overcomes his fear of public speaking, improves his interpersonal skills, which in turn, will help him maintain a healthy relationship with his friends and family. Even in one's professional life, an effective interaction with one's boss, clients or subordinates is very important.

In our present teaching system, writing and reading seem to be the main focus of literacy, and oratory skills are not stressed. The system needs to change, so that it can focus more of its resources on teaching how to interact in the world. Almost all jobs require an interview, and if one cannot speak before others, he will probably do poorly. But if the schools teach the skills of public speaking, appearing for an interview would be a piece of cake.

To conclude, the art of public speaking is very important in today's scenario. If today's children overcome glossophobia, they would stand a much better chance in the highly competitive global village of today.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages of public speaking

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Why schools should teach public speaking

Conclusion:

42. Some think that children should start school as early as possible, while others believe that they should start school at the age of seven. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Education is very important for everyone. Some people think that children should begin their formal education at a very early age (4 years), whereas others opine that the age of seven years is the best for young people to commence education. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I believe that parents should make the choice according to the situation of the family.

Advocates of sending the child to school at the early age of 4, cite a host of benefits. They say that children who begin to study at a very early age have more chances to succeed in the future. Such children get a head start in learning, which definitely gives them an advantage in their later school years. Secondly, if children remain at home till 7 years, they while away time in unproductive activities. But, in school they are purposefully engaged in activities that stimulate their minds.

On the other hand, those who say that children should begin schooling at the age of 7, say that playing and communication with parents is very important. Childhood comes but once in life and should be spent as much as possible with parents. Secondly, in their early age children need more exercise, because at this age the development of their body is a very essential aspect. The stress of school and homework stifles the growth of many children. As it is, there are many years of schooling for children even if they start at seven.

I believe that if families are nuclear, and both parents are working, then the age of 4 is better, otherwise parents will have to leave the child under the care of a nanny. One parent may even have to quit job to take care of the child. In joint families, the age to begin schooling can be deferred to 7 years, as children are being looked after by other members of the family.

To conclude, both approaches have their own sets of merits. Parents have to see what suits them best and decide accordingly.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: why some people say that a very early age is better to start school

Para 2: Advantages of later age (7 years)

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: Give opinion

43. Some people think children should attend extra classes after school, while others disagree. Discuss both opinions and give your own view.

Today, we belong to an era of cut-throat competition. Parents want their children to excel in academics. That is why some parents arrange for tuitions outside class hours. Other people, however, are opposed to tuitions. This essay shall discuss both perspectives. I believe that parents should arrange private tuitions only if their child is struggling at school and needs extra help.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of private tuitions in the after school hours. Firstly, private tutors can re-explain the topics learnt in the class and reiterate key points and help to solve problems students find difficult to tackle. Secondly, allocating time for private tuition reduces their time spent in useless pursuits such as chatting with friends and watching TV. Furthermore, private tutors can keep the students focussed on study. A private tutor can thus enact the role of disciplinarian.

On the other hand, having private tuition also has its disadvantages. Sometimes tutors prescribe additional homework in addition to that given by teachers in school. The extra homework from tutor is an added burden to the students. Moreover, private tuition can be a financial burden to parents who are poor. Additionally, some students just use these extra tuitions to finish their homework given by schools with the help of tutors without thinking through the solutions by themselves.

I believe that when student is a slow learner who needs a tutor outside school, tuition is very necessary. However, there are some parents who have unreasonable expectations. They insist that their children engage a private tutor even though their children perform well academically. This is not good at all because children need time for other activities also.

In conclusion, it is good to have private tuition, provided the student really needs one and the parents can afford it. However, if the student is already doing well in school, then he should be allowed to follow other pursuits.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: own view

Conclusion:

44. Some people think that young children benefit from going to nursery school before starting primary school. Others think it is better for young children to stay all day with their families. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The appropriateness of preschools and nursery schools has always been a debated issue. Some individuals hold the opinion that these are advantageous, whereas others are opposed to sending their children to nursery school. This essay shall discuss both perspectives. I side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of nursery schools. Firstly, children learn social interaction in preschool. Interacting with other children teaches them to share, take turns, handle conflicts, and listen to one another. It also improves their communication skills. Secondly, a good preschool program teaches children pre-literacy skills such as learning all the letters of the alphabet and basic concepts of mathematics such as number and quantity.

On the other hand, those who are against preschools give their reasons as follows. Firstly, if the children are not monitored properly, they learn negative social skills such as teasing, bullying, and fighting. Secondly, children do not get enough quality time with their parents. Moreover, children in preschool programs are exposed to a number of illnesses, so they get sick more often than kids who stay at home. Finally, good quality nursery schools may be very expensive.

I believe that preschool helps to prepare children for school by helping them learn appropriate classroom behavior. They also learn how to interact with adults other than their parents, and build their independence. What is more, in a preschool there is exposure to different types of activities such as playing with blocks and listening to poetry and songs. These are just a few of the many experiences children benefit from in a fun learning environment. While most children may have access to do these activities with their parents, it is a completely different experience for them when they have the opportunity to play with their peers.

To sum up, quality nursery schools can enrich children's lives, build socialization skills and enhance their development. However, parents have to be careful in searching a good preschool for their children.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: reiterate view

45. In some countries, schools are open till late so that children can be looked after when parents are at work. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.

In nuclear families, where both parents are working, there has been a growing trend of day-boarding schools, which keep open till the late hours. This essay shall look into the pros and cons of such schools.

There are many advantages of day-boarding schools. The main advantage is that these provide children with supervision until their parents return home from work. Children left unsupervised after school often fall prey to deviant behaviours and delinquent acts. Numerous reports have documented that a high proportion of juvenile crimes is committed between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. each day. Such extended school hours occupy students productively during these hours.

In addition to providing supervision, after-school and extended school-day programs are a means of improving academic achievement of students who are not performing as well as they need to, during regular school hours. These schools also provide social, cultural, and recreational activities. In this way they provide enriching experiences that broaden children's perspectives and improve their socialization.

On the other hand, such schools have their demerits. The most important is that these are generally very costly. They may be hard on the pockets of many parents. Another disadvantage is that once the child gets home there is very little time left to interact with the parents. The child is so tired that after coming home he takes his meals and goes to bed.

To conclude, the benefits derived from the use of such schools definitely outweigh the demerits. They are the best option when both parents are working and there is no one at home to care for them.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall look into the pros and cons of such schools

Para 1: Advantage

Para 2: more advantages

Para 3: Demerits

Conclusion:

46. In the modern society, many people think that primary schools should teach science and technology rather than history and geography, which are useless and boring. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some people opine that traditional subjects such as history and geography should not be taught in primary schools as they are boring and just add to the burden on primary school students. They believe that science and technology should be there in primary schools. I agree that arts subjects should be axed from the primary school curricula. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main reason to remove history and geography from the primary school is to lessen some burden off the children. It is seen that the weight of the primary school student's bag is heavier than the weight of the student himself. However, it does not mean that history and geography are less important. These subjects are as important as science and technology. These subjects must be incorporated in middle and high school curricula.

Secondly, if teachers have to teach fewer subjects, they can add more physical activities for children of the primary classes. Burden of too many subjects will leave no time for sports. If the child is physically unhealthy he cannot bloom properly. It stifles his development. The objectives at this stage are to nurture the curiosity of the child about the world and not to overburden him.

Finally, science and technology are more interesting than history and geography. So, in early years children will develop interest in studying which will continue into later years. It is understandable that competition is cut-throat, but if a 'world class' high quality curriculum has to be established, it is essential to prescribe less so that teachers can teach better and children can learn better.

To conclude, I reiterate my views that science and technology must be started in primary schools but the arts subjects can be started after primary school years

Plan followed

Intro: Agree. Arts subjects should be axed from the primary school curricula

Para 1: main concern is to lessen some burden off the primary school children

Para 2: if teachers have to teach less, they would be able to add physical activities

Para 3: Science and technology are more interesting

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

47. Some people think that secondary school students should study academic subjects (such as history and physics), while others believe they should study practical subjects (such as car machinery and cookery). Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that secondary school curricula should have academic subjects such as history and physics, where as others opine that students should study practical subjects like car machinery and cookery. This essay shall discuss both perspectives. I think that a mix of academic and practical subjects is needed for a well-rounded education.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of academic subjects in schools. Firstly, the job market requires professional skills which are obtained through the study of academic subjects. There is a huge demand for professionals in all fields in comparison to the saturated market of blue collar jobs and workers. Secondly, scientists and technologists are paid far better than the people doing lower level jobs. In other words, this means that well educated people live more comfortable lives than those who lack it.

Those in favour of practical subjects such as car machinery and cookery, assert that by studying these subjects, students can become ready to acquire job just after completion of their primary or secondary education. For example, a recent survey has found that while students with practical skills begin earning at an average age of 18, those with academic skills start supporting their families at 25. This can ease off the financial stress of their parents, and they can also go for tertiary education with their own saved money.

I believe that young people must learn academic as well as practical subjects so that they can make a better career choice at a later stage. While academic subjects help in understanding concepts and ideas that lead to invention of new products, practical skills help in maintaining the existing systems. Both are necessary for healthy and smooth functioning of our society and economy.

To conclude, secondary school curriculum with only academic or only practical subjects is not good. It should be a combination of both for the holistic development of the student.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion

48. Students in schools should learn practical skills like car maintenance and managing a bank account in addition to academic subjects. Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that children learn academic subjects at school, but not many practical skills. However, I disagree that schools should teach skills like bank account management and car maintenance. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many reasons why academic subjects are taught in schools. Firstly, job market requires professional skills which are obtained through the study of academic subjects. There is a huge demand for professionals in all fields in comparison to the saturated market of blue collar jobs and workers. Secondly, scientists and technologists are paid far better than the people doing lower level jobs. In other words, this means that well educated people live more comfortable lives than those who lack it.

There are also non-academic subjects such as sports and music, which are taught in schools. These are very important along with the academic subjects. They bring out the hidden talent and stimulate the creative ability of students. These subjects are as important as academic subjects as they act as stress-busters and give the students the much-needed relaxation.

On the other hand, bank account management is a 'life skill' that anyone can learn by simply opening a bank account. Most adults have no problem managing their finances without being taught accounting lessons at school. Other skills like car maintenance are not really necessary. Most people take their cars to a qualified mechanic. Therefore, these practical skills do not need to be added to the school curricula.

To conclude, schools are already doing a good job teaching the traditional academic subjects along with the non-academic subjects. If they start to teach practical skills, the study of important academic subjects will suffer.

Plan followed

Intro: disagree

Para 1: Importance of academic subjects

Para 2: Importance of non-academic subjects such as music and sports

Para 3: Why practical skills such as car maintenance and opening a bank account not needed.

Conclusion

49. Some say that secondary schools should spend less time on traditional subjects such as history and should spend more time on teaching communication skills and business courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree with it?

It is irrefutable that in today's global era communication skills and business courses are very important. However, I disagree that subjects such as history should be given less importance than these subjects in the secondary school curricula. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Undoubtedly, to be successful, the most important skills needed today are communication skills. The study of business courses is also invaluable today. Eventually, all students will encounter the world of business, whether they work in urban or rural areas. They must be prepared to engage in business activities with confidence and competence. Young people need to understand how business functions, the role it plays in our society, the opportunities it generates, the skills it requires, and the impact it can have on their own lives and on society, today and in the future.

However, the field of history is also as important for many reasons. Firstly, history helps to develop a better understanding of the world. It throws an insight into how the society, technology and government worked way back then, to understand how it works now. It also teaches us how to approach the future. Secondly, by studying history one can pursue a career in a wide array of fields such as politics, journalism and law. Even a student of medicine, engineering or architecture can't become a doctor or engineer without studying the history behind the profession.

Furthermore, studying history helps students to be better citizens. Even though situations like the freedom struggle of India will never come back, history tells about the suffering and sacrifice which went behind the freedom and they will learn to appreciate the freedom they are enjoying today even more. Finally, students learn to understand other people. They learn about other cultures and how they affect their own.

To conclude, although business and communication skills are important subjects in today's scenario, it is also as important for students to learn history.

Plan followed

Intro: disagree that subjects such as history should be given lesser importance

Para 1: Importance of the study of business and communication skills

Para 2: Importance of the study of history

Para 3: More importance

Conclusion: Reiterate your opinion

50. Some people think the subject of music is not necessary in primary school, and other practical subjects like science should replace it. Do you agree or disagree?

I disagree with the notion that music as a subject is not essential in elementary school and should be replaced by other practical subjects such as math and science. I firmly believe that music is even more important than other subjects in the early years of life. So, it should be there along with other subjects in the primary schools.

Undoubtedly, science is very important to be taught in schools. Firstly, this subject develops critical thinking among children. It provides answers to all the questions that children are curious about and about how things work. For instance, why the moon looks different on different days of the month or why there are different seasons. This also increases children's knowledge and understanding. It makes children question everything and not accept anything as it is.

However, the importance of incorporating music in primary classes is no less. The most important advantage of music in primary classes is that music and cognitive abilities go hand in hand. Therefore, it improves students grades in other subjects also. It was seen in a research that second graders who were given music lessons scored 27% higher in math than children who received no music lessons. In addition, exposing children to music in the early and primary years increases listening and concentration skills also.

Moreover, music is an art form, and every child requires an artistic outlet. Music helps the child to open up and improve his communication skills. It helps him to express his ideas and thoughts in a better manner. What is more, music education can open doors for children who can later adopt it as a hobby or even profession in later years. Involvement in a music group, chorus or band also gives the young child a sense of importance and belonging.

To sum up, music is very important for children especially those in primary schools because it helps the brain develop fast and is needed for the holistic development of children.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: importance of music

Para 2: More importance of music

Para 3: opponents view

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

51. Schools should teach children good behavior and introduce ideas of 'right' and 'wrong'. It should not only be left to parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Families and schools are the two institutions, which impart moral education and virtuous qualities to children. I agree that it should be the onus of the schools also to teach such things to children. It should not be left solely on the parents.

It is understandable why parents should be responsible for inculcating good habits in children. They are responsible for bringing their children into the world and it is their responsibility to teach them social values. First of all, they can act as role models and children are their copycats. Secondly, as children spend a huge amount of time with parents, they get more time to build up good behavioral patterns in children.

On the other hand, schools can play a pivotal role to mould a child's character. To begin with, peer group interaction at schools makes a child highly social and he learns a lot of what is right or wrong from his fellow students. Finally, teachers are observed very intently by the students and inadvertently children learn a lot of social values from them. Teachers can also admonish children for wrong doings and pat their back for good gestures.

I believe that children are our future and they have to be groomed to be well behaved and respectable citizens of tomorrow. Therefore, both parents and schools should play their role in shaping their behaviour and teach them good manners and etiquettes. Neither parents nor teachers can shrug their shoulders and say that it is not their responsibility.

To sum up, schools are the temples of learning and this learning should not be restricted to only academic learning. Social learning is as important as academic learning. So, teachers and parents both have the joint onus of imparting ethical and moral values to children.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Role of parents

Para 2: Role of schools

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

52. Some people think young people are suitable for learning foreign languages. Other people think adults are more suitable. Discuss both and give your opinion.

Learning a new language is an activity which is very useful and takes a considerable amount of time. Some people opine that children learn a foreign language quicker than adults. Others believe that adults are better equipped to learn a new language. This essay shall look into both perspectives. I personally side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people say that young children are better at learning a foreign language. Firstly, a young mind readily absorbs new information. Child psychologists often mention that the most formative years of learning happen in the first few years of life. Therefore, what children are exposed to is very often retained and remembered. Secondly, children have fewer inhibitions than adults while learning any new language. They are not afraid of making mistakes and sounding foolish.

On the other hand, those who say that adults learn a foreign language better, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, the adult learner has his or her first language to compare with the new language. In this way, new terms or concepts are very quickly understood by comparing them with concepts or ideas that are already known. Secondly, adults often have a strong motive to learn a new language. When learning a language is connected to an employment opportunity, the learner is typically very focused and motivated.

I believe that adults can master a foreign language better than young children, because most adult learners are educated, and they are usually aware of what has worked best in their learning experience and therefore can approach the new language with more mature and realistic expectations. Moreover, adults understand the importance of self-improvement and are self-motivated. Finally adults have the patience and longer attention spans while learning a foreign language.

To conclude, in learning a new language, adults and children, both are good, but adults definitely have an edge over young learners.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall look into both sides of the argument before forming an opinion

Para1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: adults are better at learning

53. An increasing number of people decide to learn a foreign language. What is the most difficult part when learning a foreign language? How can the learner overcome these difficulties?

Learning a foreign language may be a piece of cake for some while others may take years to master it. There are many components of language learning. This essay shall pick out the toughest part of learning a foreign language and also suggest some solutions to overcome these problems.

There are many challenges which a person faces while learning a foreign language. It cannot be generalised as to which is the most difficult part. What may be difficult for one learner may be easy for the other. One of the challenges is phonological difference. There are some sounds that exist in one language but not in the other language. For instance, Hindi has approximately half as many vowels and twice as many consonants than English. This leads to several problems of pronunciation.

Moreover, vocabulary, grammar and the sentence structure of the new language may be a daunting task for many. For example, the standard word order in Hindi is Subject-Object-Verb as against Subject-Verb-Object in English. Thus it can be very difficult for a person to obey the grammar rules and the sentence structure of the new language every time. What is more, while learning a foreign language one needs a partner with whom to practice. This could be the most difficult part in learning a foreign language.

There are many ways to face these challenges. Learning a new language is an ongoing process and one should be willing to give it time every single day. Practice is the key to success. Reading newspapers in that language would also be useful. Adding a few new words to one's vocabulary would definitely help, and last but not least, one should listen to the native speakers as often as possible. This can be done by watching movies in that particular language.

To conclude, learning a foreign language has many challenges. The difficulty of these challenges vary from person to person, but all these difficulties can be overcome with determination and practice.

Plan followed

Intro: Problem and solution intro

Para 1: Problems

Para 2: more problems

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

54. In some countries students are required to learn a foreign language, but in other countries it is not necessary to do so. Discuss both approaches and give your own opinion.

In some countries, more than one language is compulsory, while in other countries learning a foreign language is not given much importance. This essay shall delve into the advantages and disadvantages of having to study a foreign language. I personally believe that a foreign language should be mandatory in schools.

There are many benefits of having a mandatory foreign language in school curriculums. Firstly, the acquisition of a second language develops skills such as communication and cultural awareness. Secondly, learning a foreign language also opens up all sorts of career opportunities, which they would not have otherwise. What could be a better example than the education system of India in which all school students have to learn English right from primary school. That is why Indians are very well placed in the global job market.

Moreover, learning new languages is said to increase a person's brainpower too. It has been proven by researches that bilingual and multilingual students do better in other subjects also. In other words, language learning and cognitive development are inter-related. In India, English is taught as a second language right from primary school. Even countries like Canada have begun to realize the importance of a second language and French or Punjabi is taught in many areas as a second language.

On the other hand, the major disadvantage of forcing a foreign language on students is that there may be a few who just would not be able to cope academically with learning other languages. This naturally includes children who are developmentally disabled and may be attending special schools, or are studying in special units at mainstream schools. There could be some relaxation for such category of students. If such children can just get a basic grasp of reading and writing their own language, then that has to be regarded as an adequate achievement.

Summing up, although there are advantages of having a mandatory foreign language and not having any such obligation, it is better to study a foreign language than not study one.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of a compulsory foreign language

Para 2: advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages of making it compulsory

Conclusion:

55. Nowadays it is possible to use computers and mobile phones for automatic language translation, and there is no need for human translators and interpreters. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

It is believed that since there are machine translators now, which can translate one language to another, there is no need to have human interpreters and translators. I completely disagree with this notion. A number of arguments support my opinion.

The most important reason why human translators will still be needed is because translating a language is a complex process, which involves the structure, meaning, nuances, culture, tone of the expression and many more such details. A human translator can gauge the underlying tone or emotion of the text, change the structure depending on the language and take care of the subtleties of the language. For instance, the meaning of one word can be changed in terms of the context it is used in.

On the other hand, machine translation is mostly direct word-to-word literal translation and usually doesn't take into account the grammatical differences in different languages, leading to errors in syntax. What is more, there are idioms and proverbs in every language that have an underlying message and do not have a literal meaning. For unimportant personal work machine translation serves the purpose, but for formal work, human translation should be chosen.

Admittedly, machine translations have their advantages. Firstly, machine translators are quick and mostly available for free. We can easily look for information about any topic and even if it is available in a different language, it can be quickly translated and understood. The 'Google translate' tool is a very good example for this use. Even though there might be some sentence structure errors, we can mostly use such translators for personal use or internal use in offices. Secondly, machine translation can be done for almost any language which has been fed into the system. A human translator can only master two to three languages.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that even though technology has revolutionized and eased our work, however, in areas like language translation, machines can't surpass human ingenuity.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: How human translators have an edge over machine translation

Para 2: More advantages of human translators

Para 3: Advantages of machine translation

Conclusion:

56. Some languages spoken by very few people are losing their importance and may become extinct completely. What are the reasons for this? Is it a positive or a negative development?

For easing communication in today's highly connected world, only those languages are surviving which are spoken by more number of people. This essay intends to analyze the reasons behind this phenomenon. This is largely a positive development.

There are many reasons why languages die. Firstly, speakers of a minority language may decide that it is better for their children's future to teach them a language that is tied to economic success. As a result, successive generations of speakers become bilingual and then begin to lose proficiency in their traditional languages. Secondly, while migrating to English speaking countries speakers seek to learn English in order to gain social and economic advantages or to avoid discrimination. Finally, some languages may die when small communities or speakers are wiped out by disasters or war.

On the positive side, the increasing use of few languages is easing communication among people. For example, English is now spoken in more than 86 countries of the world. Because of this people do not face difficulty when they travel from one country to the other. They also find it easy to do business with each other. Businesses cannot flourish if for every small communication an interpreter is required.

Furthermore, it also leads to more job opportunities. Many multinational companies have opened in different parts of the world. Naturally, a person who knows their language is better placed in these companies.

On the other hand, the decline in use of some languages is also something to be concerned about. It is a well-known fact that language and culture are inter-related. If languages die out then culture also fades away. Moreover, we all enjoy life on this planet because of its diversity. If diversity decreases, then boredom would set in and the earth would become a dull and boring place to live in.

To conclude, there are many reasons why languages die, and in my opinion it is largely positive.

Plan followed

Intro: It is both – a largely positive development

Para 1 – Why languages die

Para 2 – Positive side

Para 3 – Negative side

Conclusion: restate your opinion

57. Schools have a limited amount of money to spend. Some people suggest that it should be spent on good teachers, while others say it should be used for buying equipment like computers. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

In situations where schools are facing financial problems, they have an option either to spend on good teachers or on technology such as computers. This essay intends to look into both choices. However, I firmly believe that there are no shortcuts to good education, and even with limited resources, both good teachers and computers have to be provided.

The main reason why some people opine that good teachers should be hired in schools is that children require the guidance and encouragement to persevere in the school years. While computers appear to engage students, the engagement is usually fleeting and children are soon distracted. No technology can provide the tailored attention for students that dedicated teachers can, and thus, attempts to use technology as a stand-in for capable teachers are bound to fail.

On the other hand, those who say that it is advantageous to spend on computers, give their reasons as follows. They argue that computers are becoming better at providing customized direct instruction and in assessing student's knowledge. They also say that computers are better at repetitive tasks like vocabulary drills. Teachers find these jobs very monotonous. Therefore, they opine that computers are better.

I believe that even though the resources of schools are limited, the focus should be on blended learning. Both teachers and technology are important. Technology will not improve our education system if we marginalize or eliminate teachers. Likewise, our education system will not meet modern needs until we incorporate technology. Therefore, resources should be equally spent on both. Blended learning does not eliminate teachers, but instead eliminates some of the job functions that teachers find most onerous.

To sum up, primary and secondary schools should allocate resources equally on both in their efforts to improve their education standards. They should focus on finding ways to let technology do what it does best so that we can allow teachers to do what they do best.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay with opinion

Para 1: Why teachers

Para 2: Why computers

Para 3: Why spend equally on both

Conclusion

58. Some people think that schools are more effective if students are allowed to participate in running the school. State whether you agree or disagree. Give reasons for your answer using personal experiences or other examples.

I agree with the given statement that schools can run more effectively, if students have a say in their working. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss the ways in which students can be involved and the benefits of such methods.

To begin with, student involvement can help school administration in maintaining discipline in schools. Student participation in school administration through student councils gives them a voice and makes them feel important. Violence and other harmful behaviours also reduce. Secondly, teachers become more respectful and responsive to student rights. Such involvement also helps the school management hold students accountable for their actions, which encourages transparency and responsiveness.

Furthermore, student involvement can improve the overall results of the school. Student participation in teaching can result in better learning for the students. When students teach other students, they start actively thinking about the topics. They become active drivers of learning and do not just remain passive recipients of learning. For example, my biology teacher in class 10 used to identify some good students and give them small groups of 4-5 students to discuss what had been taught in class and also discuss some new topics. As a result, the biology result was always cent percent.

Moreover, when students are given a voice in the school operations, such as by making them evaluate teachers, the administrators can retain better teachers and shunt out the bad ones, which would definitely improve the schools' overall performance. Finally, students who are involved in school administration become better citizens later on. Students, who participate in student councils, learn about the democratic process, civic responsibility, leadership, problem solving and teamwork. All these traits make them better citizens.

To sum up, I reiterate that students have a big role in effective running of schools, and their involvement should become the norm in modern schools.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: It would help in maintaining discipline

Para 2: It would help in overall results

Para 3: It would help in hiring the best faculty and make better citizens for the future

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

59. Road transport is taking over rail services. Discuss the positive and negative effects of this development. Is this situation true for your country?

Transport refers to the activity that facilitates movements of goods and individuals from one place to another. So, it removes the distance barrier. Roadways and railways are the two means of land transport. It is true that in many countries road transport is becoming more popular. It is both a negative as well as a positive development, which I shall discuss in this essay.

There are many advantages of road transport over rail transport. To begin with, it is a relatively cheaper mode of transport than rail transport. Secondly, perishable goods can be transported at a faster speed by road carriers over a short distance. Moreover, it provides door-to-door service. So, loading and unloading is possible at any destination. Finally, it is the only mode of transport in hilly areas, which are not connected by other modes of transport.

On the other hand, road transport has its limitations, which are indirectly the plus points of rail transport. Firstly, due to limited carrying capacity, road transport is not economical for long distances. Secondly, road transport is affected by adverse weather conditions like floods, rains, landslides etc. On the other hand rail transport is hardly affected by such situations. Finally, road transport leads to too much congestion on roads, which in turn may cause accidents and increase pollution.

In India, over the years, more and more inland freight traffic has been shifting from rail to road. In 1951, 88% of the country's freight was moving on rail and 10% on road. But today, about 60% of the freight moves on road and 38% on rail.

To conclude, road transport definitely has an edge over rail transport. That is why it is becoming more popular. This situation has both pros and cons which I have explained in the above paragraphs.

Plan followed

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of road over rail

Para 2: Disadvantages of road transport / advantages of rail transport

Para 3: Situation in India – road transport is gaining popularity

Conclusion: Road transport has both advantages and disadvantages.

60. More and more people use private cars instead of taking public transport. What are the reasons for this trend? How can the government encourage people to take public transport?

Someone has rightly said that – “The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete”. It is irrefutable that many individuals are using their own cars instead of travelling by buses and trains. In this essay, I shall discuss the reasons for this phenomenon, and also suggest ways by which the government can motivate people to use public transport.

There are many reasons for the increasing popularity of cars. Firstly, the car is the most convenient mode of transport. It takes a person from destination to destination and one does not have to waste time waiting for public transport, which is time bound. Secondly, families can go out together and enjoy their outings more. What is more, one can halt anywhere one needs for some refreshments. The car is also a blessing in times of emergencies when a sick family member has to be rushed to the hospital. Finally, because of the increased competition among the automobile companies, cars have become affordable by the vast majority of people. For example, the basic model of Maruti 800 and the Nano by Tata Company are called the poor man's cars.

Many steps can be taken by the government to motivate people to use public transport. Firstly, the comfort of the public transport could be made better. Secondly, the fares could be reduced and the frequency of public transport increased. In addition, people should be made aware of the problems, such as traffic congestion and pollution, caused by the increasing number of cars.

Another way to stimulate public transport use is to make private car use more expensive and inconvenient. The introduction of tolls along urban motorways has been successfully employed in many cities. Other such measures such as high parking rates in urban areas could also help a lot. Faced with high costs or no place to park, people would perhaps be more willing to abandon their cars in favour of buses or trains. Construction of metro rail networks has also resulted in taking a substantial number of cars off the roads.

To conclude, it can be said that there is no doubt that the private vehicle is gaining a lot of popularity, but if the government takes some steps to encourage public transport then definitely the use of cars can reduce substantially.

Plan followed

Intro: write the intro suitably to answer the question

Para 1: Why people are using cars more

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

Para 2: How government can encourage people to use public transport

Para 3 More measures

Conclusion:

61. Some people say that cars should be banned from the centers of cities. Do you agree or disagree?

The increased use of cars has created many problems. Therefore, I strongly believe that cars should not be allowed in city centres. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The most important reason is pollution from car exhausts, which damages people's health causing respiratory diseases such as asthma and bronchitis. At the same time, traffic fumes attack the stonework of historical monuments and buildings, while the vibrations from passing vehicles damage their foundations. This, for instance, has happened to the Taj Mahal in Agra because of which private vehicles are not allowed in the vicinity of the Taj.

Secondly, most cities were not designed for motor traffic. A good example of this is the old part of Ludhiana city in Punjab, which has narrow streets and few facilities for parking. As a result, traffic moves at a snail's pace and there are frequent traffic jams. Beautiful buildings are spoilt by always having cars parked in front of them and pretty streets become unpleasant due to permanent traffic congestion and exhaust fumes.

A further reason in favour of cars being banned is in order to reduce the noise pollution from traffic, which forces people to keep their windows permanently closed and may cause psychological problems including stress and depression among people living in busy streets. Finally, if cars were banned, people would find other more pleasant ways to move around cities. For example, they would walk or use bicycles as these would once more become safe and enjoyable activities within the city. This in turn would bring about a general improvement in people's health.

In conclusion, therefore, I strongly support the idea that traffic should be banned from city centres, as this would enable people to rediscover cities as pleasant and healthy places to live.

Plan followed

Intro: agree

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: Second reason

Para 3: Final reason

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

62. Airline companies in many countries have reduced the cost of tickets. Is it a positive or negative development. Give some examples based on your own experience.

In today's world, people are now in a position to enjoy cheaper air flights than in the past. It is both – a positive as well as negative development. It is advantageous in terms of freedom and the opportunities to learn from other countries. It is detrimental in terms of the pollution it creates.

Cheap air flights can be beneficial in many ways. One of them is the opportunity to go overseas. Earlier, only the affluent could afford it, but now it is within the pocket of the ordinary man. Some of the discounted tickets are fairly cheap and flying abroad is no longer a dream for many. Moreover, small businesses have prospered because of the ease of travel due to these flights.

In addition to this, cheap air flights enable intercultural exchanges between countries. The advent of cheap air-fare makes it possible for people the world over to travel regularly, regardless of the purpose of the trip. Therefore, people have opportunities to learn from different cultures and have a better understanding of countries they were unfamiliar with. This, in turn, enhances cultural communications between countries.

On the other hand, it is generally known that airplanes consume vast amounts of fuel and the gas emission generated by an airplane is enormous. Therefore, the environmental impacts get worse in the long run. Besides, cheap air tickets have stringent terms and conditions attached. One of them is that changing the date and time of travel is very expensive once the ticket is purchased. As a result, people find it inconvenient and frustrating if they have to reschedule their travel due to an emergency.

To conclude, cheap air fares have both pros and cons. I am convinced that giving people the freedom to travel is essential, but at the same time people should be made aware of avoiding unnecessary travel.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: more benefits

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

63. These days many countries face excessive traffic. Describe the situation in your country? Describe some possible ways to overcome traffic congestion.

It is irrefutable that the increasing traffic has become a grave problem worldwide. My own country, India, is no exception. This essay intends to suggest measures, which can be taken to ameliorate the situation.

The rising traffic is a global problem, and India too is facing a boom in the number of cars on the roads. With developing economy, people's buying capacity has risen and so everyone is having his/her own vehicle. On top of that, the road system is not so good, and traffic jams and gridlocks have become very common. Although the government is expanding the roads and constructing more motorways, the situation is not improving, because the number of private vehicles is also rising at an unprecedented rate.

One effective method to reduce traffic congestion is to encourage the use of public transportation. A bus can take 20, 30 or more cars off the road while a train has the potential to reduce congestion by hundreds of cars. Public transportation not only reduces congestion on the roads, but also helps eliminate the necessity of building additional roads and benefits those who continue to travel by automobile, whether by choice or necessity.

Additionally, the government could levy toll tax and increase the price of fuel to discourage people from using their own cars. Media could be used to make people aware about simple measures like car-pooling. For instance, if five people from one block of flats have to go to the same office, they could each take out their car for one day a week. In Houston, Texas, there are special HOV (High Occupancy Vehicles) lanes for those vehicles, which have three or more people. Cars move faster on these lanes because of fewer cars on these lanes. This is a step by the authorities to encourage car-pooling.

To conclude, building more roads is not the solution for traffic congestion. It is essential that people use public transport and do car-pooling to decrease the traffic on roads.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: Measures to address the problem

Para 3: Other measures

Conclusion:

64. In many countries, there are an increasing number of private cars. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

Someone has rightly said that – “The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete”. It is irrefutable that nowadays, the number of cars has increased at an unprecedented rate. This situation has both - advantages as well as disadvantages, but the advantages are definitely more.

There are many advantages of the car. The most important advantage is that it has given people freedom of movement. The ease of transportation which a car brings is more than any other form of transportation. For instance, you can go from destination to destination and no time is wasted waiting for the bus or train. Therefore, time and distance are not a barrier any more. What is more, families can go out together. This becomes especially helpful when there are elderly or disabled or sick members in the family.

Furthermore, the automobile industry provides jobs to millions of workers. Filling stations, restaurants, and other businesses that serve automobile travelers are of major importance to a country's economy. In addition, many developing nations have begun making automobiles to boost their economy. That is why India has promoted many automobile manufacturing industries such as Maruti, Tata and Mahindra. Further, global brands such as Ford, Volkswagen, Hyundai etc. have their manufacturing hubs in India providing jobs to thousands of workers.

On the other hand the disadvantages of the car cannot be overlooked. The increase in pollution, traffic jams and accidents are the natural sequel to the burgeoning population of cars. Moreover, our overdependence on cars can lead to decrease in healthy practices such as walking and cycling, leading to a number of diseases such as obesity.

On balance, the advantages to people's lives and the economic impact created by the car definitely outweigh the disadvantages. However, we must know when and how-much to use the car so that we can minimize the demerits to some extent

Plan followed

Intro: Balanced intro as it is a discuss essay

Para 1: Advantages of car

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion: Advantages more than disadvantages

65. Some people think that there will be decrease in international travel in future. Do you think the less amount of international travel is a positive or a negative development?

Because of economic reasons in some areas, international travel is becoming less common. I believe that it is largely a negative development, as people would be devoid of the so many benefits international travel brings.

With the decrease in international travel, the main loss would be to the local economy. Incoming tourists spend money for their stay in hotels, have food and drinks in restaurants, coffee shops and bars, do local travel on cabs, and they also make use of tourist guides. Many people also work in the construction projects such as roads, airports and hotels. All this generates gainful employment for the local populace. So all those people would lose their jobs.

A final reason why a lessening of international tourism would be negative, is that visitors from outside bring fresh ideas and different ways of doing things to the local community. Consequently, local people may learn from tourists. Likewise, visitors learn about the local people and culture, and return home with a deeper understanding of the host country.

On the other hand, the decrease in international travel would be beneficial as the risk of diseases, such as swine flu and bird flu brought in with tourists would reduce. Another benefit of reduced international travel would be to the natural environment, which can be seriously threatened by too many visitors. Australia's Great Barrier Reef, for example, is in danger of being destroyed by tourists and there are plans to restrict visitors to some of the more delicate coral reefs.

To conclude, international travel has both advantages and disadvantages. However, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Therefore if international travel decreases, it is largely a negative development.

Plan followed

Intro: it is largely a negative development

Para 1: advantages of international travel

Para 2: more advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

66. Young people say that traveling to different countries benefits them and the society. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.

Some individuals believe that travelling abroad is beneficial for the youth. I agree with their viewpoint. Youth travel is one of the fastest growing and most dynamic markets of the global tourism sector.

On the one hand, travelling in young age has enormous benefits. It provides tremendous opportunities for fun, adventure and discovery. When young people visit places in other countries, they gain a better understanding of the people living there. They learn their culture, history and background. They discover the similarities and differences. When they return, they become better and more well-informed citizens which benefits the society.

Furthermore, research suggests that traveling overseas at a young age leads to successful careers. It helps the young people decide what they want in life. Traveling when young can be a great platform to diversify one's experience early in life and to discover one's purpose in life. Each country, each city, even each restaurant a person visits is an opportunity to experience something different. It is better to realize one's true desires and potential early in life than when it is too late.

Finally, youth travel brings the youth out of their comfort zone, as they have the opportunity to be in the most unfamiliar situations. This also builds their confidence as they realise that they can do things despite the obstacles in an alien environment. If young people get the chance to broaden their horizons and go and experience new places, it may make a world of difference to them.

To conclude, it can be said that although travelling at a young age involves time and money, it is worthwhile and has a lot of benefits for the youth.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Why some people say it is a waste of time and money

Para 2: Why it is useful

Para 3:

Conclusion:

67. Some people believe that travelling alone really benefits in learning a country's culture and gaining experience, while others believe it is better to travel with someone you know. Discuss both these views and share your opinion.

While some people argue that solo travel is good for learning the host country's culture and enriching one's experience, many others believe that travelling with partners is better. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I believe that both experiences are educational in their own way.

There are many reasons why some people believe that travelling alone is advantageous. Firstly, it gives a person a sense of independence. He has to solve all the problems he encounters, on his own. This makes him a better and stronger person. Secondly, it can enable a person to learn different customs and gain more experience, as all his focus is on absorbing his surroundings and noticing the people around him. By contrast, if he is with his friends or family, he will be engrossed among them.

On the other hand, those who assert that it is better to travel with someone, give their reasons as follows. First of all, it would substantially lower the cost of travelling. For instance, one can split the cost of the hotel and taxis, and at times get discounts for certain group activities. Furthermore, when one is with someone one knows, one feels secure. After all, the person is in unknown surroundings and there is always security in numbers. Finally, when a person travels with a companion, they take their relationship to a whole new level.

I believe that travel should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience, whether done alone or with somebody. There is no one general answer as to which is better. Solo travel can be daring and scary the first time a person tries it, but it can have a lot of benefits. Similarly, while travelling with someone, one makes memories to be cherished for a lifetime. So, it is a personal choice.

In conclusion, travelling alone is good to understand the local culture and experience, but travelling with friends or family can lower the cost of travelling, and give a feeling of security. So, the person should see what type of holiday he wants and decide accordingly.

Plan followed:

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of travelling alone

Para 2: Advantages of travelling with friends

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

68. Many people agree that free public transportation should be available in most major cities. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this idea?

Some people opine that the finest solution to urban traffic congestion is to provide free public transport round-the-clock. This essay intends to analyze the pros and cons of this approach.

There are many arguments for making public transport free. Firstly, it would benefit many people, especially daily commuters. Secondly, it would reduce the number of cars on the roads, which would decrease congestion on the roads. Another big advantage would be to the environment. For example, one bus could take 20-30 cars off the road and this would significantly decrease air pollution. Finally, it would create jobs, as there would be need of more bus and train drivers.

On the other hand, such a service would be a big burden on the governments, as it would require a lot of funds to maintain such free services. Moreover, a considerable proportion of these services would be wasted, as it would be underused on weekends and midnights. Therefore, it would not be practical on economic grounds to run free public transport.

Another big disadvantage would be that car sales would drop significantly. Automobile industry is providing jobs to thousands of people, and most of them would lose their jobs. Finally, many people dislike public transport, as it is too crowded, and still would not use it. So, the whole purpose of making it free would be lost.

To sum up, having a totally free public transport would not be practical to implement, as it would not be economically viable. Therefore, it would not be the best method. A better approach would be to encourage people to use public transport by making it better.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Points for free public transport

Para 2: Points against and other better methods

Para 3: Better methods

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

69. Some people think visitors to others countries should imitate local customs and behaviors. Other people disagree; they think the host country should welcome cultural differences. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.

Today, there is a growing trend of visiting different places in different countries. It is a highly debated issue whether tourists should do and behave as the people of the host country or whether the host country should accept visitors as they are. I shall discuss both views in this essay. I personally side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people say that visitors should adopt the host countries' customs. Firstly, it would decrease chances of misunderstanding and embarrassment. For example, in the UK it is offensive to ask about pay to anyone, which is common in India. Secondly, a nation's customs and traditions are fascinating and offer a deep insight into that country. So, if tourists copy the customs of host country, they learn more about them. Finally, visitors establish a rapport with local people.

On the other hand, those who say that the host country should embrace visitors as they are, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, no country should cling to its own customs and traditions and should accept the new customs and traditions brought by visitors. Secondly, there should be no binding on the visitors to adopt the customs and traditions of the hosts. For example, if the visitors are pure vegetarians, they should not be forced to eat non-vegetarian food just because the host country's people eat that.

I feel that a visitor to another country should respect the customs of that country, but should not be obliged to copy them. Respecting those customs is necessary because a visitor is like a guest in someone else's home. The host country should accept the tourists as they are, because they get to know about other culture and traditions without going anywhere and without spending a single penny.

Summing up, mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony. So, the host country should accept tourists as they are, and visitors should respect the customs of the host country without having to imitate them.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

70. The level of noise around us is constantly increasing, and is affecting the quality of our lives. What causes this noise? What should be done about it?

All displeasing sound is known as “Noise pollution.” It has harmful effects on the physiological and psychological health of human beings. This essay shall discuss the causes and possible solutions to reduce noise problems.

There are many causes of noise pollution. One of the major sources of noise pollution is the traffic noise. The number of vehicles on the road is increasing day by day and the sound produced by them is chiefly responsible for the noise pollution. To add to it, industrial noise also leads to noise pollution. Machinery and motors used in the industries create a lot of noise.

Furthermore, the construction of buildings, highways and city streets also cause a lot of noise and hence leads to noise pollution. People living beside railway stations also have to put up with a lot of noise from engines, horns and whistles. Other causes are the loudspeakers usually used in marriages, social and religious functions. The noise is just jarring and harmful for the ears. It can cause sleep disruption. It can also cause deafness.

Many steps can be taken to control noise pollution. Firstly, roadside plantations are one of the great solutions to help in reducing noise pollution. Changing the design and operation of machines like sound proof cabins and sound-absorbing materials can also greatly help in reducing noise pollution. To block unwanted noise from outside soundproof doors and windows can be installed. The major cause of noise pollution in public areas is the loudspeaker. For the welfare of the people it should be banned at any cost. There should be strict laws imposed against those who use loudspeakers in crowded areas and public places. .

To conclude, there are various sources of noise pollution, but many steps can be taken to mitigate it.

Plan followed

Intro: Problem solution essay intro.

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

71. Some people say that popular tourist destinations are being affected negatively by travelers. Why does this happen and what can be done to resolve this.

These days the pollution produced by tourists has threatened the natural environment of some tourist attractions, making it a big problem to be addressed before those places are completely damaged. This essay shall try to highlight some reasons why people litter these places and also suggest some ways to mitigate the problem.

The most important reason why people litter these tourist places is that they have little awareness of environmental conservation. People think that their one plastic bottle or one wrapper of chips does not matter. What they don't realize is that if each tourist has the same thought then very soon these natural scenic spots would turn into mountains of such litter. People also don't know that this rubbish is mostly of non-biodegradable material and will stay like that forever.

Another reason why people don't care is that they think it is not their responsibility. They think the onus of keeping these places clean rests on the authorities. They have to realize that the environment is everyone's responsibility. Finally, the environmental protection facilities are not enough in many tourist attractions. People would not litter these places if trashcans were placed there at regular intervals.

The first step towards sustainable tourism would be that the tourists should be made aware through the media and tour operators about responsible tourism. They should be made to realise that their careless attitude could kill future tourism and nothing would be left for the gen-next. Additionally, the authorities should have proper facilities at such places and if facilities are not enough according to the number of tourists then the number of tourists should be limited.

To conclude, it can be said that irresponsible tourism has led to the damage of the natural environment and at many places the tourist places have been so much littered that they have ceased being a tourist attraction any more. The responsibility of saving these spots rests on both – the tourists and the government.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall try to highlight some reasons why people litter these places and also suggest some ways forward

Para 1: they have little awareness of environmental conservation

Para 2: they think it is not their responsibility, the environmental protection facilities are not enough

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion: The responsibility of saving these spots rests on both – the tourists and the government

72. Tourism has caused environmental problems in many parts of the world. What sort of problems have been caused and what can be done about them?

Negative impacts from tourism occur when the number of tourists is greater than the environment's ability to cope with them. This essay intends to analyze the damage to environment caused by tourists and suggest ways to alleviate the problem.

The main disadvantage of tourism is that it can put pressure on natural resources, especially in areas where resources are already scarce. For example, the tourism industry generally overuses water resources for hotels, swimming pools, golf courses and personal use of water by tourists. To cite another example of forest resource, one trekking tourist in Nepal, an area already suffering the effects of deforestation, can use four to five kilograms of wood a day.

Secondly, tourism can cause many forms of pollution such as air, noise and even visual pollution. Air pollution and noise pollution from airplanes, cars, and buses is an ever-growing problem of modern life. In areas with high concentrations of tourists, the improper disposal of waste can be a major despoiler of the natural environment - rivers, scenic areas, and roadsides. For example, some trails in the Peruvian Andes and in Nepal frequently visited by tourists have been nicknamed "Coca-Cola trail" and "Toilet paper trail". Visual pollution occurs when large dominating resorts are built in any natural environment and may look out of place there.

Many steps could be taken to ameliorate the negative effects of tourism. The attainment of sustainable tourism is an urgent need. Eco-tourism is the need of the day. Depending on the resources, only a fixed number of tourists should be allowed in any place. Tourists should be cautioned against littering and spoiling natural places. Sustained active role of firms and governments is considered vital for the future of tourism.

In conclusion, it can be reiterated that environmental issues have always been there because of tourism, but many steps can be taken to mitigate the negative effects of tourism.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Effects on environment

Para 2: More effects

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

73. Some people believe that tourists do not learn anything during their holidays, while others believe they learn a lot. Discuss both views and opine.

Some individuals opine that travellers don't learn anything new when they visit a new place. Others are of the view that travelling teaches a myriad things to the tourists. I intend to delve into both perspectives in this essay. I personally side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people assert that travelling is not a learning experience for tourists. The main reason for that is that most people travel in groups with their family or friends. They do not mingle with the local people and do not try the local foods. Another reason is that people go on holidays to relax, rejuvenate and take a break from their routines. For instance, many tourists today simply check into resorts and don't move out for the entire duration of their stay.

On the other hand, those who say that travelling brings a lot of learning with it, give their reasons as follows. People learn about different cultures, history, food and languages. Furthermore, it makes them more responsible, independent and confident. They learn to plan and organize better. They come across different situations that help improve their decision-making and resource planning skills. Moreover, when they travel to a new place, they meet new people and build their social network.

I believe, that travelling is the best way to learn about a new culture, language, or history among many other things. I think that it is always an enriching experience and makes people aware about the world around them when they visit new places. Even if people do not go out of the resorts, it will still be a learning experience in terms of the social interaction with the staff of the resort or with other guests at the resort.

To conclude, I reiterate that tourism offers tremendous opportunities for travellers to discover, learn and grow. It will be wrong to say that tourists do not learn anything at all when they travel.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: Why some say that tourists don't learn anything

Para 2: Why some say that tourists learn a lot

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion

74. Nowadays, more people are travelling to other countries. Why is this the case? Does it a positive or negative impact for the countries they travel to?

International tourism has become a huge industry as more and more people are travelling to other countries. This essay intends to delve into the reasons why people travel overseas, and also discuss the positive and negative effects on the host country. I believe that the effects are largely positive.

There are many reasons for international travel nowadays. The main purpose is for holidaying. People like to see new places and meet new people and thus widen their horizons. Besides vacationing, people do medical tourism when they go abroad for treatments of various illnesses. For example, many people now come to India for complex surgeries. Secondly, people do business tourism to expand their business network. Then there is religious tourism, sports tourism, education tourism, political tourism, adventure tourism and many more types of tourism. The names are self-explanatory as far as the reasons are concerned.

On the positive side, the host country's economy is boosted. Many people get jobs in the tourism sector. Tourists spend on various things and everyone benefits. Secondly, people of the host country get a chance of culture exchange. They get to know foreign cultures and get to share their cultural norms. Moreover, when the government sees the influx of tourists, it develops the infrastructure of the country, which also benefits the natives.

On the negative side, sometimes tourists destroy the beauty of the place when they throw litter here and there. Secondly, there is air pollution because of air travel. In addition, diseases such as swine flu and bird flu can spread like wildfires. Incidents of petty crimes also increase in areas frequented by tourists. Last but not least, terrorists can come in the guise of tourists.

To sum up, people travel abroad for many reasons and the effects on the host country are largely positive.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Positive effects

Para 3: Negative effects

Conclusion

75. Some people think it is better to travel by cars in the city. Others, however, think traveling by bicycles is better. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some people opine that travelling by bicycle is fun, healthy, environmentally friendly and an economical means of travelling within a city. However, other people assert that it is better to travel by a car in cities. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, personally am in favour of bicycles.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of using the bicycle for travel within the city. Firstly, bicycles can greatly help reduce pollution. Studies have shown that cycling 10 km each way to work would save 1500 kg of greenhouse gas emissions. Secondly, the bicycle is an affordable means of transport, especially for the unemployed, those under 18 and people with lower incomes. Finally, riding a bicycle for short distances within the city would keep people physically fit, which is very necessary in today's times, where people have sedentary lifestyles.

Those in favour of car travel within the city, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, they think that the faster means of transport is what is needed in today's world to get to work, schools, business meetings, etc. The supporters of car travel within the urban areas also opine that if the numbers of vehicles are reduced, it will have an adverse effect on the economy of the city and subsequently the country.

I believe that it will be very beneficial to any country's economy, if more and more people start using bicycles within the city. It will drastically decrease the hidden motor vehicle costs, such as accidents, congestion, pollution, road maintenance and so forth. Moreover, the use of bicycles in the city would rather save time of people than waste their time. The cars move at a snail's pace especially during peak hours, which literally increases the commuting time two or three fold.

To sum up, the advantages of travelling by a car cannot be ignored, especially when travelling long distances. However, for travel within the city people should be encouraged to use the eco-friendly and economical means of transport.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion

76. Some people believe that taxing companies which cause pollution, is the best way to reduce industrial pollution, whereas others suggest that the government should deal with this on its own. Discuss both the views and give your opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that businesses and individuals should pay for the pollution they cause, whereas others say that governments should find other ways to handle this pollution. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss both perspectives. I, personally side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people opine that companies should be levied a carbon tax for the pollution they cause. Firstly, it would motivate them to switch to cleaner energies. These include solar energy, wind energy and hydro powered energy. Secondly, this tax would raise substantial revenue as it would increase the cost of fuel. This money could be used by the governments for other useful purposes, or to cut other taxes.

On the other hand, those opposed to a carbon tax, give their reasons as follows. First of all, it may not be possible to pinpoint the extent to which each company has to pay for pollution. Such businesses will find loopholes to avoid heavy bills. Secondly, the big companies may be unwilling to accept the responsibility of paying the additional bill of pollution and may pass on this tax completely to the consumers by increasing the cost of their products.

I believe that a carbon tax would not be practical as many industries may shift to non-tax nations. In addition, with the increase in cost of fuels, the common people would suffer, as everyone uses some carbon in their lives. Finally, it has been seen that in countries which have imposed the tax, there has been no significant fall in pollution levels. In fact, it has had an opposite effect as the companies paying the tax, stop feeling guilty about creating pollution. Instead of taxing, it would be better to give incentives to these companies to switch to greener energies.

Summing up, pollution is a serious issue and the government should not leave it to the companies to pay its bill. It can however, make it mandatory for the companies to use solar and wind energy, so that pollution is minimized.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

77. People generally know that the environment is important. However, most individuals still don't take responsibility to protect the environment. Why is this? What should be done to encourage people to protect the environment?

It is irrefutable that environmental damage is occurring at a very fast pace and people know that it is a global priority today to save the environment. However, when it comes to doing something, no one steps forward. This essay intends to delve into the causes of this phenomenon and suggest simple measures to encourage people to think about the environment.

There are many reasons behind the indifferent attitude of people. The main reason is that people don't know that they are also the cause of environmental damage. They don't realize that global warming is the result of billions of decisions. People are cutting down trees for their needs; they are using too many luxuries in the home; they are driving too many cars and are wasting resources like fresh water. If only awareness is brought about these things then many people would take a step forward in this direction.

People are also not doing anything because they think that it is a global problem and only government action can solve it. What has to be made clear is that small measures taken at the individual level can add up to mammoth dimensions when mounted up. For example, in a country like India with a population of more than one billion, if each person plants a tree, the result would be un-imaginable. People can recycle things such as newspapers, plastics and glass. They could use the public transport instead of their own cars.

Another reason why people do little about the environment is that people have become very busy in their pursuit of wealth and fame that they have no time to think about the environment. What they don't realize is that if nothing is done today, it might be too late tomorrow. The rate at which global warming is occurring would soon transform the Earth into a boiling pot and it would be uninhabitable for us one day.

Summing up, the onus of saving the environment is not just on the shoulders of the governments and big industries. We all must come forward and do our bit to save the environment before it is too late.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reason and solution

Para 2: Reason and solution

Para 3: Reason and solution

Conclusion:

78. Nowadays people are using more consumer goods like refrigerators or washing machines. Does this have more advantages or disadvantages?

Today we belong to an era of materialism and everyone wants to have more and more in life. Things like a fridge, TV and washing machine were the luxuries of yesteryears, but have become the necessities of today. There are many advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon but the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, in the quest for material possessions, people work hard to achieve their goals. Secondly, the demand for such things boosts the national economy. Manufacturing units provide round-the-clock employment to thousands of people to produce things in bulk. What is more, when demand is more and mass production is done, then the cost of the appliances comes down and the consumer is ultimately benefitted.

On the downside, this consumerism is leading to stress and strain in the lives of people. People have become workaholics and are missing out on the joys of family and social life. Sometimes, people even adopt unethical means to get these things and this leads to crime and violence. When this simple materialism turns into over-materialism, people start wanting a TV in each and every room of the house and a car per person of the family. People fail to draw the line between necessity and indulgence and this creates all problems.

The most significant negative impact of excessive materialism is on the environment. It is a bitter truth that today, the society in which consumption is artificially stimulated is a society producing a lot of on trash and waste. For example, new models of TV's and refrigerators are introduced every other day and people just go and buy them dumping their older items. The disposal of old ones is adding to the global litter and is destroying our environment.

To sum up, there is no harm if everyone wants to own a fridge and a washing machine, but it would be much better if people realise where to draw the line and be satisfied with what they have.

Plan followed

Intro: the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages

Para 1: Advantages of materialism

Para 2: Disadvantages of materialism

Para 3: Disadvantages of materialism

Conclusion:

79. The amount of garbage produced by our cities is a big problem for governments around the world. What are the causes of this excess waste? How can this problem be fixed?

Cities are producing more garbage than ever before and the amount is likely to double by 2025. This essay intends to study the reasons for this excess waste generation and also suggest ways to tackle this global garbage crisis.

The main cause of excessive waste generation worldwide is the increasing population. More population is increasing the consumption, which in turn is producing more waste. Second, the materialistic society has augmented the demand for products which makes the producers manufacture more products. Another disturbing reason is the increase in plastic waste which is nonbiodegradable and is filling up the landfill sites. Finally, inefficient waste disposal is leading to more waste.

The first way to deal with waste is waste minimization, which can be done through education and the adoption of improved production processes and less wasteful practices. Secondly, the should focus on the mantra of 'reuse'. Most materials are made from nature, such as trees, minerals, oil, gas and metals. The waste created is really a resource that is thrown away sometimes after a single use. Reusing and then recycling these materials helps limit resource use, keeps valuable materials out of landfills, and prevents pollution.

Thirdly, recycling of things should be done. As much as 80 percent of everyday waste materials can be recycled and given a new life when broken down and used again and again. No doubt recycling uses energy and resources, but it's much better than making things from scratch. For example, every ton of newspapers recycled saves approximately 17 to 19 trees, and over 70 percent less energy is needed to produce aluminium from recycled cans than from new raw materials. Another important step that can be taken at a household level is composting. Composting reduces the amount of waste going to landfills and it produces a free natural fertilizer, leading to a healthier environment.

To sum up, solid waste generation is becoming a colossal problem, but it can be dealt with it in many ways. The time has come to stop waste before it stops us.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para1: Reasons

Para 2: Solutions

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

80. In spite of technological developments in transportation, many people believe that a bicycle is the best way to reach any destination within the city. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a bicycle nowadays?

Nowadays, many people use bicycles to move from one place to another for short distances. This essay shall discuss the pros and cons of riding a bicycle in today's scenario.

The first benefit of using a bicycle for short distances is that it decreases pollution levels in the atmosphere. When many people use their cars to move short distances, the increased emissions impact the pollution levels, degrading the environment. Studies have shown that cycling 10 km each way to work would save 1500 kg of greenhouse gas emissions. The second benefit of using a bicycle for short distances is that it can help lower petrol or diesel consumption. This can also save a lot of money.

Finally, the most important benefit of riding a bicycle on short trips is that it can help people have good health. When a person rides a bicycle, he uses his legs to move, and this physical exercise is aerobic which means that the heart is pumping blood throughout the body, so it fortifies the rider's heart, lungs, and other important parts of his body.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of riding a bicycle in the contemporary world cannot be denied. Heavy traffic has become the norm of the day and the bicycle has become unsafe, especially where there are no separate lanes for bicycles. Moreover, it is more time consuming as compared to cars or other forms of transport. Finally, if the weather is not favourable, it is impossible to ride a bicycle.

To sum up, there are some excellent reasons to ride a bicycle. People need to keep in mind that riding a bicycle will provide them with health and other benefits. No doubt there are a few disadvantages, but the bicycle should be chosen whenever it can be.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

81. Most countries allow 18 year olds to start driving a car. Some say it is good to allow driving at that age. Others think that the age to start driving should be at least 25 years. Discuss both views and opine.

People are divided on the legal age of starting to drive a car. Many countries issue a licence at the age of 18. However, some believe that this age should be raised to 25. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I, personally side with the latter view.

There are convincing arguments given by those who support that the age of 18 is good enough to start driving. Firstly, this is the official age of adulthood in many countries, so if a person is considered mature enough to be given voting rights, then he is mature enough to be given driving rights. Secondly, it has been seen that most of the accidents occur because of inexperience and not age. A 25 year old may also cause the same accidents. So, raising the age of getting a licence would not prove beneficial in reducing accidents.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why some people say that the legal age of driving should be raised to 25. Firstly, the number of road accidents would definitely come down, as many youngsters indulge in fast and rash driving just to show off and get attention. Another very important benefit would be to the environment, as people would be forced to use the public transport till they are 25 years old.

I believe that the age of driving should be raised to 25, because maturity is definitely more at 25 than it is at 18. Secondly, it would be a big saving for those parents, who have to buy independent vehicles for their 18 year olds, and then give them money every month for fuel. All this expenditure could be deferred for 7 years. The cost of public transport would definitely be less. The use of bicycles, which do not need any licence, would also go up.

To sum up, getting a driving licence at 18 or 25, both have their pros and cons, but keeping the environment and health into consideration, I believe that the age of 25 has an edge over the age of 18.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: Why 18 is a good age for getting driving licence

Para 2: why 25 is considered a good age

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion

82. Some people say that giving a small amount of money weekly to children will help them become more capable as they grow older. Do you agree or disagree?

I definitely agree that providing children with a little amount of pocket money on a weekly basis is helpful to their development. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

Firstly, giving children a small amount of money instills in them a sense of independence. When children are given the independence to buy things themselves they begin to see the value in the things they already have and other household items more clearly. They may start to treat the DVD player or PlayStation with a bit more respect. Giving pocket money to their children also saves a lot of time for grownups to buy small things for their children. They can utilize this time for other important tasks.

Secondly, parents who issue their children a minute weekly allowance encourage the development of their child's sense of responsibility. It makes them feel an important part of the family since they know that they get a part of the family's monthly income. Furthermore, a weekly allowance can work out much cheaper in the long run provided parents don't top it up with more money if their child runs out of money. Parents who don't give pocket money but buy children whatever they need would be surprised if they just total the amount they spend on their children's desires every week.

Finally, children learn about saving and budgeting. For example, if they want to buy a present for their mother's birthday, they will need to put aside some amount of money every month to collect the commensurate amount and buy the gift. They learn and understand that the amount of money is limited and they need to always choose between their various desires to ensure correct use of their pocket money.

To sum up, giving children a little cash on a weekly basis develops their financial comprehension and level of responsibility. Thus, parents are encouraged to consider adopting this regime.

Plan followed:

Intro: Agree

Para1: advantage

Para 2: Another advantage

Para 3: Advantage

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

83. Nowadays plastic money replacements such as credit and debit cards are extremely popular, even more than banknotes and coins. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this. Include your personal opinion and examples based on your own experience.

Credit cards have become an essential life tool. Therefore, many opine that this plastic money will replace the coins and paper money in future. I believe that the merits and demerits of credit card depend on the way it is used.

There are many benefits of credit cards. Firstly, these are very convenient to use. Majority of the businesses accept credit cards. Credit cards can also be used to buy goods and services over the phone, through the mail and online. To add to it, they provide financial backup in the event of an emergency, such as an unexpected healthcare cost, job loss or auto repair. For instance, if a person is on a holiday and has a medical emergency, he will have no problem in paying the hospital bills through credit card.

Furthermore, credit cards offer discounts and rewards at stores. Some cards may offer cash back as an incentive to use the card. They can also help build the user's credit history. A person with a good credit history does not face problems when applying for a loan for any reason. Credit cards also keep a record of expenses, helping the user to monitor his financial activities.

On the other hand, credit cards can have their disadvantages. Firstly, if the person does not pay off these dues on time, then late fees, interest, and penalties build very fast, because of which many people find themselves sunk in credit card debt with no way out. One of the most overlooked negative aspects is that cardholders tend to overspend, as they don't get the feel of spending. Finally, during online transactions the card can be hacked and misused, if the site is not secure. Misuse can also happen if the credit card is lost.

Summing up, as with anything, there are advantages and disadvantages of using credit cards. It is in the hands of the person using the card to make its advantages outstrip the disadvantages.

Plan followed

Intro: Advantages or disadvantages lie in the hands of the holder

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

84. Many people believe money is a very important factor for achieving happiness. Others, however, believe that money has nothing to do with happiness. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some people say the money can buy happiness, whereas others say that happiness does not depend on money. In this essay I shall discuss both perspectives. I believe that if a person is below poverty line, money can bring happiness, but above the poverty level, money loses its importance.

The main reason why some people say that money is needed to be happy is that it is certainly difficult to be truly happy if one is in poverty. For a person who is always hungry or cold or is in unsafe surroundings, happiness can be a dream. Having a certain amount of money helps to fix certain problems in life, which make people stressed out and unhappy. For example, if a person has a health problem, but no money for treatment, he can never be happy.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why people say that money has no relationship with happiness. They say that the best indicator of a person's happiness is the quality of his or her close relationships. A person who has good friends and a supportive family is happier than any rich person without these blessings. Besides close relationships, having a job or hobby that people love and the ability of helping others through random acts of kindness can also bring happiness.

I believe that once a person's basic necessities are met, any additional money does not have anything to do with happiness. In fact, having a lot of money can lead to stress. The richer a person is, the more taxes he has to pay. In addition, money may become an obsession. It can alter a person's perception of life. He may stop trusting even his true friends. Too much money does not let a person see every day's little pleasures.

To conclude, definitely money is needed for the basic necessities of life. However, once the basic necessities are met, friends, family and a satisfying job can give more happiness.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree with both halves of the statement

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

85. Many people spend a lot of money on clothes, haircuts, and beauty products to enhance their appearance. Some people think that it is a good way to spend money, while others think that there are other better ways to spend it. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

For centuries, men and women have beautified their eyes, lips and bodies. However, in today's contemporary society, people are spending excessively on their looks. Some people opine that this expenditure is justified, but others are opposed to this overspending. This essay shall discuss both perspectives. I, personally side with the latter view.

On the one hand, this disproportionate spending on their façade appeals to many, because it is a general perception that when one looks good, he feels better and behaves better. Also, when he looks better, the people around him think high of him. Secondly, some professions are totally dependent on looks. Many film stars have got face-lifts and other cosmetic surgeries done on their faces to look younger and thus be in the job for longer. Even in some other professions, such as receptionists in offices and air-hostesses, looks are given weightage over other things.

On the other hand, those who opine that such extravagant expenditure on looks is unreasonable, give their reasons as follows. They say that one should save or invest money to build a bright future. That money can also be spent on quality education in a reputed university. What is more, these products are not without their side effects. Too many products used on the hair and face may damage the hair and skin permanently.

I believe that looks are important and it is everyone's right to look their best. There is no doubt that fashionable clothes, stylish haircuts and high quality beauty products can turn any ugly duckling into a beautiful swan. However, one must remember that ultimately what matters is the inner 'you'. It is more important to be beautiful from within. Therefore, one must not overspend on these things.

To conclude, outrageous spending on improving looks is bad. The outer appearance may have a temporary appeal but what ultimately matters is the person within.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss

Para 1: Why spend

Para 2: Why not spend

Para 3: Why not spend – own opinion

Conclusion

Similar essay - Nowadays, some people are changing their way of look through hair color, clothes, cosmetics and even plastic surgeries. What are the reasons? Is this a good thing?

86. Some people think spending a lot on birthdays and marriage celebrations is a waste of money but others think it is important to the young people and the society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Celebrations such as birthdays and marriages are an important part of everyone's life. However, it is a matter of intense dispute whether spending a lot on such events is a waste of money or whether it is significant for the youth and society as a whole. This essay shall look into both arguments. I personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people opine that having big weddings and birthdays is good for the youth and the society. Firstly, such events are very special should be celebrated lavishly. Such events also provide opportunities to revive such traditions in the minds of the youth. Moreover, on such occasions friend and relatives take time off to be together. Therefore, to make these days special, people spend lavishly on them. They believe that spending on such events is good to revive the community spirit among people.

On the other hand, those who are against such ostentatious spending, give their reasons as follows. First, it is better to donate something to charity to make such days special and meaningful. Such days can be celebrated in a simple way with only a few relatives and friends. Moreover, many a time people go into debt in order to keep up with their affluent friends and relatives. This one day of celebration may well become the cause of stress for many days or even months later on.

In my opinion, those who overspend on such days merely want to show their status in society. It is essential to celebrate such days. Celebrations bring a break from the routine and give us "milestones" for our life. However, it is not necessary to make them pretentious. It is very essential that people keep these celebrations simple and easy on their pockets so that there is no financial strain.

To sum up, it can be said that celebrating such events is important for the youth and society but it is not necessary to overspend on them.

Plan followed

Intro: Balanced view as it is a discuss essay

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Second view

Para 3: My opinion

Conclusion:

87. There are an increasing number of serious crimes committed each year. While some people say that the best way would be to use death penalty as a deterrent, many people say that other measures will be needed. Discuss both sides and opine.

Supporters of capital punishment argue that it is morally justified in cases of heinous crimes, whereas others opine that other measures should be employed to curb crime. This essay intends to analyse both views. I personally oppose capital punishment.

Supporters of death penalty believe that people who have done heinous crime such as a murder, have forfeited their own right to life. Secondly, life imprisonment is a drain on public finances. Maintaining a secure prison system for high-risk, violent offenders uses a lot of government resources. Capital punishment also has a deterrent effect on potential criminals, for whom imprisonment is insufficient restraint.

On the other hand, those who are against capital punishment, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, innocent people may get killed, because of mistakes or flaws in the justice system. Secondly, executions do not have a greater deterrent effect than life imprisonment. Moreover, in countries with costly and lengthy appeals procedure like India, capital punishment becomes a more expensive option than long-term imprisonment. It is also argued that it is used more often against perpetrators from racial and ethnic minorities and from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, than those coming from a privileged background.

I believe that capital punishment is irrevocable and so other forms of punishment should be used. For example, in 2012, 13 convicts had been erroneously sentenced to death (according to the Supreme Court's own admission) and were facing the threat of imminent execution. They were found innocent and were pardoned on the appeal of 14 former judges of various high courts.

To sum up, life-imprisonment is a better option than capital punishment. Every person should be given a chance to reform. Oscar Wilde has rightly said that, "Every saint has a past, and every sinner a future."

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: Points for

Para 2: Points against

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

88. Most of the people in the society enjoy watching crime movies and crime based TV programs. Why do you think people have more interest to watch them? What is the impact to the society due to this?

It is irrefutable that crime and violent world events are among the most frequently watched topics on TV and in films. This essay intends to analyse the reasons of this phenomenon. I believe that the effects are largely negative.

The most important reason for this is obviously that such shows and movies make people aware about the crime and violence happening in the society. For example, through the television shows such as 'Crime Patrol' and 'Savdhan India', people can be alerted of the kind of crimes happening around them. Secondly, people watch such movies and TV programs as they get the thrill out of watching such shows and movies. The TV channels also want to increase their TRPs (television rating points), to get more adverts and hence more revenue.

There are many positive and negative effects on individuals and society. On the positive side, the people are abreast of the crime around them and can take protective steps, as and when needed. On the other hand, the most disturbing effect is on the children and youth. Depiction of violence in media can stimulate fear in some children as it frightens them, making the effects long lasting. This can become traumatic in our children as they see it more and more. Such programs can affect their psyche.

Furthermore, young people imitate what they see, and it is logical that they see glamour in what they do when they commit violence. Consequently, the society suffers, as the streets are full of violence. Too much portrayal of these also leads to immunity among the people, and they are not affected by the disasters any more. Even disasters like Tsunami and earthquakes also don't make people shed a tear any more.

Summing up, there are many reasons why people love to see too much violence on TV and in movies. These have a lot of detrimental effects on the individuals and society.

Plan followed

Intro: I shall discuss the reasons of this phenomenon and discuss its effects on society..

Para 1: Reasons for this phenomenon

Para 2: Effects

Para 3: More harmful effects

Conclusion:

89. Sending criminals to prison is not the best method of dealing with them. Education and job training are better ways to help them. Do you agree or disagree?

There are many different opinions on the best way to reduce crime. The traditional solution is to punish the criminals by putting them in prison. Some hold the view that education and job training are the long-term solutions to cut crime. I agree with them. I believe that prison is the answer in a very few situations, but in most cases education, vocational training and rehabilitation are better.

Prison is the only answer in case of criminals who are a risk to the society, such as murderers, serial killers and rapists. They cannot be allowed to mix with society. While the fear of imprisonment deters potential criminals, I still feel that in majority of cases, we can do without prisons.

The main reason why petty criminals should be given education and job training is that the basic causes of crime are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. So, if education and job training are provided, then the root causes of crime would be dealt with. If criminals are rehabilitated by some form of employment then they are likely not to indulge in criminal activities on their release from prison.

Moreover, in traditional prisons, people learn a lot about crime, and so when they leave prison they commit even more crime. In other words prisons act as universities of crime. So petty offenders like shop-lifters and pick-pockets should be given some vocational training and education. Finally, prisons are expensive to maintain. The government can spend that money on other important areas such as education and healthcare. This would ease some burden from the government's shoulders.

Summing up, we should hate the crime and not the criminal. To fight crime we should focus on the causes of crime. Education and job training help to rehabilitate the criminals. So, people who commit less serious crimes should not be sent to prison. Focus should be on reforming them.

Plan followed

Intro: partially agree

Para 1: Enumerate those crimes for which prison is the only answer -

Para 2: Why prison is not the answer -

Para 3: Maintaining prisons is a burden on the govt.

Conclusion:

90. Some people say that the main purpose of television should be education, while other says it should be for entertainment only. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

People are divided on the purposefulness of television. Some believe that TV should primarily be for education, whereas others opine that TV should be for entertainment. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, believe that television should equally fulfil the role of educator and entertainer.

The main reason why some people say that the television should mainly focus on being educative is that it is a great audio visual tool, which can stimulate learning and give opportunity for mass education. Television should be used for both, formal and non-formal education. For formal education, television can be attached with school curriculum and time-tables. It can enhance quality in education and reduce dependence on verbal teaching and teachers. For non-formal education, television benefits the masses by making them conscious of the environment, their rights, duties and privileges. It is a source of teaching etiquettes, language skills, hobbies, social relations and religious beliefs.

On the other hand, those who say that the main role of TV should be entertainment, assert that everyone needs entertainment in their lives. Today, majority of people lead stressful lives, and they require a sort of passive entertainment to feel relaxed. There are countless channels on TV providing entertainment in the form of soaps, video songs, movies, and game shows. Thus, every person irrespective of his age group can find something interesting to see on TV. Moreover, today the smart TV is capable of recording their favourite programs, which people can enjoy in their free time. It also offers thousands of games to play.

To sum up, television is equally meant for education and entertainment, and it is simultaneously doing both. Even the daily soaps that people see provide some social education. So the role of TV is overlapping as far as education and entertainment are concerned. To use it solely for education or for entertainment would be wrong.

Plan followed

Intro: Equal role

Para 1: Role in education

Para 2: Role in education

Para 3: Role in entertainment

Conclusion:

91. Some people believe that watching TV is good and makes life more enjoyable. Others, however, feel that it is a waste of time. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some individuals opine that TV adds joy and fun to our lives, whereas others believe that it is a total waste of time. In this essay I shall discuss both views. I believe that TV is a source of happiness, but only if watched in limit.

The main reason why some people say that watching TV adds joy to life, is that there is a huge variety of TV shows available. It is a nice way to relax after a busy day. Today, everyone is leading busy and hectic lives, due to which people are not able to take out time for leisure, like in the past. Because of TV, they can remain in the comforts of their home and watch shows of their choice.

On the other hand, those who assert that watching TV is a waste of time, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, more productive things could be done in that time, such as playing with children, reading books, doing household chores and so on. Moreover, some of the shows that teenagers watch are very negative and destructive to their mind. On top of that, snacking while watching TV is very common and these things make people obese and lazy.

I believe that watching TV keeps people up-to-date with what is going on all around, and it can also be very educational. It is now possible to see new places, learn about their culture and food, without visiting those places. In all these ways, TV has enriched our lives. However, watching TV has to be done in limit. Leisure time we have is limited, so the onus is on us not to waste it on excessive TV viewing.

To sum up, watching TV is good entertainment, but if we don't ration our TV viewing time, it can prove to be a sheer wastage of time.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: How TV is entertaining

Para 2: How it is a waste of time

Para 3: How it is a waste of time

Conclusion:

92. Among Internet, radio, TV and newspaper, which has the greatest effect on the social activity of people? Give reasons.

Media influence has grown exponentially with the advancement of technology. All these media, internet, TV, newspapers and radio, have their own importance and uniqueness, which shall be discussed in this essay. I believe that each medium has its own effect on the society, so it is difficult to pinpoint which is the best.

There are many merits and demerits of the newspaper. Firstly, newspapers provide news about a large number of items, such as a country's economic situation, sports, games, entertainment, trade and commerce. Secondly, the news can be presented in detail. Newspapers can also be read and re-read at one's convenience, as opposed to the fixed time periods of TV and radio. The disadvantage of newspaper is that the ability to comprehend news in print depends on literacy, which is a clear-cut advantage of radio and TV.

Similarly, the radio and the TV have their own advantages and disadvantages. The radio can be accessed in a variety of situations. People listen to radio while they dress and eat in the morning, commute to and from work, perform work or study, have meals and so on. Radio news reporters can provide live, local coverage in a timely manner. However, television has an edge over radio as it combines both sight and sound, and is therefore more appealing.

Finally, the Internet is the newest source of news and is fast becoming popular among the computer literate sections of society. It can be said that the Internet incorporates characteristics from all of the traditional media, such as sight, sound and online versions of newspapers and magazines. The youth are the most influenced by the Internet. The social network sites on the Internet have made it possible for the youth to have the widest circle of friends.

To conclude, all these media are not equivalent and interchangeable with each other, as they have unique characteristics. It is very difficult to pin point which one is the best. Television, however, is the most pervasive mass medium.

Plan followed

Intro: Tell how media affects people. TV has the maximum impact

Para 1: advantages of newspapers

Para 2: Advantages of TV and radio with some comparison

Para 3: Advantages and limitations of the Internet especially on youth

Conclusion: very difficult to pin point which is the best. All have unique characteristics.

93. Radio will no longer be able to hold its presence, as television and Internet media will replace it very soon. Do you agree or disagree?

In the past, radio was considered the most convenient and important source of information. I strongly disagree with the notion that the radio will lose its importance in the future. I believe that its popularity will grow even further. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

One of the main reasons why radio will retain its value is because of the fact that driving has become very popular across the world as a way of life. Radio is a regular piece of equipment installed in a car, and to car users, listening to the radio while driving is an effective means of taking full advantage of their time and keeping abreast of the latest information, such as news, weather forecast, share markets, and so forth. As car use is likely to increase in future, the popularity of radio will also grow.

Secondly, for those people who have no time to watch TV, radio provides immediate and easy access to information. Another advantage of its continued popularity is that it is highly affordable. Radio broadcasting is free to the public, unlike TV for which one has to pay for the channels of choice. Furthermore, the radio is portable. On occasions where people cannot watch TV, read newspapers or surf the net, they can listen to the radio.

Finally, the newer technologies are also responsible for the popularity of radio. For example, people can get radio via satellite, the internet and cable nowadays. There are many other electronic devices, such as MP3 and MP4 players, which allow people to listen to the radio more easily and to use it for various entertainments, such as sharing their music collections. Despite being an only audio mode, it is still able to serve the needs of audiences as it always did.

To conclude, despite the emergence of other media such as the TV and the internet, the radio has held its place as an important mass medium. It has many advantages that give it an edge over TV and the internet. Therefore, it will always remain popular.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Advantages while driving

Para 2: highly affordable. – even radio broadcast is free // Portable

On the occasions where people cannot watch TV, read newspapers or surf the net, they can listen to the radio.

Para 3: The newer technologies are also responsible for the popularity of radio.

Conclusion:

94. More and more media attention is being paid to famous people who are successful in sports and movies. Why do you think this is happening? Is this a positive or a negative development?

It would not be unfair to say that today's world is saturated with celebrity related news and gossip. We have access to the very latest news in the world of celebrities via different mediums. This essay shall delve into the causes of this phenomenon. It is definitely not a good thing.

The main reason why media focuses on celebs is that people idolize celebs and want to know more about them. Celebs are role models for many. The media is only responding to people's desires. To survive in today's world, the media, whether it is e-media or print media, has to focus on these big shots. Another reason for this is that the celebs themselves need the media coverage to survive in today's era of cut-throat competition. That is why the extent and quality of celebrity news in the media is multiplying manifold.

However, too much focus on the lives of celebrities is certainly harmful for the people as well as the celebs themselves. Too much focus on celebrities diverts people's attention away from more important issues such as politics and the environment. For example, the public knows more about Salman Khan and his broken relationships than about many political issues. In addition, sometimes these celebs are negative role models for people. For instance, if a celebrity drinks or smokes then young people may copy him thinking that it is glamorous to drink and smoke.

Furthermore, too much celebrity gossip can be detrimental for the celebs themselves. Everyone knows that Princess Diana died because she was being followed by the paparazzi. Celebrities' lives do not have any privacy and they cannot enjoy the simple things of life like a common man does. This increases the stress in their lives and consequently, their careers also suffer.

To conclude, the media does focus too much into the lives of famous people because of several reasons. However, it should understand its responsibility and use its power for the right cause. It should know where to draw the line and should also know how much is too much.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into the causes of this phenomenon. It is definitely not a good thing.

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Why it is not good for people

Para 3: Why it is not good for celebs

Conclusion:

95. Should media networks such as newspapers publish people's private information?

In this day of competition, in order to increase their sales or increase their TRP, many types of media publicize the private life of celebrities and other famous people. In my opinion, this is not justified. In the following paragraphs, I will support my viewpoint with my arguments.

Firstly, every individual has a right to privacy and journalists and other media persons should not invade the privacy of anyone, be it a common man or a famous person. Such private information is publicly disclosed because there is a demand for such detail by the masses and people relish such news. However, that doesn't give anyone the right to publish such information, especially without the consent of the person concerned.

Secondly, most of the celebrities act as role models for many youngsters, and so if negative or uncensored information is published about famous people, many people may indulge in the same kind of behaviour, even if it is something wrong, like drinking or smoking excessively or using abusive language. For example, the incident when Michael Jackson committed suicide led to twelve deaths of his fans who died from committing suicide following their favourite star.

My final argument against publicizing private lives of celebs is that when the paparazzi make their private lives public, it sometimes affects their performance. These celebs entertain us, and if they don't perform well, they cannot entertain us well. Ultimately it is a loss for the public as well, as an artist is lost in the process. To add to it, if some private aspect of that person's life is published or broadcast, it may affect the career of the celebrity adversely.

To sum up, it can be said that we all have a right to privacy and so do the famous people. It is not right for the media networks to publicize anyone's personal and private information.

Plan followed

Intro: They should not

Para 1: first reason

Para 2: second reason

Para 3: third reason

Conclusion

96. Some people say television contributes more than other modern inventions to the quality of life of ordinary people. Do you agree or disagree?

The television has become arguably the greatest invention of the past century. There is no doubt that it has significantly changed the life of the ordinary man. However, I disagree that it adds the maximum to the quality of life of the common man. I believe that the mobile technological gadgets of today have surpassed the TV, as they also provide TV-on-the-go along with all other benefits of the phone and the computer.

Undoubtedly, the TV is still very important to people. They watch TV in the morning to receive the daily news. They do other household chores while watching it. Thus the television eats up most of the time they get to stay at home. What is more, the advertisements succeed in giving rise to strong materialistic wants in people, which must be one of the reasons why they are becoming increasingly consumerist.

However, modern gadgets have accelerated the pace of communication, and now people are able to communicate with anyone in any corner of the world. Long distance communication has also become much cheaper than before. Newer jobs have also been created because of these technologies. Many people work in the programming field, as systems analysts and web designers. Furthermore, businesses can expand globally with very little investment. Payments can be sent and received by wireless terminals, like PayTM.

Another big advantage is to the students. They can create documents and immediately upload them to a teacher's electronic folder. Teachers can then view the documents immediately, and keep them permanently stored. Moreover, these gadgets have proved an asset in healthcare also. In one handheld device, doctors can access patient information, research medical literature, and securely communicate with patients and colleagues. One survey in 2013 discovered that 86% of physicians used smartphones.

To sum up, it can be said that television has been the leader in changing the life of man till the beginning of the 21st century, but mobile communication technology has now surpassed all other inventions in affecting the life of the common human being.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Role of TV

Para 2: How modern gadgets are better

Para 3: More advantages of modern gadgets

Conclusion: reiterate your points

97. Some people are interested in international news, others prefer watching national news. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

News plays a vital role in human affairs and also keep us in touch with our environment. Some people just like to watch national news, whereas others want to know all about the international arena. In this essay, I shall look at the arguments on both sides. I believe that national and international news are equally important in today's time.

Those in favour of national news assert that it is enough to know what is happening around them in their own country. They believe that what is happening a thousand or more miles away has no bearing on their lives and it is futile to go into the depth of that news. Their curiosity is satiated with political, social, sports and entertainment news of their own country. For example, most people in India follow the national political developments as it affects important aspects of their life such as their finance, health and education. They like to discuss national issues and express their concern over them.

Those interested in global news say that this news gives us a bigger picture view of what is happening around their country and the world. Today, the world is becoming more and more interconnected. For example, when the corona pandemic started in China in December 2019, it spread all over the world in just a few days. Learning from the mistakes done by some European countries in controlling the spread, the Indian Prime Minister ordered a complete lockdown in India, because of which the situation was not as grim as in those countries.

I believe that both national and international news are important. People need a well-rounded understanding of local and global issues in order to make important decisions of their lives. Some like to invest in the stock market which is affected by any happening anywhere in the world. It would not be wrong to say that in the global village of today, all news is local news.

To conclude, although people can watch any news according to their wish, but I reiterate my view that international news is as important as national news.

Plan followed

Intro: it is important to look at the argument on both sides

Para 1: views of those in favour of watching national news

Para 2: views of those in favour of watching international news

Para 3: more views of those in favour of watching national news

Conclusion:

98. Recently, more and more people have started using the Internet to get information and buy goods. What do you think about the advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon?

The Internet is probably one of the greatest inventions of the century. It has eased life and opened the world to people, but it has also come with a lot of disadvantages. This essay intends to discuss the pros and cons of the Internet.

There are many ways that the Internet has enriched people's lives. Firstly, the Internet is a virtual treasure trove of information. There is a huge amount of information available on the Internet for just about every subject known to man, ranging from government laws and services, market information, new ideas and technical support. Another big advantage of the Internet is speedy communication. Now, anyone can communicate with anyone in any corner of the world instantaneously. Therefore, it has become very easy to establish a kind of global friendship where one can share one's thoughts and explore other cultures.

Entertainment is another popular reason why many people prefer to surf the Internet. Downloading games and songs or just surfing the websites are some of the uses people have discovered. Finally, with numerous online services one can now do online shopping and net-banking. They can also book tickets for a movie, pay utility bills, taxes etc., sitting at home. For example, the internet became a boon during the corona pandemic to access bank accounts and pay bills.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages also of the internet. Firstly, the information has no authenticity, as anyone can post anything on the internet. In addition, there is a lot of pornographic and other X-rated stuff, which can be detrimental for children and teenagers. Another big demerit is that there is always a risk of hacking of personal information such as name, address, credit card number etc., while doing online transactions. Finally, people now only meet on social networks and face to face communication has taken a back seat.

To conclude, despite its faults the internet has the potential to make life simpler and more convenient. A judicious use of the internet is required to harness its unlimited potential.

Plan followed:

Intro

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: Advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion

99. Films can have effect on children's education and teach them many things. Do you think it is always a positive influence? Discuss.

It is irrefutable that movies can be very educative for children. However, the effect of movies is not always beneficial. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss the positive and negative effects of movies on children.

On the positive side, movies are enjoyable for children of all ages. They stimulate children's emotions, imaginations and conversations. Movies also introduce children to different cultures and historical events. For example, historical movies such as Jodha Akbar, Panipat and Tanhaji arouse the interest of children in boring subjects such as history. Movies can also teach children about social issues. Therefore, if the movies are good they can have a very positive influence on a child's growth.

On the other hand, children are negatively affected by movies with sex, violence, drug abuse and offensive language. Older children and adolescents may copy the things they see in movies. What is more, movies glamorize things like smoking and drinking, and children are quick to pick up these traits. Furthermore, watching too many movies can impede the development of healthy habits like playing outdoor games, reading and spending quality time with family.

I believe that as everything has its pros and cons, movies too can have both - good and bad influences. It is very important for parents to check the movie ratings before allowing their children to watch any movies. The best thing for parents could be to watch movies with their children. Watching movies together could be a very rewarding experience. Movie viewing time should also be rationed. Children who are avid film viewers are more likely to suffer from obesity related problems throughout their lives.

To summarise, movies can have a positive or a negative influence on children, but if parents take steps in choosing their children's movies, then the effect can be largely positive.

Plan followed

Intro: It has both positive and negative effects

Para 1: Positive effects

Para 2: Negative effects

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

100. Today the Internet has replaced traditional books as a source of information. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.

The Internet as the mainstream of media plays a very important role in transferring information. The online books or the e-books have taken over many traditional books. There are both pros and cons of this development, which shall be discussed in this essay. I believe the disadvantages are much more.

There are many advantages of the e-books over the printed books. Firstly, e-books are instant, which means a person can start reading immediately after downloading. Even the libraries today have started lending digital or e-books. Secondly, e-books are generally cheaper than the print version. Moreover, these are lighter as the e-readers are not as heavy as the printed book. What is more, in one kindle (e-reader) hundreds of books can be stored. Some e-readers have a built in light and other features such as a dictionary also. The font size can also be increased or decreased.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of the e-book replacing the traditional book. To begin with, it is very difficult to sit for long hours glued to the monitor screen. Moreover, the text books for school and college students are always better in the conventional print form, as students can mark important points, and add notes if needed. In addition, these print books are not dependent on the battery life of the gadget used for reading e-books.

I believe that in some situations e-books are better, and in others print books have an edge. For example, e-books have more advantage in the case of reference books such as dictionaries, and for reading fiction. In contrast, text books, which students need at school are better in the print form. Those who are not so tech-savvy are also more comfortable with the traditional book. Finally, the day is still very far when all people will be able to afford the internet connection and read e-books.

To conclude, there are benefits and drawbacks of the online books. Despite the threat of the e-book, the print book has maintained its place, and will continue to do so in the future also.

Plan followed

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of internet over books

Para 2: Advantages of printed book

Para 3: Disadvantages of internet

Conclusion: Despite the threat of the internet, the book has maintained its place.

101. As communication technology develops, people are interacting with each other in different ways. Does this trend have more advantages or disadvantages?

Technology has revolutionized the concept of communication. It has brought in the market many gadgets to facilitate communication. This has led to a considerable change in the ways people communicate. I believe this trend has more pros than cons.

Undoubtedly, developments in communication technology have changed the way people interact with each other for the better. Now people are connected to each other through this marvel of technology. Various apps are there through which people are connected even with long lost friends, and not just those in their propinquity. For example, my aunt met her old college friend on Facebook, with whom she had lost contact 20 years ago, and now they are constantly exchanging messages with each other.

Secondly, social interaction has enhanced a lot because of these cell phones. Today's youngsters have the largest social network than ever in the history of the mankind. People can make friends with others of similar interests anywhere in the world. For example, if a person is interested in knitting, he can find a group of people who love knitting and join that group and share patterns with each other.

On the other hand, the possibility of high quality communication from anywhere in the world to anywhere else at low costs has led to a marked decline in face-to-face communication and to an increased reliance on electronic mediums. Communication has become concise and short, as the small keyboards in mobile phone and other hand held devices that make typing difficult has resulted in a radical shortening of words and increasing use of symbol and shortcuts, with little or no adherence to traditional grammatical rules.

Summing up, as every garden has weeds, similarly the effect of technology on communication has some disadvantages. Overall the positive effects far outweigh the negative ones.

Plan followed

Intro: these changes have been positive although there are some negative changes also

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: Advantages

Para 3: Negative side

Conclusion: Overall the positive effects far outweigh the negative

102. Some people say now there is less communication between family members than in the past. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I do not agree that nowadays there is less communication among family members than in the past. What has actually happened is that most of the communication has changed from direct face-to-face communication to blind communication via the computer screen or the cell-phone.

My first argument is that even today, the family is the center of many people's lives. As many people study or work in the same city and live in the same flat or house, family members have numerous opportunities to talk to each other. The whole family also gets together to have dinner at night at the same time, and exchange information about their day's happenings. Last but not least, on weekends, the whole family goes for outings or shopping together, and on these occasions gets opportunities to communicate with each other.

Secondly, nowadays families communicate with each other as much as or even more than the past via the cell phone and internet. Earlier, when a member of the family went to another city or country for study or for a business trip, the landline phone or the traditional letter was the only means of communication. Today, families have minute-to-minute information about each other and many applications such as Skype and Whatsapp have made video chat so easy and good that distances seem no barrier at all and communication has become even more frequent.

Undoubtedly, face to face interaction has come down, which makes it feel as if communication has become less. It is the fast paced lifestyle, which is to blame for that. Over the last half century, people's lifestyles have changed beyond their wildest expectations, and so they have become workaholics. This is the main reason for the loss of the social interaction. The mobile phones only help the people stay interconnected in today's time.

To sum up, it can be said that, even today families communicate with each other in many ways. To some extent the fast paced life has decreased interaction among family members but technology has brought in newer means to ease communication.

Plan followed

Intro: I do not completely agree – communication has changed – some decrease is there

Para 1: How families communicate even today

Para 2: How communication has decreased

Para 3: How communication has changed

Conclusion:

103. Nowadays people like to use new electronic equipment. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Electronic devices have become an integral part of everyone's lives. People use electronic gadgets not only for work in offices and industries, but also in their homes. This development has both merits and demerits. In my opinion, the pros are more than cons.

There are many advantages of using electronic equipment. Firstly, in the workplace computers have improved productivity and efficiency immensely. Electronic devices can also be used for domestic purposes. For instance, people don't have to go anywhere to buy groceries and vegetables. These can be ordered online and are home delivered. The time saved can be utilized to pursue hobbies and other interests. Even for hobbies, people take online classes or watch videos and learn new things, like recipes, guitar lessons, language lessons and so on.

Furthermore, the use of technology in education has improved the quality of learning among students. Online classes can be attended, and assignments can be sent to the teacher online. Most of the schools have classrooms equipped with electronic equipment, like smart boards, projectors, TV screens, etc. Furthermore, communication has been revolutionized with the use of such devices. People can connect with anyone, in any corner of the world, within a matter of seconds. Through video calls, people can not only stay in touch with friends and relatives, but it has also helped many people expand their business globally.

On the other hand, there is too much dependence on electronic equipment and if for any reason, these go out of order, people start feeling helpless and it seems that their work and their world has come to a standstill. For example, a system failure for a few seconds at the stock exchange, can lead to huge losses, affecting an entire country's economy. Also, the over-dependence on technology has led to many health-related problems. Due to less physical activity and less utilization of brains, people have become less creative.

To conclude, I would reiterate that the increasing use of electronic devices has brought tremendous, positive changes in our lives. However, it is in our hands to mitigate its negative effects, by not becoming over-dependent on electronic devices.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Electronic devices at work and home – Benefits

Para 2: Benefits in school

Para 3: Drawbacks

Conclusion:

104. Computers have made our world a better place to live in. Do you agree or disagree?

Computers are ubiquitous nowadays and almost every home, office, or school has a computer of some kind these days. I believe that despite a few negative effects, there are a plethora of benefits people get from using computers, and so computers have transformed the world for the better.

To begin with, computers are involved in almost everything that is done nowadays. For instance, checkout lines at stores move faster because a computer scans the prices. The bank manages people's account more easily because of computers. The weatherman reports the weather more accurately with the help of computers. Architects use computer programs to help them design buildings. Teachers use computers to write their lessons and get information for their classes. Pilots use computers to help them fly planes.

Furthermore, through the Internet, computers have made communication much more convenient. E-mail has made it possible to communicate with people instantly at any time of day. The Internet has made it possible to find out the latest news right away - even if it is news that has happened someplace far away. The Internet has also made it possible to get almost any kind of information from any place quickly, right in one's own home or office. To add to it people can now do net-banking, online shopping and even do air and rail reservations online.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of the computer. Many jobs have been lost due to the fact that computer can do a lot of tasks more efficiently than humans. What is more, children may spend all of their time playing games on the computer and might also use the internet to access pornographic material. Also frequent and prolonged computer exposure may cause visual strain and posture problems. Last but not least, in case of a network failure, the whole office work may come to a standstill.

To sum up, computers and the internet have come to stay. Despite all their drawbacks, the computer has made life without it inconceivable. Obviously, the whole world has changed for the better.

Plan followed

Intro: agree

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: Advantages through the internet

Para 3: disadvantages

Conclusion: pros more than cons

105. More and more adults are spending time playing computer games. Why are adults doing so? Is it good or bad?

Video games and computer games are heavily marketed towards teens and young adults, but recent studies show that the average video game addict is 35 years old. This essay intends to analyse the reasons why adults choose to play video games. I believe that playing video games is good in adulthood, but only if it does not become an addiction.

The main reason why adults play video games is that these games act as stress busters. In the hectic life of today, adults have a lot of responsibilities. They have to balance demanding jobs, look into the needs of spouses and children, and also deal with problems of ailing parents or friends in crisis. So, they need time to relax, unwind, and take their minds off the realities of life. Playing video games is a fun way to relax for them.

However, when adults develop an addiction to video gaming, they suffer a lot of problems. Firstly, there is an increased risk of depression, anger and mood swings. Secondly, these gamers withdraw from friends, family, or spouses to the point that family, social or work life is disrupted. In addition, the gaming addict may neglect household responsibilities and chores, and may lie to family members about the time he spends on these games.

In addition, adults addicted to gaming may have physical symptoms like difficulty sleeping, migraines, back and neck aches and dry eyes. Video game addicts may also become so preoccupied with earning the high score or reaching the next level that they forget to eat, shower, shave, or take care of basic hygiene. The addicts also lack physical exercise and so also suffer from an elevated BMI (Body Mass Index).

To sum up, video game addiction is not just limited to teens, but has also engulfed the adults. These games are addicting and isolating and so it would be better for adults to refrain from playing such games.

Plan followed

Intro: Cause effect essay

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Harmful effects

Para 3: More harmful effects

Conclusion:

106. Many jobs used to be done by hand, but nowadays an increasing number of them are done using machines instead. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.

Modern technology has equipped us with machines. There are positive and negative effects of these machines on the individual and the society, which I shall highlight in this essay. Overall, the cons outweigh the pros.

On the positive side, machines are faster, more convenient and energy saving. Households and industries are much facilitated with machines. Personal use of machines gives people more free time to spend with family and pursue hobbies. Likewise, industrial use of machines reduces manpower for work and increases output. Humans don't have to do the repetitive and uninteresting work anymore. On the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends."

On the negative side, machines reduce the need of manual work, which can lead to unemployment especially in the developing countries. What is more, insufficient knowledge of machine handling and operating is detrimental to uneducated workers and they end up getting injuries or disabilities while working with machines. Technical failures can also disturb the whole working system and lead to losses.

Other negative effects of machines are on the health of individuals especially the housewives who rely heavily on machines for the household chores. Machines are also a failure where creative work is required. For example, the unique and original work done by many artisans can never be reproduced by any machines. It has been rightly said that a machine can do the work of a thousand ordinary men but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

Overall, the negative effects of machines outweigh the positive effects on the individual and society. In order to meet the employment needs of the population, a balance has to be maintained between manual work and mechanization.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of machines

Para 2: Disadvantages of machines

Para 3: Other negative effects

Conclusion: Machines are good but should be used judiciously in developing countries because may lead to unemployment

107. Some people think the mobile phones are most useful for their professional lives, whereas others think mobiles phones are most useful in their personal life. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The mobile phone is ubiquitous these days. I believe that mobile phones are equally beneficial in both - personal as well as professional lives.

In personal life, the main advantage of a mobile phone is that it keeps people connected to their friends and relatives at all times. Today, people live in nuclear families but are connected to their extended family network because of the cell phone. Secondly, it saves a lot of time. In the commute time one can pay bills, order grocery, book tickets and so on. Therefore, parents can give more time to their children once they are home. What is more, people who have to leave their elderly parents at home because of work, feel comfortable because they know they can be called any time their parents need them.

On the other hand, in professional life also, the cell phone has proved to be an asset. Professionals can use functions like call conferencing and video call conferencing instead of traditional face to face meetings. In addition, last-minute information that could make or break a project can also be delivered, if a business cell phone is kept on hand. For instance, in the case of an emergency, having a business cell phone allows workers to call their fellow co-workers at all hours. Moreover, phones with global positioning systems (GPS), also help people to reach their destination even in unfamiliar locations.

In my opinion, it is difficult to decide which sphere of life has been influenced more with a mobile phone. In many cases it is difficult to draw the line between personal and professional use. For example, a busy gynaecologist having to attend a patient in labour can talk to her family in the time before delivery. This way neither the personal life suffers nor the professional life. Two decades ago the cell phone was a luxury; today it is a necessity to balance personal and professional life.

To conclude, the cell phone has revolutionized communication and brought equal benefits to both personal and professional lives.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages in personal life

Para 2: Advantages in professional life

Para 3: Overlapping role of cell phone

Conclusion: equal benefit

108. Some people are making new friends by using socializing network websites and internet chat rooms. Some people say that this is a good thing. Others say that people should make new friends by face-to-face chat. Discuss these views and give your own opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that it is good to make friends through online resources, whereas others are in favour of making friends by meeting in person. This essay intends to look at both perspectives. I personally side with the latter view.

The main reason why some people are in favour of making new friends through social media, is that these social network sites like 'Facebook' provide a great opportunity for people to socialize with one another and find common ground, before even meeting. Online social groups have become fundamental building blocks of modern human societies. They have a beneficial effect on people's way of life. They increase social interaction and give more ways to make social connections. Earlier social interactions were constrained by national boundaries, but now the Internet has turned communication into a global phenomenon. Today, any person's network of friends stretches across the globe.

On the other hand, those who are in favour of making friends through direct contact, assert that social media sites can cause more harm than good. People can make fake ID's and cheat anyone. Every now and then there are stories about how girls and boys were cheated through such sites and after months of friendship, the original identity of the person turned out to be very different. Cyber criminals can hack the ID's of people and chat on their behalf which may cause huge misunderstandings.

I believe that face to face friendship is better because it is a friendship which has a deeper bond than online friendship. Man is after all a social animal and friends are meant to be there when you need them the most. Online friends cannot be with you when you are sick and you need a friend's touch. Face to face friends are with you in thick and thin and this can never be possible with online friends.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion that face to face friendships are better because these are stronger and longer-lasting than friendships made online.

Plan followed:

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

109. Many adults think that childhood and schooldays are the best years of a person's life. Do you agree or disagree?

Everyone has nostalgic memories of one's childhood days and would like to return to them if given a chance. I agree that childhood and early school days are the golden periods of one's life, despite the fact that the later school years, the teenage years, do have some stresses.

There are many reasons why early childhood is the best phase of life. First is that children can sleep as much as they want to. Sleep seems to be something that most adults wish they had more of. Another benefit of being a child is in the area of responsibility. The only person a child is responsible for, is himself. Life is therefore less complicated and slower-paced. Moreover, people tend to treat children with love and care and generally ignore their mistakes, which if done by an adult are taken seriously.

Admittedly, the teenage years do have some tensions. Teenagers face an identity crisis, which means that they are neither considered children, nor adults. If they play like small children, they are rebuked and if they sit with adults, they are asked to go away. They also face some hormonal changes of puberty, which are very stressful for some. Then they have the stress of choosing their career because the subjects relating to one's career have to be finalized in secondary school.

However, these stresses are minor if compared to the responsibilities and tensions of adulthood. Adults have to balance work and family. They have to do well at work, and at the same time find time for family. They also have the onus of providing good education to their children and good healthcare to their parents. No wonder almost every adult yearns for those childhood days to come back.

To conclude, childhood for most people is certainly a stress-free time. I believe that childhood and primary school days are among the best times in a person's life. Teenage years do have their downside but still they are better than older years.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Reasons why early childhood is best

Para 2: Stresses faced by teens

Para 3: Reasons why despite the stresses, childhood is the best

Conclusion: childhood and early schooldays the best.

110. Some people think parents should control the behavior of children from a very young age but others think we should give them more freedom. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Parents have the onus of instilling the best values in their children. Some people say that parents must pull the reins on their children from a really young age, but others opine that children should be given freedom. This essay shall look into both views. I personally am in favour of the former view.

The main reason why some people say that children should be controlled, is that rules of behaviour create responsible and respectful children who in turn mature into respectful adults. They know the value of respect for elders. This forms a stable society, which is virtually free from vices such as prostitution and drug abuse. They learn to face difficulties in a more mature and disciplined way. They are not lured by peer pressure and refrain from acting on impulse.

On the other hand, those who say that too strict rules should not be imposed give their reasons as follows. Firstly, they say that by doing so, children may become rebels. They may start doing just the opposite of what is told them to do. What is more, they may show abnormal behaviour. They may fall into bad company or resort to drugs because of frustration. Finally, imposing too strict rules destroys the individuality of children. They may withdraw into a shell. This may suppress their creativity.

I believe that if parents don't control their child's behaviour from a very young age, they may fall into bad company. They may start taking drugs under peer pressure. Once children become drug addicts, it is very difficult to bring them to normalcy once again. However, parents should learn where rules are needed and where it is necessary to give freedom to the children. Imposing too strict rules would stifle their personality and would be more detrimental for them.

To conclude, parents are responsible for bringing children into this world and it is their responsibility for instilling good behaviour in them. So, the earlier they do so the better. If they keep waiting, things may go out of hand.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

111. Today, majority of children are raised by their grandparents due to the fact that their parents are busy working. To what extent do you think it affects the whole family?

It is irrefutable that both parents are working nowadays and as a result children have to be raised by their grandparents. Definitely, grandparents are better than any other option and this situation affects the family in both positive and negative ways, which I shall highlight in this essay.

On the positive side, looking after the grandchildren keeps the grandparents energetic and vibrant. Grandparents bathe, feed and even read books to the child. This leads to a sort of symbiotic relation in which both grandparents and grandchildren are benefited. In other words we can say that it is a win-win situation for both. Grandparents don't suffer from loneliness and depression, which is very common at that age, and children are also well looked after.

Moreover, such a situation encourages a joint family system. Therefore, all the benefits of a joint family are there. There is security in the family as we all know that there is security in numbers. Another big advantage is that grandparents teach moral values to children. If grandparents do not look after children then parents use TV's as baby-sitters and children can become couch potatoes.

On the negative side, it is generally seen that grandparents are over-doting and, out of love, may pamper and spoil the grandchildren. Another disadvantage is that if there is not enough harmony between the parents and grandparents then it can lead to frustration and spoil the whole atmosphere of the house. In such cases children are the worst sufferers.

To conclude, it is very beneficial if grandparents look after their grandchildren. Both parents are free to pursue their careers, grandchildren learn moral values, are looked after well and grandparents enjoy themselves and don't suffer from loneliness and depression.

Plan followed

Intro: address the essay question appropriately.

Para 1: Advantages to grandparents and children

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion: it is very beneficial if grandparents look after their grandchildren.

112. Teenagers have problems at home and school. What difficulties are they facing now? What should parents and schools do to help them?

Teenage years are the most delicate years of a person's life. These are beautiful years but have their share of difficulties. This essay shall delve into some problems teenagers face at home and school, and also suggest some steps which their parents and teachers can take to ameliorate these problems.

The main problem teenagers face at home is the identity crisis, which means that they are neither considered children, nor adults. If they play like small children, they are rebuked and if they sit with adults, they are asked to go away. They also face some hormonal changes of puberty, which are very stressful for some. Furthermore, parents do not give any importance to the aptitude of the child and force the subjects of their choice on them. They also expect their teens to follow the traditional culture, whereas teens want to follow the more liberal, western culture, which they are exposed to.

In schools also teenagers are not without challenges. Pressure of studies is just one problem. Classroom bullying by some students and favouritism shown by the teachers can be very stressful. To add to it some of them are being sexually harassed and abused daily at school by other teenagers and teachers. Some of them are too hurt to tell anybody, while others feel embarrassed to share their experiences. Peer pressure is also an issue of concern in these years. Teens can easily be swayed to take drugs under peer pressure.

To tackle these problems, parents need to spend quality time with their children in these impressionable years. The child's aptitude should not be ignored and choice of subject should be left on the teenager. At school taking part in extra-curricular activities keeps teens happy. These activities act as stress-busters. Teachers should have an unbiased attitude and treat all students equally.

To conclude, there is no doubt that teenagers face a lot of problems at home and school but the onus is on the parents and teachers to make these teenage years stress-free.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall delve into some problems teenagers face at home and school and also suggest some ways forward

Para 1: Problems at home

Para 2: More problems at home and solutions

Para 3: Problems at school and solutions

Conclusion:

113. More and more young children have mobile phones. Some people say it is a good thing for them, while others say it is a bad thing. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Mobile phones have certainly become ubiquitous, especially in the hands of children. Some people hold the opinion that it is advantageous, whereas others say that it is not advisable for children to have cell phones. In this essay both views will be discussed. I believe that if used wisely and within limits, the advantages are more than the disadvantages.

There are many reasons why some people say that it is good if children have mobile phones. Firstly, parents feel more at ease because they know that children can contact them if need arises. Secondly, children learn a lot about technology by using these gadgets, and these gadgets help in education also. For instance, most phones today have apps such as a dictionary, through which they can find the meaning of any word, which is difficult for them. Cell phones can be used to submit assignments, or to set reminders for study.

On the other hand, those who are opposed to children having cell phones assert that today's cell phones are not just phones, they are smart phones. They give too much power in the hands of the children. If misused, they can play havoc with the children's lives. Most parents cannot keep an eye on what their children are using the cell phone for. Secondly, children get distracted when crossing the road while texting on the phone and this can lead to accidents.

I believe that merits of cell phones outstrip the demerits if parents make a conscious effort to choose the right phone for their child. They can block unwanted calls, set time limits for phone usage, prevent access to web sites, set school-accepted usage limits, and locate their child with the built-in GPS feature.

To sum up, for the safety of the child and to keep parents' mind at ease, children should have a cell phone but the onus is on the parents to make the right choice of phone.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own opinion

Conclusion:

114. It is better to teach sports to young people at school as an alternative to playing computer games at home. Why is it important? Give your opinion and examples from your own experience.

I agree that it is advantageous for young people to engage in sports activities in school, but I do not agree that they should not play computer games at home. I believe that both, sports and computer games are essential for the holistic development of children.

There are many advantages of sports for children. Firstly, outdoor activities are good for the physical health of the child. As it is, childhood obesity is a serious problem and has to be tackled on a war footing. Secondly, outdoor activities are good for mental health. It has been proven by researches that by outdoor activities, the brain develops at a much faster rate than by playing indoors.

Moreover, researchers have found a new disorder called 'Nature Deficit Disorder' seen in children who don't play outdoors. It has been seen that children who play outdoors are less stressed out with life. Not only do they become better learners, and do well in school, but they are also much happier. All these benefits accrue by just playing outside.

On the other hand, playing video games is also essential. These games introduce children to technology. They enhance critical thinking and improve visual and motor skills. They can be played indoors, when the weather outside may not be good. However, there should be a limit on these games because they are addicting and children forget everything else such as homework, when they start playing. These games are also isolating, as they are usually played alone.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that it is very beneficial for children to play outdoor sports in school, but it is also essential for them to play video games at home for a limited amount of time.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para1: sports increase physical health

Para 2: Sports increase mental health

Para 3: Advantages of video games ending with disadvantages

Conclusion:

115. Some parents believe that watching TV and playing computer games should be limited and substituted by reading books. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.

Reading books is a basic way for children to obtain knowledge and open their minds. Although watching TV and playing computer games are also popular educational methods among children, I believe that reading books is better and offers more advantages than watching TV and playing computer games.

Learning by reading is more effective compared to TV and games because it provides an active learning for learners while TV is a passive one. Reading books is also important because it can greatly enhance children's imagination. For example, children make different images in their mind when they read some articles or sentences and then use their imagination to put the story together, whereas the TV audience just passively accepts information from the TV screen.

Furthermore, reading stories also helps children master language development, as by reading stories children learn pronunciation and vocabulary. It also increases a child's attention span, and develops the ability to concentrate. It develops children's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken and written terms. It develops and fosters a child's natural curiosity

On the other hand, there are many advantages of watching TV and playing PC games, provided it is done in moderation. To begin with, video game playing introduces children to computer technology. Secondly, some games provide practice in problem solving and logic e.g. Age of Empires. Video games have proved to improve visual skills. They also improve motor and spatial skills. Children who play video games have better reflexes. Watching TV also is very educative for children.

In conclusion, it can be reiterated that reading stories in books is better, and more time should be allotted to reading than to watching TV and playing on computers. For the holistic development of children both these are required.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages of reading

Para 2: Importance of reading

Para 3: More advantages of video games and TV

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

116. Young people these days tend to be less polite and respectful than in the past. What are the causes? Suggest some solutions.

It is unfortunate that in the midst of vast progress in every field of life, we also see increasing anti-social behaviour, with people becoming less respectful of each other. This essay intends to analyze some causes of this phenomenon and suggest some ways to ameliorate the situation.

The main reason why the youth are impolite and lack respect is that parents are substituting the time they should spend with their children by giving them whatever they ask for. People have become workaholics, and as a result have no time for their children. Young people, who get every material thing easily, become selfish, isolated and indifferent. The changing family structure is another big cause of this phenomenon. Earlier, people lived in joint families and the grandparents were there to supervise the children.

Another big reason is the media. When both parents go out to work, and children are left unattended in the hands of pervasive media like the TV and the Internet. No one monitors what they watch and they see programs full of violence and crime, which makes them anti-social. The pressure of consumerist society and peers also breeds anti-social behaviour. To add to it, the values of traditional culture are being lost and people are following the global culture, which is also considered anti-social by the orthodox elderly.

There are many solutions to this problem. To begin with, people have to learn to strike a balance between work and family life. People should revert to the old joint family system. The children would learn moral values and the elderly would be well looked after. Negative effects of excessive consumerism should be taught to the people. Media can play a big role in highlighting the good points of the traditional and the western culture so that the people can adopt good social values.

Summing up, anti-social behaviour and mutual lack of respect in today's times can be dealt with by taking simple measures, and individuals and governments should collectively take these steps.

Plan followed

Intro: I intend to explore the possible causes of this situation and suggest some ways forward.

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: solutions

Conclusion:

117. In some countries around the world men and women are having children late in life. What are the reasons for this development? What are the effects on society and family life?

In the modern society, young people have a tendency of postponing their parenthood until late 30's or even early 40's. This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon, and the effects this has on the families and societies.

The most important reason of this delayed parenthood is that in today's era of cut-throat competition, young people have to focus on their jobs and therefore have little time for their families. What is more, women of today have become more career oriented and do not wish to be held back by family responsibilities. Obviously, under such circumstances, committing to a serious relationship or starting a family, which means tremendous responsibility and dedication, is not a preferable choice. The cost increase of raising a child is another reason for late parenthood, and this is especially obvious in major cities around the world.

This change of lifestyle can have some negative effects on society as a whole. Firstly, low birthrates can result in an ageing population and a lack of labor force in the future. A graying society is a dependent society and is a burden on the shoulders of the government. Medical care services can be in high demand and medical cost can rise significantly.

The families too cannot escape the brunt of such a situation. The most disturbing effect is that chances of congenital anomalies rise significantly if a woman bears the first child after the age of 40. The families with mentally or physically challenged children can never be happy families. Another effect can be that the age gap between parents and children is too much and so chances of generation gap are strong.

Summing up, there are many reasons, which are responsible for people marrying late and having babies late in life and this definitely is detrimental for the societies and families. Therefore, young people should learn to give importance to both, a career and a family life.

Plan followed:

Intro: This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: negative effects on society

Para 3: negative effects on families

Conclusion:

118. Parents, usually mothers, give up work, choose to stay at home and look after families. Some people think the government should give them salary. Do you agree or disagree. Give reasons from your own knowledge and experience.

Ensuring the health and wellbeing of children is very critical to every nation's future. That is why some people hold the opinion that a parent (usually mother), who quits her job to look after the child should be remunerated by the government. I agree that government should support stay-at-home mothers for the first few years until the child starts going to school.

The most important argument for the state funding of stay-at home mothers is the aging demographic trend. This is because many women are delaying motherhood or are choosing not to have children as it may impact them professionally and financially. So, in future there will be a very small population of workers and consumers to drive the economy of the nation forward. The government must ensure that this relative shortage of children, who are the future workforce, does not occur. Giving salary to the stay-at-home mother would encourage many young couples to have children.

Secondly, the child's upbringing is best done by the parent. Only the parents can give their child a loving, stimulating and stress free environment. Neurological research shows that early years play a key role in children's brain development. The emotional, social and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and the adult they will become. So, if the government pays the parents who give up their career to care for them, it should be considered as an investment for the future success of the society.

However, this support by the government should only be till the child starts going to school. After a child starts going to school, the mother should go back to work, as their contribution to the workforce is also very important. Women have the education and talent to work. If they don't go back to work, the nation loses the services of half of its workforce.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion that investment in the health and wellbeing of children is the best and most valuable long-term investment that any government can make, and giving salary to stay-at-home mothers is one good way to do so.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Another reason

Para 3: this support should only be until the child starts going to school

Conclusion:

119. Caring for children is important for any society. It is suggested that all mothers and fathers should be required to take childcare training courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In recent years, childcare has gained as much importance as any other subject of academic studies. The people who care for the child are also those who shape the child's mind. I firmly believe that all parents should get childcare training, even if they have to hire professionals for their children's care.

Childcare courses are important for many reasons. Firstly, traditional childcare skills, which are passed on from one generation to another, through oral and informal instruction, are not sufficient in today's era of nuclear families. It is also a misconceived idea that childcare is a simple process of feeding children, changing diapers and making them sleep regularly. Contemporary childcare is a complex science that involves the physical and emotional wellbeing of children. Therefore, childcare training courses should be the norm for all would-be parents.

Secondly, childcare training teaches parents how to take the best approach in caring for their children. Current research has shown that the early years (ages 0-5) are the most sensitive for brain development. Over 90% of brain growth occurs during this period. Studies also show that children who get good care, enter school with better maths, language and social skills.

Finally, quality childcare has many other far-reaching benefits. Parents, who have themselves done such courses, can monitor the childcare being given by a professional nanny, better. Thanks to surveillance cameras, parents can keep an eye on what is happening at home from their cell phones, even during work hours.

To summarise, successful childcare does not lie only in love but also in other skills. Children's healthy development is measured not only by physical wellbeing but also by growth in other dimensions. With these borne in mind, parents should now be compelled to join childcare training.

Plan followed

Intro: Parents' participation in care training is advisable.

Para 1: Childcare is much more than changing diapers and feeding children

Para 2: Childcare training teaches parents for a holistic approach of childcare.

Para 3: Far reaching benefits of quality childcare

Conclusion:

120. There are some violent cartoon characters on TV such as Mickey Mouse, which bring negative influence to children. Do you agree or disagree? What types of TV programs are suitable for children?

Children's mind absorbs everything they see and hear. If they are constantly exposed to cartoons with violence and fighting, it will affect them morally and may lead to teenage violence in the future. Therefore, I agree that violence in cartoons has a detrimental effect on children. A number of arguments support my opinion.

The main detrimental effect of cartoons with violent content on children, is that children become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others. They do not fear violence nor are they bothered by violence in general. If one character gets killed, the other cartoon characters don't care, and they may even laugh. Such cartoons make violence and even death seem funny and unreal.

Secondly, children try to copy what they see and as a result become aggressive by nature. Young children are unable to realize that when a character attacks someone it is not real and should not be imitated. Research proves that watching violent cartoons decreases the imaginative play for the children, and increases the imitative play in which the child imitates the violent and aggressive actions observed in cartoons.

There are many types of TV programs which may be better for children. Educational cartoons are a good way to instill positive values in a child. It is the parent's duty to make their children watch cartoons that entertain and educate them, without being violent. Parents must watch the cartoons with their children, and evaluate these cartoons together. Talking with the children about the cartoons they watched is very significant, because parents then will be able to know if these cartoons affect their children positively or not. The government should also take steps to increase the amount of educational programming available to children.

To conclude, children will try to mimic anything they see or hear and cartoon violence is no exception. So, it is the onus of the parents to see to it that they do not see violent cartoon programs and see educational cartoons instead.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: First negative effect of violence on TV – desensitizes children

Para 2: Second negative effect of violence on TV – children imitate the characters and become aggressive

Para 3: Examples of good programs for children. Parents and Government's onus.

Conclusion: Restate opinion

121. Some people argue that a growing number of young people spend too much time in watching TV. Why does this phenomenon happen? And what kinds of activities should they be encouraged to do?

Television has become ubiquitous nowadays. Most families have more than one television in their houses. This essay shall outline some of the reasons why the youth of today spend too much time watching TV, and also suggest some other activities, which they should be motivated to engage in.

There are many reasons why children watch too much TV. First of all, parents use this medium as baby sitters for their convenience. This habit continues as the child grows. What's more, TV seems to be the most convenient medium. There's no need to move anywhere, just to push the button and then they can see a completely different world. Then, there is the peer pressure. Those who are not up to date with the latest programmes on TV, are considered as inferior by their peers.

In addition, the TV of today has uncountable channels running 24/7 to suit every taste. The satellite TV has brought in all foreign channels right into people's bedrooms. The youth of the global village of today keep themselves at par with each other through these channels. Last but not least, the reality TV shows of today such as Dance India Dance and Indian Idol have given an opportunity to today's youth to show their talent to the whole world and get name and fame overnight. So, because of all these reasons, the youngsters of today watch too much TV.

There are many activities children should do. They should travel, read books and play outdoor games. Parents and teachers should take the onus of diverting children's mind away from TV and towards other healthier activities. Sports stadiums, gyms and playgrounds should be there in cities, so that the youth are motivated to use them. Parents should act as role-models, by themselves staying away from TV as much as possible. TV should not be there in the bedrooms of children. All these steps can prove very useful to motivate the youngsters for other activities.

In summary, there are a plethora of reasons why young people watch too much TV. Because of TV, children are being alienated from the outside world. There are many alternative activities, which they should be encouraged to do.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons of watching too much TV

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: other activities – travel - read books - play outdoor games

Conclusion:

122. Some people think that watching TV programmes can help children's development while others disagree. Discuss both views. What is your opinion?

People are divided on the role of TV in the development of children. Some opine that watching TV develops children positively, whereas others think the opposite. This essay intends to discuss both viewpoints. In my personal opinion television viewing may actually enhance children's intellectual development, but if it is done in limit and the programs children watch are selected wisely by parents.

There are many reasons why some people say that watching TV is beneficial for children. Firstly, watching the right kinds of shows increases children's knowledge and so they do better in academics. According to a research, young children who spent a few hours a week watching educational programs such as Sesame Street and Curious George had higher academic test scores 3 years later than those who didn't watch educational programs. Secondly, children can be motivated to play sports by watching some sports on TV. Finally, children can learn about different cultures and lifestyles of the world through TV programs.

On the other hand, those who say that watching TV is detrimental for children, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, it impacts their health negatively. It reduces their physical activity and turns them into couch potatoes. Apart from causing obesity, too much screen time is also bad for their eyesight. It also impacts their social development as they do not get time to play and socialize. Finally, if the content they watch is not monitored, they may watch shows full of violence and vulgarity, which may be bad for them and affect their psyche.

I believe that watching TV is beneficial for children if done in limit. The effects also depend on the content and genre of the programs. Therefore, parents should set the TV time of the children and also select the programs for them. They should preferably watch TV with them, especially educational shows as these may seem boring to the children otherwise.

To sum up, I reiterate my view that TV is on the whole advantageous for children. However, the effects of television viewing depend on the program content, genre, and the time limit allocated to TV viewing.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

123. Most children want to watch the same TV programs and play the same computer games like their friends do. Should parents allow them to do like this?

A child who copies other children may pick up good habits but may also pick up bad ones. So, parents should monitor what their children watch on TV and what games they play, and not just allow them to be copy cats of other children. A number of arguments support my opinion.

The main reason why children's TV and video games should be checked by parents, is that all TV shows are not safe for children to watch. Some cartoon characters are so violent that children learn nothing and may become insensitive to the pain of others. Watching certain TV shows could have negative outcomes for a child. For example, some programs portray suicides glamorously and children may take it as a viable option for stress. As a result of this, cases of 'copycat suicide' may occur.

Similarly, all computer games are not good for children. Mind games like solitaire are good but some action games and fighting games can harm children. Children cannot distinguish reality from fantasy and so may hurt other children by fighting like that. For example, in a small fight between my niece and nephew last year, my nephew hit my niece so badly that she suffered internal bleeding and had to be hospitalized for few days. In short, children mimic everything innocently without knowing the consequences, so a constant check is required.

Moreover, if parents allow children to watch or play anything just because their friends do so, then children start thinking that they can get away with this excuse every time and by the time parents realize that children are going astray, it may be too late. Psychologists, dealing with the study of child development, believe that peer relationships provide a unique context for cognitive, social and emotional development of children. So, it is necessary to keep an eye on what their children are playing or watching on TV.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion that children should not be allowed to watch the same TV programmes that their friends watch, or play the same games which their friends play just because their friends are doing so. Parents should carefully monitor what their children play or see.

Plan followed:

Intro: Children should not be allowed.

Para1: All TV shows are not safe for children to watch.

Para 2: All computer games are not good for children.

Para 3: if parents allow children to watch or play anything just because their friends do so, then by the time parents realize that children are going astray, it may be too late

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

124. In many countries around the world young people decide to leave their parents' home once they finish school. They start living on their own or share a home with friends. Some people think it is a positive thing. Do you agree or disagree?

The trend of living alone or with friends rather than families has gained popularity among the youth all over the world. While this has a few negatives, I agree that this trend is advantageous on the whole.

To begin with, living alone or sharing an apartment with a friend teaches the young adults to become independent and more confident. They also develop decision-making skills and learn to deal with situations and problems on their own. By contrast, while living with parents, children may never step out of their comfort zone and consequently, do not learn to handle challenges very well.

Furthermore, living away from home encourages the young people to explore more and learn more. They meet new people from different backgrounds and culture, which helps them become more social. However, if they stay with their parents they may not feel the need to socialize or there may be restrictions at home. Such generation gap may spoil the parent-child relationship.

To add to it, when parents know that their children are going to stay on their own just after school, they also start teaching their children accordingly, in early childhood so that by the time the children step out of their homes, they are mature enough to understand the difference between right and wrong. They also learn how to manage expenses related to rent, bills, food, etc.

On the other hand, the only drawback is that such freedom to the youth may take them on the wrong path like drug addiction, petty crime, etc. However, I believe that if parents do not shrug away their responsibility completely, and stay connected with their children, this drawback can be taken care of and staying on their own can be very profitable for children in the long run.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion that young adults should live independently, as experience is the best teacher, especially for learning life skills. Family will always be there to support them even if they don't live with them.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: benefits of living on their own

Para 2& 3: More benefits

Para 4: Other side with refutation

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

125. Some people claim that family members are more important than friends; do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some individuals are of the opinion that parents are more significant for children, whereas others opine that friends have a more important role. In this essay, I shall look at both perspectives. I believe that human development is a complex interplay of many factors, and it is difficult to generalise what is more important.

There are many reasons it is believed by some people that parents have the strongest role in a child's development. Parents have direct interaction with the children. They provide a sense of identification to the child. Parents have the greatest effect on intellectual development and character traits. They also play a very important role in the socializing process of the child. Right from the bedtime stories to the behavioural habits parents play a very important role in making a child a responsible citizen. They know their child's temperament better than anyone else. They can provide critical input better than anyone else.

On the other hand those who say that friends are more important give their reasons as follows. Firstly, friends are important in order to help children grow emotionally and socially. Children also find out who they are by comparing themselves to others. They learn about attitude, character and personality. Building good relationships boosts a child's self-esteem and they find comfort in those friendships when things get tough such as losing a pet or facing family problems. Therefore, friendships are essential to assure children develop a healthy psyche. When children are surrounded by friends or have one close friend, they have better self-esteem, feel a sense of well-being and experience fewer social problems.

In my opinion, we cannot generalize as to what has more significance. In the early years family generally has more impact but in adolescence friends may impact more. It appears that the power of the peer group becomes more important when the family relationships are not close or supportive. For example, if the parents work extra jobs and are largely unavailable, their children may turn to their peer group for emotional support.

To conclude, children are affected by many different factors such as parents, friends and environment. All these are inextricably linked in the development of children. There is individual variation and therefore it is difficult to generalize which factor plays the most significant role.

Plan followed

Intro: It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion

Para 1: Role of parents

www.makkarielts.com www.youtube.com/makkarielts www.facebook.com/makkarielts 125

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

Para 2: Role of friends

Para 3: your opinion

Conclusion: Cannot generalize. Both are important and individual variations are there

126. Playing team sports can teach students more than just games themselves. What do young people learn from playing team games? How are they useful in their later life?

Team sports is a great vehicle for teaching and development of qualities in children. In this essay I shall discuss the skills children learn from team games and how these can be beneficial in their adult life.

There are many significant skills learnt by doing team sports. First, playing team sports teaches children to cooperate, to be less selfish and to communicate with other children. When these children step into adult life, these communication skills prove very useful. They have to co-operate with their family members, colleagues, friends and neighbours in daily life. Conflict management skills are also learnt when they do team sports. They have differences of opinion with other team members and they learn to manage tough situations very diplomatically. They learn how to make their voice heard, and also learn how to accept the suggestions of others.

Furthermore, team activities also broaden their social circle, as they get to interact with new friends and build their social network outside school. In addition, children learn sportsman-spirit, which is a very good trait. They learn to accept victory with modesty and defeat with grace. This is an important life skill. Children also learn to compete through team games. For instance, when their team plays with another team, they learn to compete with the other team, while cooperating with their own team.

Finally, team sports teaches discipline and time management. They know that if they don't do time management they would never be able to keep up with academics and sports. All these skills bolster their self-esteem as a result of which better social relationships and better academic performance.

To conclude, I would reiterate that team activities teach important skills of life, which take them beyond the field, pitch and court.

Plan followed

Intro: agree

Para 1: Communication skills, are only learnt through team sports.

Para 2: co-operation and conflict management skills

Para 3: Leadership skills, decision-making and critical thinking skills while doing team sports

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

127. In some countries more people choose to live alone or by themselves in recent years. Why is this the case? Is it a positive or negative development for the society?

Nowadays, many individuals have to leave their families for education or job purposes, and as a result the trend of living alone or in nuclear family units has increased. This essay intends to explore the reasons of this phenomenon in depth. While I believe there are a few advantages, on the whole it is a negative development.

The first possible reason of this changing family structure is globalization. The huge planet Earth is now a small global village. This situation has opened lots of opportunities for people to travel to and work in other countries. Moving to foreign countries or even in far-off places in one's own country is not possible with the whole family. So this has led to the breaking of joint families into nuclear units. When children of such nuclear families grow older, they live individually to explore new avenues for themselves.

The second important reason is the growing generation gap. The elderly want to stick to their tradition and culture whereas the youngsters want to adopt the global culture. This leads to conflicts and so there is lack of harmony among the family members. The senior members of the family do not want to let go, but the youth want to be free birds and so living individually is the only option once they are able to earn for themselves.

This situation is both positive as well as negative, but the demerits outweigh the merits. Living alone may lead to isolation and depression. There are many ups and downs in life, when a person needs the loving care of his family. In addition, children of nuclear families are often left unattended when both parents are working. They can become self-centered or can even go astray. The elderly also are forced to live lives of isolation. On the positive side, this leads to faster progress, as people are not held back by family ties. Nuclear families are easy to maintain. Conflicts are also less, as people are not that close.

To sum up, living alone has become common because of many reasons, which have been discussed above. In my opinion, the cons of this situation, overpower the pros.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: Second reason

Para 3: positives and negatives of this situation.

Conclusion:

128. Nowadays young people prefer to move to big cities. However, older people are the opposite and prefer to stay in the countryside. What are the positives and negatives of this trend?

Rural ageing, or in other words more elderly in the rural areas, has become very common almost everywhere in the world as the young move to the cities in search of better opportunities. This essay intends to analyze the pros and cons of this demographic shift. I believe that the situation has more advantages.

The advantages to the young to move to cities are obvious. Firstly, the cities are full of job opportunities for the young. If the job vacancies are filled, then economic growth of the nation can be sustained. The contribution of new young workers also helps in the economy of the nation as these workers pay taxes.

Similarly, there are advantages to the elderly who don't migrate to cities. To begin with, ageing in the rural setup is healthier than in the urban areas. For instance in a recent survey, 70% of the elderly in rural areas reported their health as good, as compared to only 52% in the cities. Moreover, the elderly have strong social networks in rural areas, and there is emotional attachment to that place. The elderly feel more comfortable in familiar environment.

On the other hand, this urban migration of the young is challenging for the youth. They may be exploited as increasing competition may make them work for low pay. Increase in urban population may also put pressure on resources. Unemployment may arise if there is unrestricted number of workers. Furthermore, the rural areas may face economic disadvantage, as there are fewer young workers. Agricultural production would suffer and there would be reduced family support for the elderly. In such a situation, additional pressure would fall on the governments.

To sum up, young people moving to cities and elderly staying behind in villages would have both positive and negative effects. Concrete steps have to be taken by the governments to ameliorate the negative effects.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: advantages to the young

Para 2: Advantages to the elderly

Para 3: Disadvantages to the young

Para 4: Disadvantages to the elderly

Conclusion:

129. Some people say that it is impossible to live comfortably in big cities. What problems are faced by the people living in big cities? What steps can be taken to solve those problems?

It is irrefutable that urbanization is occurring at an unprecedented rate. Unfortunately, this development does have some negative aspects. This essay intends to analyse the causes of this situation and suggest some solutions to address this problem.

The most common problem in many cities is environmental pollution and unhygienic surroundings. This is because cities have to accommodate more people than they can possibly afford. Unhygienic surroundings are the breeding ground for germs and cause many health problems. Secondly, more and more people are buying their personal vehicles. This vehicular pollution affects the quality of air and leads to many respiratory ailments. All of these affect the quality of life in cities.

Another reason for the worsening city life is poor planning, which cannot support the increasing population because of migration into cities. Creation of slum areas in cities is because of housing shortage due to poor planning. Finally, a huge problem faced by city dwellers these days is the rising crime. This is due to shortage of law and order personnel, which is again a failure on the part of the urban administration.

The solutions are not simple, but many of these problems can be solved with proper planning. Firstly, the government can tackle the problem of high population density by controlling the migration to cities. This can be done by creating livelihoods in nearby towns and villages, so that those people would not have to move into large cities. Government can also plan affordable housing in different areas of cities to ensure that slum areas are not created. Another measure could be to improve connectivity between nearby towns and cities. This would ensure that people commute to cities rather than move there. Lastly, technology like CCTV and surveillance cameras can be used to reduce crime to a certain extent.

To sum up, high population pressure and poor planning on the part of urban administration are the main reasons that have impacted the quality of life in large cities. However, these problems can certainly be addressed by proper measures.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para 1: causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

130. Parents often buy their children many toys. What are the advantages and disadvantages of children having a large number of toys? Use examples from your personal knowledge and experience.

Toys are not just playthings. They are the building blocks of children's future and teach children about the world and about themselves. That is precisely why parents always want to provide their children with toys. The issue of concern here is regarding the number of toys children are given. This essay shall deal with the pros and cons of too many toys being provided to children. In my opinion the disadvantages are much more.

On the one hand, there are a few advantages of children having a plethora of toys. They have more variety to play with and they can pick out their personal favourites from those toys according to their taste. Moreover, parents can be satisfied that their children have enough to play with when they are themselves busy.

On the other hand, too many toys have numerous negative effects on children. First, children don't develop imagination and creativity as they do with fewer toys. In an experiment all toys of a kindergarten classroom were removed for three months. It was observed that children soon began to use their basic surroundings to invent games and use imagination in their playing. Secondly, they develop a greater love for reading, writing, and art, if they don't have too many toys.

Furthermore, they don't learn social skills, such as sharing and they become selfish. They get everything, and so believe they can have everything they want. They do not even value the toys they have. If they have a basement full of toys, they don't play outside to get the much needed physical exercise which results in healthier and happier bodies. Finally, fewer toys result in a less-cluttered, cleaner and healthier home.

To conclude, toys are very much needed for the development of children, but there should be a limit on the number of toys a child should have. Excess of everything is bad.

Plan followed

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of having too many toys

Para 2: Disadvantages of too many toys

Para 3: More disadvantages

Conclusion: fewer toys are better

131. Young people have different ideas and attitudes from their parents and grandparents. What are the causes of these differences? How can this gap be bridged?

The differences in the thinking of parents and children have been there since age-old times. These differences are referred to as the 'Generation Gap'. This essay shall delve into the reasons of these differences, and the steps that can be taken to lessen them.

There are mainly three causes why the generation gap between parents and their children is formed. Firstly, time for communication is insufficient. A majority of parents spend too little time communicating with and listening to their children and so children feel neglected. Secondly, parents are more concerned about their children's academic performance and do not pay attention to their favourite interests and hobbies. As a result, children try to keep everything secretive and do not tell their parents what they like to do.

Finally, most parents scold their children frequently because they want their children to follow what they say. Children do not want their parents to treat them as three-year-olds. They believe that they are grown-ups and it is high time for them to be independent. On the whole, both parents and their children do not see things from the standpoint of each other. Thus, misunderstanding is a great cause for the formation of generation gap.

There are some ways by which such generation gap can be bridged. Firstly, parents and their children have to be aware of the importance of open communication. In order to build a close parent-child relationship, communication is extremely crucial. Both parents and children should try to explain their ideas to each other. Secondly, parents must not put too much pressure on their children's studies. Parents should not have too high expectation. They should know what their children like the most. Finally, parents need to avoid ordering their children to do things without giving sufficient reasons.

To sum up, there are many reasons for the generation gap, but the onus is mainly on the parents to take steps to bridge the gap.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall look into the causes and problems caused by the generation gap.

Para 1: causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: Effects

Conclusion: Onus on parents to bridge the gap

132. Some people believe that children should be brought up in cities. Others believe that the countryside offers a better environment for children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some individuals hold the opinion that growing up in a big city provides children with many advantages, whereas others assert that the countryside is better for children. This essay shall discuss both views. I, personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of raising children in the cities. Firstly, living in a big city almost guarantees children a chance of receiving a better education than in the countryside. Cities are equipped with more schools and facilities such as large libraries, museums, zoos and other educational establishments that can assist children in their overall education. Children in the countryside have very limited exposure to such things.

On the other hand, those who say that children should be raised in the countryside, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, the countryside is virtually pollution free as a result of which children can breathe fresh and healthy air. Secondly, parents do not have to worry about where their children are playing because there is a lot of open space and there is no risk of being hit by any vehicles. Finally, children brought up in the countryside are more in touch with their culture and tradition than those in cities.

I believe that the cities are better for rearing children as cities are always full of life. Children can have more entertainment sources such as shopping malls and cinema halls when growing up in a big city. There are also more opportunities for part time jobs in the after-school hours for those children who wish to work. They can also join some language or dance classes, as there are many such options in the cities.

To conclude, while the countryside surely provides benefits such as cleaner air, less noise and a calmer lifestyle, the benefits of living in a big city far outweigh those of living in the countryside.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall discuss both views before forming an opinion.

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclude: Raising in cities is better

133. Nowadays in some countries children are given fewer responsibilities compared to the past. Some people believe it is a positive development while others argue otherwise. Discuss both views. What is your opinion?

It is true that the children of today have less duties and obligations than in the earlier times. Some individuals consider this change as positive, whereas others opine that it is detrimental for the children and society. I will delve into both these perspectives in this essay. I, personally side with the latter view.

There are many reasons why some people say that today's children having fewer responsibilities, is a positive development. Firstly, it enables the children to enjoy a happy childhood. They enjoy outdoor sports, extra-curricular activities and have time for their hobbies too. This leads to the holistic development of children. Secondly, the child can spend time on studies, and will not have to quit studies to fulfil any financial responsibilities early on. Lack of education severely hampers a child's progress in life in the future.

On the other hand, those who say that children having fewer restraints is negative, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, in the absence of any responsibility children are often unaware of the harsh realities of the world. For example, a child who has always received things on a platter, will not grow up to value the importance of money or hard work. Moreover, without any burden on their shoulders, children may go in the wrong direction because an empty mind is a devil's workshop.

I believe that although it is important that today children need to focus more on their academics, it is also essential to assign them some tasks such as helping in household chores and taking care of their grandparents. This will lead to their holistic development and they will become more disciplined, caring, confident, and they will also have stronger family ties.

To conclude, it is true that children of today do not have so many responsibilities, but I believe that it will be damaging for the society if the children are not involved in the household chores. Parents need to instill confidence in children by assigning them some tasks, which they carry out responsibly.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

134. In many countries, children are getting fatter and less fit day by day. Why is it so and suggest solutions.

It is irrefutable that childhood obesity is a burgeoning problem these days in many parts of the world. In this essay I intend to discuss the causes of this problem and suggest some ways to ameliorate the situation.

The most important reason for this unfortunate situation is unhealthy diet. Children are attracted to fast food, which is rich in sugar and fat. They are ignorant of what constitutes a healthy diet. Parents nowadays are busy in their work and are not present to guide their children. To add to it, children are bombarded with advertisements from fast food companies.

Another important factor is that children are much less active than they used to be. In the past young people took part in activities that burned a lot of energy. However, today they spend a lot of their time indoors, sitting in front of TV or playing video games. This sedentary life style is playing havoc with the health of young people.

There are a number of steps that need to be taken to mitigate this problem. The first is to educate children about nutrition. Health education should be incorporated in school curricula. Schools should organize compulsory lessons to explain the main elements of a healthy diet and teach pupils how to prepare healthy meals. Parents should also cook healthy delicious meals at home so that children are deterred from eating fast food. Furthermore, governments should have some restrictions on the type of adverts shown in children's programmes. Finally, children should be encouraged to take part in sports. Schools have a great role to play in this.

To conclude, childhood obesity is a serious problem and it should be tackled on a war footing, otherwise the young people of today will have a very unhealthy middle and old age.

Plan followed:

Intro: In this essay I intend into the causes of this problem and suggest some ways forward

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: Another reason

Para 3: solutions

Conclusion

135. People say that a child's success is dependent on the way parents bring them up. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Success in a person's life does not come overnight. One cannot buy success from a store. It is something that requires the continuous investment of time and effort by the parents. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that nurturing by parents contributes a great deal to a child's success.

There are many reasons why I believe that in the upbringing of a child, the most important part is played by parents. Firstly, good parenting consists of balanced development of children's physical, emotional and intellectual qualities. Parents provide shelter, food and clothes and also promote the healthy growth of their children. Parents provide a safe loving environment and have a mental bonding with their children. All these things do play a part in the child's success in his later life.

Secondly, even though there are other factors such as good schooling, good teachers, peers and the media, which have a role in the success of a child, ultimately it is the parents who select the schools for their children. Good schools have good infrastructure and good faculty. They also have regular parent-teacher meetings. These interactions between parents and the pedagogues are helpful in understanding the aptitude of the child and guiding him towards the right career path.

Finally, the friend's circle of the child also matters in his success, and here too there is the role of the parents. Good parenting involves keeping an eye on the child's peers. If parents are themselves friendly with the child then their children will introduce them to their friends also. This is very important in the most impressionable adolescent years of a child's life. Finally, there is the role of media. Here too parents can intervene and monitor what their children are watching.

To sum up, parenting is not an easy task. Parenting is the most important role one faces in a lifetime. Parents who provide an encouraging environment for their children are rewarded, when as adults, their children become successful in life.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Parents' role

Para 2: Role of schools – but suggest that ultimately it is the parents role

Para 3: Role of peers and media – but ultimately it is the parents role

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

136. In some countries, the age of 18 means adults, while in others, it is older. What is your opinion and talk about the responsibility of an adult?

The legal age of adulthood ranges internationally from ages 15-21, with 18 being the most common. In this essay, I shall discuss what the ideal age of adulthood should be, and also discuss the responsibilities that adulthood entails.

I believe that it is important to set an age for recognising a person as an adult, mainly to protect a minor against his inexperience. However, it is very difficult to do so because adulthood is a very subjective term. A person may be biologically an adult, but may be considered a child if he is below that legal age when he can be called an adult. Conversely, he may be much older, but behave childishly. In my opinion, the legal age of adulthood should be 18. I believe that by the age of 18, a child is mature enough to know what is right or wrong. He/she should be given some freedom, and should be held responsible for his actions.

As far as the responsibilities of an adult are concerned, adulthood has to be looked at from a social context. So, it is a combination of age and social milestones. Adults are expected to be responsible and accountable for their actions. For example, if they get a driving licence, it is expected that they drive responsibly, abide by all the traffic laws and be held accountable if they do not do so.

Furthermore, an adult is expected to get a job, earn an income and use it to pay for his needs and wants. Adults are answerable for their life obligations, whether that is in marriage, at work or in the community being a worthwhile citizen. Getting married and having children are individual responsibilities that are expected of adults as being part of the society they live in.

To sum up, the age of 18 is ideal to be called an adult and there are many responsibilities that are expected of adults.

Plan followed:

Intro: This essay shall deal with the responsibilities of an adult

Para1: Which age should be the legal age of adulthood.

Para 2: responsibilities of an adult

Para 3: more responsibilities

Conclusion:

137. Some people opine that children should do what their parents tell them to do. Other people think children should learn how to think for themselves. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that parents should decide everything for their children, while others opine that children should be made independent and should take their own decisions. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I am of the opinion that children should be allowed to think freely and take decisions, but parents should have a friendly discussion with them about the pros and cons of their decisions.

The main reason why some people say that parents should tell their children what to do, is because children are immature and do not know right from wrong. Children do not have the awareness, experience, knowledge and wisdom that their parents do. So, children should do as their parents say. Moreover, it cannot be denied that parents only want the best for their children and will never misguide their children. Following what their parents say also makes the children more disciplined and respectful of others.

On the other hand, those who say that children should take their own decisions, give their reasons as follows. First, they become more responsible and independent soon. This can be done by making the children decide their own activities, choose the sports they like, pursue their interests and not restrict them with rules. Furthermore, such freedom leads to creativity and originality in children and they grow up to be successful in their career.

In my opinion, children should not be restricted and should be encouraged to be creative and free thinkers. However, parents need to play the role of guides and coaches. They need to ensure that while the children are making their own decisions, they are shown a path and a direction and at the same time they should make children feel that they are in-charge and will have the final say. This motivates children to take any step independently and without any restrictions.

To conclude, it can be said that it is important to give liberty to children to make choices and decisions, but the parents need to show them the right direction by having healthy discussions with them.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: One view

Para2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion

138. Nowadays, fewer people tend to look after their old relatives and send them to some old age homes. What is the situation in your country? In your opinion, who should be responsible to look after the elderly?

It is the bitter truth of today that children are sending their elderly parents to live separately in old age homes. Fortunately, in my country India, the old-age homes are still in their infancy. Although living with their children would seem ideal, I have strong arguments to suggest that the elderly should live separately in old-age homes.

My first argument is that, the lives of the elderly would improve considerably in old age homes. It has been seen that most elderly are leading miserable lives with their children. They are leading isolated lives amidst their family members. Old age homes are a boon for those elderly who face social isolation in their own homes where their so-called loved ones neglect them badly and have no time for them.

Secondly, living separately will give them a feeling of independence. They will also command more respect in the eyes of their children. It is irrefutable that relationships become strong and meaningful when people are not under the same roof. Hence, if aged people are away from their children physically, both will be closer to each other emotionally. In some homes, the elderly also get a chance to do some social service activities, which in turn help the society.

Finally, the mushrooming growth of old age homes is ample evidence that they are a boon for the society. They give the opportunity to the elderly to be in the company of people of similar age and experience. Furthermore, the culture of the old age homes tends to refine some attitudes of the aged such as short temper and negative thinking. They also remain healthy with timely day-to-day activities.

To conclude, the elderly should live with people of their own age group, in old age homes, where they enjoy the retired period of their life nicely, comfortably and productively.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree. Old people should live separately

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: More reasons

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

139. In many countries, people are not taking care of their elderly relatives but seeking help of professionals to look after them. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?

In the contemporary world, more and more people are hiring specialists to take care of the elderly members of the family at home or in old age homes. I believe this as a positive development.

The main advantage of hiring professionals to take care of the senior members of the family is that people do not have enough time to spend with their family and take care of the elderly. So, it is better to have the experts take care of the elderly members of the family, as they are the best people to provide them not only with the medical care and attention they need, but also keep them company while the family members are busy at work or with their studies. This avoids the complications that arise in old age due to loneliness.

Furthermore, there are several senior care options available today in the form of old age homes, in-home caregivers or in assisted living communities. People can choose and decide on the best possible option that can be given to the elderly members of the family. There are certain old age related conditions, which are best treated under specialists' care. So, in such cases, this care can be given in-home or in a nursing home, under proper supervision of the experts.

Finally, life expectancy has increased all over the world and there are two generations in many families that fall in the elderly group, needing the same kind of care and attention. So, this burden falls on the younger generation and it is impractical for them alone to bear this responsibility. So, the specialists need to be hired in such cases.

To recapitulate, it can be safely said that the younger family members should provide the best care to the elderly family members, and in this modern era, hiring professional caregivers is the most befitting and practical approach.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para 1: benefits of hiring professional

Para 2: reasons why care cannot be provided at home

Para 3: difficult for younger generation to bear the responsibility

Conclusion:

140. Nowadays, people are living an increasingly longer life and in many countries there will be more old people than young people. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

It is undeniable that we are heading towards a greying society. Demographers predict that there would be fewer youth than the elderly in the near future. Although the population ageing should be seen as a success story, it brings social and economic challenges for the nations. So, it can be said that this situation is both, positive as well as negative.

On the negative side, fewer youngsters would mean less people working, which will decrease the revenue received by the government from taxes. On top of that, pensions will have to be provided by the governments to the increasing number of the elderly for more years as the life span has also gone up considerably. Moreover, the retirement age may have to be extended and this may lead to youth unemployment. Young people have a lot of energy, which will have to be channelized in the right direction. If they are unemployed, they may resort to petty crime for fulfilling their needs. Finally, health care costs would be four to five times higher on the elderly because of their deteriorating health.

On the other hand, the ageing population can be beneficial in many ways. Firstly, arts and culture benefit from an older populace. It has been seen that the older generation are more actively involved in clubs, such as sports, drama, and other arts. Another major benefit is that older communities are more law abiding and are less inclined to commit crime. The Australian Institute of Criminology has projected that crime rates will drop by approximately 16% by 2050 because of increase in the aging population. There will also be money saved on prisons and policing costs in the future. Last but not least, the older people provide childcare, financial, practical and emotional assistance to family members including helping with the tasks of daily living.

In summary, aging is inescapable. A predominantly old-aged society can certainly have a negative impact as well as a positive impact on a country's advancement, and so it has to be planned well.

Plan followed:

Intro:

Para 1: Negatives

Para 2: Positives

Conclusion:

141. There are more and more old people in many parts of the world. What are the causes of this and what can be done to handle this situation.

Demographic trends suggest that today we belong to a graying society. This essay shall delve into the reasons of this phenomenon and also suggest some ways to deal with this situation.

The main reason for the increased life expectancy of people is the development in health care. Years ago, people died young because of simple things such as an infection or a virus. Now there are antibiotics and other medicines to help cure infections. Many incurable cancers and diseases such as tuberculosis are now completely curable. Many diseases such as breast and uterine cancer can be diagnosed early and are fully curable at that stage. What is more, advances in surgical techniques have saved the lives of many.

Another reason of people living longer is that there is better access to health care. Now faster modes of transport enable people to get timely treatment. To add to it, people can now get consultation from any doctor in any part of the world because digital x-rays, MRI's and CT scans are there which can be sent at the click of a mouse. A final reason for this is that there is more personal awareness. The quality of nutrition has also improved. Walking, yoga and gym culture has become very popular even among the octogenarians and centenarians of our society.

To deal with this situation, it has to be realised that these demographic changes are the reality of today. A lot of planning is needed at the individual level and at the government level to meet the challenges of old age. Governments have to provide special privileges to the elderly so that they don't face any problems, and at the individual level people should plan their retired life nicely so that they may lead a happy life. What is important is that enjoying health and leading productive lives is very important.

To sum up, people are living longer because of many reasons and many steps can be taken to face the challenges of this demographic trend.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: first reason

Para 2: other reasons

Para 3: steps to tackle it

Conclusion:

142. It is a fact that people nowadays are under a lot of pressure and their lives are becoming increasingly stressful. What could be the possible reasons for this? What are some solutions to address this issue?

It is irrefutable that everyone in this fast paced world of today is suffering from some form of stress or the other. This essay intends to look into some major causes of stress in people's lives, and suggest some ways to overcome it.

To begin with, there is a lot of stress in the workplace. Workers are given unrealistic deadlines and everybody has to strive to survive in this time of cut-throat competition. Not only at the workplace, there are stresses even at home. The demands of the children are rocketing in this era of consumerism. Inflation is going higher and higher. Children and teenagers also have their own share of stress of this highly competitive era. Lack of communication between parents and children leads to generation gap.

Fortunately, there are things one can do that help manage this pressure. To begin with, one should do a stress audit. By identifying the stresses which are overwhelming, one can look at prevention as well as cure. Secondly, people should set realistic goals. Trying to make big changes usually results in failure and disappointment. By lowering one's standards, one can create far more 'wins' for oneself, and 'wins' make everyone feel great. Then, misunderstandings are another big cause of stress. Therefore, anything that improves communication will reduce pressure.

Moreover, regular physical exercise also helps in relieving stress. Exercising releases endorphins, which give a good feeling. Physical activity will also make the person tired enough to sleep well, and a good night's sleep is very important to alleviate stress. However, one way of effectively dealing with pressure will not work for all, since no two people are affected by stresses in the same way. So, the onus is on the person himself to find out what works best for him.

To sum up, there are many causes of stress in people's lives today. But steps can be taken to manage it.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: Causes

Para 3: Solutions

Para 4: Solutions

Conclusion:

143. Some people think that life was better in the past than what it is now. Do you agree or disagree? Give your reasons and examples from your own life.

It is commonly believed that the quality of life was better in the past. While I consider that in a few areas life has become more stressful than before, it is certainly more comfortable now than the past in many areas.

On the one hand, people are facing many problems that didn't exist before. To begin with, there is more stress due to increased competition and inflation. People have to work longer hours to make ends meet. This also means that they can't spend as much time with family as in the past. It is not surprising that more marriages end up in divorce than ever before. Furthermore, although the transportation has improved, the level of pollution has also risen, and it is becoming worse day by day. As a result, today many people die of diseases like cancers.

However, there is no doubt that life quality has improved in many ways. Firstly, many of the issues that people faced in the past centuries such as hunger and epidemics like plague etcetera are non-existent today. Due to the agricultural revolution, there is enough food supply for everyone. Similarly, cures of many diseases have been found and today the life expectancy is considerably higher than the past centuries. Secondly, human effort and labour has been reduced substantially owing to improvements in machines. Automation has meant that people can relax, instead of spending hours on chores after work.

Another area in which life has progressed a lot is transportation. Cars, trains and aeroplanes have not only made travelling comfortable but also much faster. Travelling overseas takes hours instead of days. Finally, people today have more freedoms and rights than before. Many of the nations are democratic and people are free to live their life in the way they want. They can practise any religion they want; they can study in any field and follow any occupation they want. There is no slavery. Thus, life is certainly better in these aspects.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that though people are facing issues that didn't exist before like pollution, competition and so on, life is more comfortable due to improvements in health care, agriculture and people have more freedom.

Plan followed

Intro: Partial view

Para 1: How life is worse

Para 2: How life is better

Para 3: How life is better

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Written by: Indroop Singh

144. Some people prefer to live in hot climate, while others like to live in cold climate. Discuss both of the views and give your own opinion.

There are various factors which a person considers while deciding a place to live in and climate is just one of them. This essay shall discuss why some people prefer a cold climate and others choose to live in a warmer one.

There are many reasons why some people prefer hot climate. This is owing to the several benefits of living in a country with a hot climate. The main advantage is that people can afford being outside in the sun and doing outdoor activities. For example, residents of the hot countries spend their time sunbathing, swimming in the sea and eating in the open air. Another benefit of warm weather is that it is cheaper and easier to buy clothes and wearing less clothing gives you a feeling of freedom. Also many elderly people choose to move to hotter climates for health reasons and to avoid the harsh winter conditions.

On the other hand those who prefer cold climate, give their reasons as follows. The main reason is economic benefits. Many people like snow activities such as skiing, sledding and building snowmen and therefore they come to these places as tourists for such activities, enabling the residents an opportunity to gain economically from these tourists. What is more, people don't have to worry about sweating and suffering from heat strokes.

Personally, I believe that extremes of both hot and cold climate are not good. Both types of climates have their share of pleasures and challenges. In India, we generally have the tropical climate in which there are four seasons – summer, winter, autumn and spring. Summers are generally very hot and winters very cool. Autumn and spring generally have pleasant weather which is neither too hot nor too cold. So we get to enjoy all types of weather.

To conclude, it can be said that there are pros and cons of both types of climates and choosing to live in any climate is a matter of personal choice.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of hot climate

Para 2: Advantages of cold climate

Para 3: own view – refer to climate of your country

Conclusion: it is a matter of personal choice

145. Some people think that governments should be held responsible when problems of homelessness and unemployment arise? Do you agree or disagree?

When a country has a large number of homeless and unemployed people, it is believed that something is wrong with the way it is governed. While I do agree that in certain situations the government can be held accountable, there are also situations where homelessness and poverty can occur despite good governance. Therefore, the governments cannot be held completely responsible for loss of jobs and homes.

The main reason why the government should not be held accountable for homelessness and poverty is that all such cases are not because of the mismanagement of the government. No government in the world can effectively control external affairs. For example, a lot of people lost jobs due to the economic crisis in 2008. In fact, the US recession affected India's booming outsourcing industry. Another befitting example here is of the corona virus pandemic. Despite conscious efforts of many governments, it shattered the economies worldwide and caused a lot of homelessness and unemployment.

On the other hand, a government can be held responsible for the internal conflicts that might be causing joblessness and homelessness. Secondly, because of corruption, the money collected from taxes may not be used properly. It is definitely the onus of the government to use this money effectively to improve the living standards of the poorer sections of the society. In India, for example, the government has launched several schemes to provide housing and employment to people. Although the country still faces these problems, the situation has considerably improved in recent years.

To sum up, proper governance can improve the economic status of a country and its people, but factors outside the control of a government too can upset a nation's financial status. So, the government cannot be held accountable for all cases of homelessness and unemployment.

Plan followed

Intro: I do not agree that the governments can be held completely responsible for loss of jobs and homes

Para 1: External factors can cause homelessness and unemployment

Para 2: How good governance can help ease the situation

Conclusion:

146. Some people believe that hobbies need to be difficult to be enjoyable. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

A hobby is an activity which can give pleasure. Some hobbies are relatively easy, while others involve more of a challenge. Both types of hobbies can be fun for different people, and therefore I disagree with the statement that hobbies need to be difficult in order to be enjoyable.

To begin with, it is not at all necessary for the hobby to be difficult to derive fun from it. People follow hobbies for relaxation and enjoyment, and different people enjoy different hobbies. Some people pursue easy hobbies, such as watching movies, listening to music or playing some easy games like angry birds or snakes and ladders, which do not involve much difficulty.

Moreover, some activities which can be very tough for one person can be easy for the other. For example, knitting is my passion and I find it very easy. I can even make very complicated patterns and knit all types of sweaters with ease. However, when my sister tries to knit, she finds it really hard and cannot do it well even if she tries very hard. So, I believe it is not the degree of difficulty which makes a hobby more interesting or enjoyable but the interest people take in it.

On the other hand, there are some hobbies which involve some challenges and can give people a sense of satisfaction or sense of achievement, and this sense of achievement makes them enjoy those hobbies more. For example, people do adventure sports like sky diving and bungee jumping for fun. They get the kick out of doing these activities, whereas others may just shudder at the thought of these activities.

To summarise, choosing hobbies and enjoying them varies from person to person. It is not necessary for any activity to involve some difficulty to become enjoyable. In fact a simple hobby can give a lot of pleasure with relaxation.

Plan followed:

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Firstly, one follows hobby to get fun and so he does it with heart, it is not necessary to have difficult hobbies to get fun from it. Give examples.

Para 2: What is tough for one may be easy for others.

Para 3: there are some hobbies which involve some challenges

Conclusion:

147. Some people believe that old public buildings in cities should be restored while others say that they should be demolished and new buildings should be built instead. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Some individuals opine that it is futile to spend money on the restoration of old buildings, while others want to see them restored to their old glory. I believe that those old buildings which are neither beautiful nor useful, should be demolished to make space for new ones, whereas those buildings which have a unique identity or have a historical significance should be renovated at all costs.

There are many arguments in favour of demolishing old buildings. It is not very uncommon to hear news on TV that a building in a particular city crumbled killing a few people. Such buildings should be demolished even if they have an emotional value for the owners. The maintenance costs of such buildings, which are in a very bad shape, are much more than the cost of demolishing and building new ones instead.

What is more, the newer buildings could be made in such a way that they can accommodate more people in the same amount of space. These buildings could also be made to be energy efficient by using newer technologies, which could save a lot of energy later on. For example, double glass panels could be used for insulation and the terraces could be made as to accommodate solar panels. All these measures are the need of the hour considering the rapidly occurring climate changes and the burgeoning population.

On the other hand, there are some old buildings, which give a unique identity to a place and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today. For example, the Sainik School of Kapurthala was the home the maharaja of Kapurthala, Jagatjit Singh. It is a magnificent piece of architecture and is now serving a very good purpose. The Umedh Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan has been converted into a hotel and is a good source of revenue for the government.

To summarise, the decision to preserve or demolish old buildings should be made after considering their usefulness. If the old building can be used effectively, it should be preserved, otherwise it should be replaced by modern architecture.

Plan followed:

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: arguments in favour of demolishing old buildings

Para 2: Advantages of newer buildings

Para 3: Advantages of restoration of old buildings

Conclusion:

148. Too many old historical buildings are in danger and destroyed in many countries. What are the main reasons? How to protect them?

Modernization of cities is the need of the hour, as a result of which many historical buildings are being destroyed. This essay shall highlight the reasons for this phenomenon and also suggest ways to protect these buildings.

The main reason for the demolition of these old historical buildings is to meet the needs of the growing population. Sky-scrapers are part of modern cities and they are needed today as land is becoming scarce. Some old historical buildings are serving no purpose today. They are neither safe to live in nor are attracting tourists. On top of that they occupy a lot of space. Everything has a life and if these are not demolished or renovated, these may crumble anytime and cause threat to life.

Another reason for the demolition is that many old buildings come in the way of these road systems, which are being expanded to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles. That is why these buildings need to be destroyed. The benefits of these changes are becoming obvious as traffic jams are becoming things of the past in these places.

Some steps can be taken to preserve these buildings. There are some old buildings which give a unique identity to a place and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today. For example, the Sainik School of Kapurthala was the home the maharaja of Kapurthala, Jagatjit Singh. It is a magnificent piece of architecture and is now serving a very good purpose. There are many other such buildings which house important government offices or have been converted to hotels for tourists. The Umedh Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan has been converted into a hotel and is a good source of revenue for the government. Therefore, if these buildings are renovated and made utilitarian, then these can be preserved.

To conclude, demolishing old buildings for modernization is definitely advantageous. However, if the historical building is a tourist attraction or is giving a unique identity to a place, it should definitely be preserved.

Plan followed

Intro: This essay shall highlight the reasons for this phenomenon and also suggest ways to protect these buildings

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: More reason

Para 3: Steps to preserve

Conclusion:

149. Many old cities around the world are going through a major process of modernization. What are the advantages and disadvantages of modernization?

Modernization is the process by which cities are being transformed under the impact of scientific and technological revolution. Modernization is usually associated with urban and industrial development. As everything has its pros and cons, similarly modernization also has its good and bad points which I shall discuss in this essay.

On the one hand, modernization of cities is very beneficial to meet the needs of the growing population. Sky-scrapers are part of modern cities and they are needed today as land is becoming scarce. Modern architecture uses pre-fabricated material instead of wood for the doors and windows, which is also the need of the day. Modern buildings are also being made to be energy-efficient. For example, walls are being insulated so that lesser air-conditioning is needed. This is also a big plus point as we are all facing energy crises today.

Furthermore, road systems are being expanded to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles. The benefits of these changes are becoming obvious as traffic jams are becoming things of the past in these places. Finally, modernisation is becoming mandatory to attract foreign investments in these cities. For instance, various multinational companies have opened in these cities and these are providing employment to many.

On the other hand, in the process of modernizing, most of the city administrators just copy the architecture of other cities from the developed world and this resulted in cloning of cities. Very naturally, to rebuild any city while maintaining its historical and cultural uniqueness is difficult, but copying is relatively simple and fast. Most of the cities now look similar and this has led to a loss of architectural diversity.

Summing up, modernizing cities is the need of the time and it has obviously much more advantages than disadvantages. However, care should be taken, as far as possible, to preserve some of the historical and cultural uniqueness of these cities.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: more advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion

150. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in a house and living in an apartment and give your opinion as to which is better.

Many people nowadays face a difficult decision when they buy their own home. The question is whether they should buy a house or an apartment. This essay shall discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both options before forming an opinion.

Perhaps the major advantage of living in a house is the issue of privacy. Typically, there is more opportunity for peace and quiet, if people live in a house. Other significant advantages are that houses are generally more spacious and on the whole have gardens. This is especially important if there is a family so that the children can have a safe environment to play in.

There are, of course, negative aspects to living in houses. The greatest of these is that they tend to be more expensive to purchase and to maintain. Indeed, a large majority of people choose to live in apartments because they cannot afford the mortgage to buy a house. Another possible problem is that there are fewer houses in cities than the countryside. So the facilities of urban life may be far away.

On the other hand, in an apartment there is always somebody near to help in an emergency or watch the flat when the owners are away. As well as this, flats have very low maintenance costs. For example, with only a balcony, there are no bushes to trim, no lawn to mow and no leaves to rake. Finally, flats are usually located closer to city centre and so public transport is easy to get.

The downside of apartment life is that the neighbours may be noisy and bothersome. This can be extremely unpleasant, particularly if one's sleep is constantly interrupted. Also, living in a neighbourhood crowded with blocks of flats means that parking is limited and finding a space for the car could take a considerable amount of time.

To conclude, it can be seen that there are probably an equal number of pros and cons to making either choice. Ultimately, whether people decide to live in a house or a flat depends on their family and financial circumstances.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: advantages of living in a house

Para 2: disadvantages of living in a house

Para 3: advantages of apartments

Para 4: disadvantages of apartments

Conclusion: Matter of individual taste

151. Many people think living in high-rise apartment blocks makes people feel lonely and unhappy, while others argue it has advantages. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

The number of high rise buildings has grown many-fold in the past few years. This essay shall discuss the advantages and disadvantages of high-rise apartments. I believe high-rise apartments are better to live in.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of living in high-rise apartment buildings. Firstly, high-rise apartments or condominiums tend to be either very close to or right in the middle of downtown. Some apartment buildings may be located near beautiful, natural surroundings such as parks, gardens, and white-sand beaches. A person can relax and escape from the stresses and hassles of city living by going up the top floor and marvelling at the cityscape with the wonderful view of everything around him.

On the other hand, those who oppose high-rise buildings, give their reasons as follows. To begin with, the balcony is a possible safety hazard because of a growing number of fatalities associated with suicide and accidental falls. What is more, everything is compact and there is no lawn or spacious yard where one can play with one's kids. Finally, there are many people living in such buildings and so residents do not question the presence of strangers. Therefore, security can be a big problem.

In my opinion, high rise apartments are better, as there are shared amenities in the building such as swimming pools, recreation centers and gyms which one can enjoy. Moreover, these are safer and one does not have to worry about burglaries when the whole family is out on vacation. There are so many people around to keep an eye on the person's apartment.

To sum up, there are both advantages and disadvantages of high rise apartments. However, feeling lonely is not one of them. In my opinion, high rise apartment are better to live in.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

152. Countries' population is increasing so people believe we should build new homes in existing cities instead of building new towns in the countryside. Do you agree or disagree? Give examples from your own knowledge or experience.

The burgeoning population has led to the debate whether the remote and rural areas should be developed by making new towns there or if more housing be made in the cities already existing. While there may be some benefits of making new houses in cities, I am of the view that new towns should be made in the countryside.

There are a plethora of benefits of making new towns in the countryside areas. Firstly, the housing in these new areas will be affordable for many, as the land/property rates are much lower as compared to the cities. Furthermore, the present cities are already congested and there is a lot of burden on the resources, like electricity, water supply, transport system, etc. So, when people move to new towns outside the cities, it will reduce the burden on the resources and allow people to lead a better quality life.

Another advantage of making new towns in the rural areas is that the new towns can be planned to be more energy efficient, and the issues that the present cities now face can be taken care of right from the inception stage. For instance, the plan can include more green belts, have provision for solar panels, and have good public transport systems like Metros and subways. This will provide opportunities for the people living there to have a better life and enjoy the facilities of a town.

Admittedly, there are some benefits of adding more residential areas in the present cities. Firstly, if people move out to live in the new towns, then there will be a decline in the local economy of the city. Many businesses may shut down. Also, people will move away from their workplaces and this move will affect many households. For example, the commute time may increase for many people and the children may have to change schools when the family moves to a new town.

To conclude, I would reiterate my opinion that making well-planned new towns in the countryside is more advantageous.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of making new towns

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages with refutation

Conclusion:

153. In some countries, most people prefer to rent their homes rather than buying them. What are the advantages and disadvantages of renting a home?

The choice between buying a home and renting one is among the biggest financial decision that many adults make. The huge cost of buying a house and complications involved in renting make it a hard choice to decide which is a better deal. This essay intends to analyse the pros and cons of renting a house.

There are many merits of renting a house. Firstly, it has financial benefits. One can invest such a large sum elsewhere, such as in one's business and earn manifold. Secondly, the tenant doesn't have to pay any taxes on the property or be troubled by regular maintenance charges. Also, the person can always change one's place of residence by renting a home close to one's work place and save time. He is not obliged to stay there a lifetime. Finally, a person's work may require shifting places and so it would be futile to invest a fortune in a place where one cannot live.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of renting a house are also numerous. Firstly, being able to call a place as one's own cannot be achieved in a rental home. Secondly, buying a home can be more profitable in the long run, as the person is making an asset for life. While renting, a person is indirectly paying someone else's mortgage. What is more, while renting, a person has to sign a lease and vacate accordingly.

I believe that whether to own a house or to live in a rented house is a matter of personal choice and should be decided according to one's own circumstances. Sometimes it is smarter to rent, and sometimes buying can work in one's favor. One should carefully weigh the merits and demerits of both approaches before reaching a conclusion.

To conclude, renting a house has its benefits and drawbacks, and so the decision should be made considering one's needs and aspirations.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of renting

Para 2: Disadvantages of renting

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

154. Many people think that zoos, which keep wild animals in a man-made environment should no longer exist in the 21st century. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

I agree that there is no place for zoos in the 21st century. I feel that zoos are an unsuitable environment for animals, and therefore should be abolished. A number of arguments support my opinion.

Firstly, zoo animals are kept in very confined areas compared with their vast natural habitat. For example, polar bears are given about 10 metres of walking space, whereas in their arctic home they roam for hundreds of kilometres. Similarly, lions and tigers are confined in cages where they lack exercise and stimulation. Therefore, they should not be kept in zoos on the excuse that zoos are educational. In reality they only teach us how wild animals behave when they are cramped in small spaces. What is more, it is very common for visitors to tease and provoke caged animals. This also leads to unnatural behavior in animals like pacing back and forth or swaying from side to side.

Secondly, the breeding programmes taken up by zoos are not very successful. Breeding programmes provide zoos with good publicity, but in fact most of them are failures. For instance, the 'Panda Breeding Programme' has been very costly and unsuccessful. Also, zoo life does not prepare animals for the challenges of life in the wild. They are provided good food in the zoos, but if left in the jungle, they may die of starvation because they cannot hunt for themselves.

Finally, the zoo is an unnatural environment that exposes animals to many dangers. Diseases often spread between species that would never live together naturally. For example, many Asian elephants have died in African zoos after catching herpes from African elephants. So, zoo animals are more at risk of dying from disease or injury than their wild counterparts. It is time we abolish these cruel institutions.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate my opinion that zoos are unnatural habitats for the wild animals and there is no justification in caging these marvelous creatures of God.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree – means that you are against zoos

Para 1: Reasons why zoos are not good

Para 2: more reasons

Para 3: more reasons

Conclusion:

155. Some people argue that the purpose of zoos is only to entertain people. Do you agree or disagree? What are the other purposes of zoos?

It is irrefutable that zoos provide recreation to people. However, zoos have a lot of other advantages besides entertainment. This essay shall highlight these functions of zoos.

To begin with, the main advantage is the education that people receive when visiting a zoo. Someone has rightly said that zoo animals are ambassadors for their cousins in the wild. Zoos provide a rare and unique opportunity to peer into the wild without actually traveling to forests. Zoos contain a range of animals, such as giraffes, elephants, lions and even large and venomous snakes. Zoos usually have information describing the animal, its history and natural location. Most zoos also provide interactive shows with some of the animals during specific times throughout the week.

Furthermore, learning about animals also brings empathy to many people. Zoos help to promote awareness by educating people on how to protect animals that face extinction. What is more, zoos often take an active approach in helping animal populations. For dwindling species, many zoos breed species in an attempt to increase their numbers. After raising sufficient numbers of the populations, the animals can then be released into the wild in order to encourage population growth. Many animals have been tremendously helped this way, including the white tiger and panda bear.

Moreover, zoos help to attract tourists and thus boost the economy. People buy tickets to visit zoos and a number of people get employment in zoos. Workers are needed to look after the animals and provide them timely exercise and food. Finally, entertainment is also there when people visit zoos. Everyone enjoys looking at these marvelous creations of the almighty.

To summarise, zoos provide education, awareness and boost the economy in addition to providing entertainment.

Plan followed

Intro: zoos have a lot of other advantages besides entertainment

Para1: main advantage is the education

Para 2: more advantages

Para 3: more advantages

Conclusion:

156. Some people think that Government should invest money in wildlife projects and protect them. Other people think it is better if the government invests money in other projects. Discuss both views and opine.

People are divided on the money and efforts being spent on conservation of wild animals and birds. Some say that the government should fund such wildlife projects, whereas others say that priority should be given to human projects. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I believe that equal funds should be allocated to animal and human projects.

The main reason why some people argue that the government should fund wildlife projects is that wild animals are part of our ecosystem, and the removal of a single species can affect many others. For example, the gray wolf, which eats elk, was once on the verge of extinction. As a result the elk numbers grew and started over consuming the trees that grew along streams. With trees gone, the stream water became warmer and trout numbers fell. Also the migratory birds which nested on the trees became less. As the gray wolf numbers have improved, all the effects have reversed. So, spending on saving one species can lead to benefit many other species.

On the other hand, those who say that the governments should focus on other more pressing issues instead of wild animals, argue that in many countries, human beings are still suffering from poverty, famine, epidemics and natural disasters. If the limited government budget is allocated to animal conservation, many people will face huge difficulty making a living. Moreover, government needs funds to provide quality education and healthcare to its citizens. Therefore, they say that looking into human needs should be the top priority of these countries.

I believe that conservation of wildlife is as important for humans as any other thing. Firstly, biodiversity is necessary for the ecological health of the planet. Animals are beautiful creatures of nature and are a part of our bio-diversity. Moreover, wild animals provide many valuable substances such as medicine and fur. The horn of the rhinoceros has medicinal value, and the fur of the mink is very valuable. The recreational viewing of animals at zoos is also a source of revenue.

To sum up, the arguments put forth by both sides are well justified, but the wild animals and plants are also indirectly benefiting humans, so equal money should be allocated to these also.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Other view

Conclusion:

157. Nowadays we see more advertisements on the streets and on our TV screens. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these?

Advertising is a powerful and persuasive medium and advertisements have become a part of our lives. Advertisements have both positive and negative effects, which shall be discussed in the following paragraphs.

On the positive side, ads tell us about the new products that are launched in the market. They also tell us about the working of these products. After seeing the ads, consumers can go to the market and select things of their choice. Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, there are ads against domestic violence and female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach us a lot about the country from where the ads come. When we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the clothes of Japan. What is more, the advertising industry provides jobs to many.

However, adverts also have a downside. There are many advertisements which make many false claims about their products. For example, I recently bought a floor cleaner which claimed to remove rust stains from floor effortlessly, but when I used it in my kitchen, the rust stains did not go at all. Secondly, ads increase the cost of the product. When businesses hire celebs to endorse their products then definitely they have to pay them exorbitant amounts of money and all this adds to the cost of the product.

Furthermore, advertisements can cause people to be dissatisfied with what they already have and make them want more. Being exposed again and again to products which one cannot afford leads to dissatisfaction. This often leads to feelings of inadequacy among them. Moreover, not all parents are in a position to afford the goods which the children see advertised and want to possess. In addition to this, advertisements lead to materialism and people lay too much emphasis on material goods. People are prepared to work long hours or even turn to crime to get these goods.

To conclude, adverts have pros and cons. However, without adverts we would lose a valuable source of revenue, which is used for the benefit of majority. Our lives would be dull without these ads. So, the onus is on the people not to be swayed too much by the ads.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of ads

Para 2: Disadvantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion

158. Consumers are faced with increasing numbers of advertisements from competing companies. To what extent do you think are consumers influenced by advertisements? What measures can be taken to protect them?

To survive in the competitive market of today, every product has to be advertised. There is a huge impact of these ads on the people, which is both positive, as well as negative. This essay shall analyse these effects on the common man, and suggest ways to protect people from the negative effects of adverts.

There are many ways in which these ads are helpful. First, ads tell us about the new products and about the working of these products. What is more, the advertising industry provides jobs to many. Many models and other people make a living through this industry. Ads also touch social issues. For example, there are ads which aware people that they can stand up against domestic violence and female foeticide. Another big positive influence of the ads of today is the entertainment they provide. They are made so hilarious that one feels like watching them again and again.

On the other hand, the main negative effect is that advertisements promote consumerism. These ads can cause people to be dissatisfied with what they already have and make them want more. This longing for more leads to workaholism. People are prepared to work long hours, or even turn to crime to get these goods. Finally, ads can be very irksome at times. This is especially true of Internet ads. Telephone ads are also very irritating. When a person is driving or in an important meeting, the bell rings and disturbs everyone.

The solutions are not simple, as advertising is a very persuasive medium. It would be unwise to ban ads, as this would cause more problems than it would solve. However, advertisements, which make false claims, should be banned. Advertisements for liquor and those ads, which show stunts, should also be banned. Then there should be consumer awareness programmes. Consumers should be warned against too much consumerism. Our celebs have a big role in selecting what products they should endorse. People, who follow these celebs would buy anything they say even without needing it.

To conclude, today we are influenced a lot by adverts, both in positive and negative ways. However, many steps can be taken to mitigate the negative influence of ads.

Plan followed

Intro –

Para 1 – positive effects

Para 2 – advertisements have negative points

Para 3 – solutions are not simple

Conclusion:

159. There is an increasing amount of advertising directed at children, which encourages them to buy goods such as toys and snacks. Many parents are worried that these advertisements put too much pressure on children, while some advertisers claim that they provide useful information to children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Advertisements mostly target vulnerable children, and so many parents are worried that their children are being wrongly influenced by ads. However, advertisers claim that they provide beneficial information to children. In the following paragraphs I intend to discuss both perspectives. I believe that parents worry is justified.

There are reasons why parents' worry about the harmful effects of ads, is justified. Children lack abilities to make wise judgments as to what they really want. They are attracted by colourful pictures on advertisements and swayed by misleading information. So, they pester their parents to buy those things, and this can upset the budget of many families. Even the advertisements of fast foods are bad for children. Children cannot understand that the slim-trim models advertising McDonalds burgers hardly ever eat such foods themselves. They are attracted to fast foods and these are very detrimental for their health.

What is more, some ads show some stunts, and although it is written that children should not copy these stunts, children hardly ever read that part. In their ignorance, they try to perform those stunts and get hurt. For example, in my neighbourhood, one child tried to jump from one rooftop to the other after seeing the ad of Thumbs Up and ended up with a plaster on his leg. Therefore, parents are rightly worried.

On the other hand, those who say that advertisements provide beneficial information to the children, give their reasons as follows. For example, the advert of Colgate toothpaste, which tells that we should brush our teeth twice daily, is good for children. Then there are ads about health drinks such as Complan and Bournvita, which are good for children. Furthermore, advertisements also touch important issues, such as ads against wastage of water, ads for tree plantation, ads against wastage of electricity and ads for keeping the surroundings clean. All these ads are good for children.

To conclude, even though adverts enlighten children in some ways by providing useful information, these have detrimental effects on children and should have some regulations.

Plan followed

Intro – Discuss essay intro

Para 1 & 2 – Parents view, Para 3 – advertisers view ,Conclusion: ads have both – good as well as bad effects

www.makkarielts.com www.youtube.com/makkarielts www.facebook.com/makkarielts 159

160. In the past people used to wear their traditional clothes depending on their culture. Nowadays the trend is changing, and people wear similar clothes. Is it a positive or a negative development?

The global era of today is all about choices. People are aware of fashions all over the world and are adopting whatever suits their fancy. This phenomenon is largely positive, although there is a downside to it as well.

On the one hand, the main drawback of the trend to wear clothes not related to one's culture is that it erodes the cultural identity of nations. Many nations are known by their national dress. For instance, 'sari' is the national dress of India and 'kimono' is the national dress of Japan. These dresses are also linked to certain customs and traditions. If these attires are lost, the customs and traditions will also be lost. This situation can sometimes lead to violence, when people fear a rapid loss of their identity and culture and intrusion of foreign culture. Moreover, this has increased the generation gap between the young and old, with the young more accommodating of western clothing, while the old trying to retain their traditional clothing and lifestyle.

On the other hand, there are countless advantages of this trend. To begin with, following a global lifestyle eliminates culture shock when people travel to other countries. In other words, people find it easier to adjust and accommodate when they travel or migrate because they were already dressing up in the same way beforehand. Secondly, this trend has had an impact on the economy as well. With a shift towards similar clothes like jeans and shirts, there also has been a spread of multinational clothing companies like Levis and Lees to developing nations, which has benefitted the economies of both – the developing and developed nations.

To add to it, this trend has reduced discrimination, as people find it harder to judge someone's ethnicity based on their clothes. When people of global communities look similar, they find it easier to accept each other. It leads to better harmony among people. People feel united and work together for uplifting the global communities. People feel part of a global village and it makes them feel more confident.

To sum up, the growing similarity in clothing has certain downsides, but considering its many advantages it would be right to consider it a positive development overall.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Disadvantages

Para 2, Para 3: Advantages

Conclusion:

Written by: Indroop Singh

161. The speeding up of life in many areas such as travel and communication has negative effects on society at all levels - individual, national and global. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that the IT revolution and faster means of travel have affected society at all levels. However, I disagree that all these effects are negative. The society has also benefited enormously from this speeding up of life, which in other words we can say globalization.

At the individual level, there are more choices, more opportunities to travel, better job prospects and more awareness and tolerance of other cultures. Due to better communication, people are connected with their near and dear ones and distances are no longer a barrier. There has been a fall in face-to-face communication but the social network of friends that the young generation of today has is far more than ever before in the history of mankind.

At the national level, countries are getting closer and the boundaries are disappearing. Because of this fast era of today, nations are developing strong bonds, and doing successful trade with each other. The rich nations are opening Multinational Companies in developing countries and thus providing job opportunities to millions. This is narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor. No doubt the people working in such companies are underpaid, but it is definitely better than being unemployed. Because of this the economies of the poor countries are improving.

At the global level, nations are joining hands to fight evils such as poverty, disease, terrorism and global warming. Many countries have taken steps towards sustainable development, which means that they are improving the quality of life without compromising that of the future generations. For example, the Kyoto Protocol was signed by many industrialised countries. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it set binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

To conclude, the accelerated pace of life has both negative as well as positive effects. However, the positive effects are much more than negative effects.

Plan followed

Intro: I disagree that all these effects are negative

Para 1: Benefits at individual level

Para 2: Benefits at national level

Para 3: Benefits at global level

Conclusion: the accelerating pace of life has both negative as well as positive effects. However, the positive effects are much more than negative effects

162. Some people think that using animals for experimentation purpose is cruel, but other people think that it is necessary for the development of science. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Animal experimentation has been a debated issue for many decades. Some people believe that scientists locking up animals in a laboratory environment is not what nature intended, whereas others believe that laboratory animals perform a great service for humans. This essay intends to analyze both perspectives. I personally side with the latter view.

Those who are against animal experimentation, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, animals are also sentient beings, and people have no right to exploit them for their selfish motives. Secondly, animals are very different from humans and so what is tested on animals cannot be applied to humans. Finally, unnecessary experiments are done just for new cosmetics, which are not even needed, which is bad.

On the other hand, the main advantage cited by those in favour of animal experimentation is in testing newly discovered drugs. From time to time, new medicines and drugs are created, which may be a solution to a serious illness affecting mankind. In order to determine if there is any level of danger in these drugs, these are first tested on animals. If any drug is not tested, it can create havoc. For example, in 1952, a drug, Thalidomide, was used for vomiting of pregnancy. All the children born had seal-like limbs. By the time it was known that thalidomide was responsible, it was too late.

Another reason for justification of animal experimentation is that the effect of any drug can be seen over generations. We all know that the life span of guinea pigs used for experimentation is very small, only 3-4 years, and so the effect of drugs can be tested over generations. Even if humans volunteered for testing, it would take many years to test whether the effect passed from one generation to the other.

Summing up, although the life of animals in a lab is regrettable, I much prefer a guinea pig to die than a human being. The human need must always come first. The use of laboratory animals in testing new products made today, would go a long way towards helping humankind enjoy a better tomorrow.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Other view

Conclusion: Animal experimentation is justified

163. Wearing fashionable clothes is becoming important today. Is the attitude to wearing fashionable clothes a positive development or a negative development?

Fashion has always been a way of life. However, it is also true that it has become even more essential in today's time to look fashionable. I believe that this trend is positive if it is followed in limit, but if it becomes an obsession the negatives are much more.

On the positive side, following fashion trends makes people feel confident. Whatever people wear, if they think that they are looking good, they will feel a great sense of confidence. They feel less stressed and happier. On the whole, it helps to maintain positive self-esteem. Secondly, fashion helps people connect with other people of the same interests, and leads to a bonding with like-minded people. In addition, fashion plays a crucial role in giving the first impression about a person. It is a non-verbal form of communication. It also adds variety to life when people try out new apparels to satisfy the creative urge in them.

On the other hand, it creates a sharp divide between the haves and the have-nots, because the rich have the means and the resources to indulge in this luxury. This in turn creates a psychological imbalance in the youth. They try to ape their affluent friends, but in the absence of means, resort to petty crime. Secondly, some youth become so obsessed with fashion that whole day they think only about fashion and waste useful time which they should be spending on studies. Finally, they may feel anxiety, depression or eating disorders when they are not dressed up to the mark.

The need is, therefore, to strike a balance and not let fashion become a mania. People must realise the difference between being fashionable and wearing what is right. They must not blindly follow fashion and should wear what suits them and in what they feel comfortable. The clothes, which look good on others may not suit them and wearing those clothes may make them a subject of ridicule. Students also should not let fashion interfere with their academic performance.

Summing up, there is no harm in following fashion and looking good, but people should know where to draw the line and not let it become an obsession.

Plan followed

Intro: This is both a positive as well as a negative development.

Para 1: - advantages

Para 2: disadvantages

Para 3: balance

Conclusion: Following fashion is good but within a limit and according to what suits us.

164. Because of the global economy, many goods including what we use as daily basics produced by other countries have to be transported for a long distance. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Globalisation has revolutionized the whole world in many aspects. Now, instead of a big planet Earth people belong to a small global village. Everything is available everywhere. There are many advantages and disadvantages of transporting goods over a long distance, but in my opinion, the pros outweigh the cons.

On the positive side, transporting goods over a long distance gives people a lot of choices. A variety of fruits and vegetables are now available from all parts of the world. For example, about ten years ago, the kiwi fruit, was only available in New Zealand. But, now it has a place on every fruit stand all over the world. Earlier, in India, there were a very few shoe brands like Bata and Carona, but now the market is flooded with Reeboks, Nike, Adidas and other foreign brands.

Secondly, many people get employment in the import and export field. Small businesses have a chance to expand globally, and it increases the overall economy of the country. Finally, it helps in developing good relations between countries, which helps in international cooperation and peace. If countries are dependent upon one another for economic success, then they would not go against each other.

On the other hand, importing goods can have a negative effect on the local culture. This can erode people's understanding of their own food traditions. For instance, Indians used to give a lot of importance to the family meal, wherein all the members sat around the table and conversed with each other over dinner, but the young generation is going for fast foods and prefers to eat alone. Secondly, diversity is being lost and everyone is wearing similar clothes, eating similar food, watching same TV programs and listening to same music. This is making the whole world dull and boring. Another major disadvantage is that when goods are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, it increases pollution from exhaust fumes.

To conclude, transporting goods has both merits and demerits but the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

Plan followed

Intro: In my opinion, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages

Para 1: benefits

Para 2: More benefits

Para 3: Disadvantages – loss of culture and pollution

Conclusion: importing goods has both merits and demerits but the pros outweigh the cons.

165. Nowadays many people have unhealthy diets and do not exercise regularly. Why is this happening? How can we encourage these people to live a healthy lifestyle?

Obesity and its related problems are a growing cause of concern. The main reason is a sedentary lifestyle and fast food culture. This essay shall delve into the reasons why people choose to eat an unhealthy diet and not do exercise. Some measures to motivate people to adopt a healthy lifestyle shall also be discussed.

The fast paced life of today is the most common cause of this habit. People have become workaholics in their rat race after material possessions, and as a result don't have the time to cook healthy food and even do any exercise. Traditional meals require time to prepare, because of which processed or ready-to-eat foods are being consumed nowadays, which are definitely less healthy.

Another reason is the taste factor. Most people choose fast foods simply because these taste better. The mushrooming growth of fast food outlets have also made these fast foods very affordable and very easily available. Finally, perhaps the most significant reason is lack of awareness that obesity caused by such a lifestyle is not just one disease, it has many other deadly diseases like diabetes and hypertension associated with it.

People can be encouraged to adopt a healthier lifestyle in many ways. The government can make people aware about the ill effects of obesity through the media. Sports stadiums and well equipped gyms should be made available in the propinquity of residential areas so that people don't have to go far to access them. Benefits of healthy eating habits and daily exercise should be told to people through the media. Last but not least, the family meal should be encouraged. People tend to eat better when they are sitting down at a table. There is better control of the serving size. There is more focus on interaction and discussion and not on the food only.

Summing up, it is true that people eat unhealthy and don't exercise enough, but if they are made aware about the ill effects of such a lifestyle and are motivated to make some lifestyle modifications then surely it will make a big difference.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: more causes

Para 3: How people can be encouraged for healthy life style

Conclusion:

Similar essay Many people are not as fit or as active as they used to be, and it is having long term effects on them. Why is this happening and what are some ways to solve this?

166. In many countries people of all ages do sports and exercises a lot. Does this trend have more advantages or disadvantages? Give reasons for your answer and include examples from your own knowledge and experience.

Healthy living has become very important in the recent years. Exercising is the routine for people of all age groups. While exercise has a lot of advantages, excessive exercising can lead to more harm than good.

Admittedly, exercise has myriad benefits and everyone needs some physical activity to stay fit and healthy. Human body is a machine and needs regular lubrication to get going. Exercise acts as a lubricant to the human body. However, exercising 'a lot' can have adverse effects on the body. There are many serious injuries like muscle, tendons, bones and ligament damage that the body can sustain if too much exercise is done.

Furthermore, when exercise becomes an obsession, it can lead to a loss of appetite, because of which exercise addicts may develop further side effects like loss of bone density, excessive weight loss and cardiac conditions. It may also lead to a weakened immune system and changes in hormone levels. On the psychological front also, obsessive exercising can lead to sleep disorder, which is one of the root causes of problems like depression, stress, excessive fatigue, irritability and lack of concentration.

I believe that while exercise is essential, it should be done depending on people's age, metabolism, any medical condition or injury people are suffering. Ideally people should follow a training schedule provided by a professional trainer and a diet recommended by a nutritionist or a dietician. After any exercise, there should be proper rest time given to the body. If the body doesn't get that rest, it can lead to injuries.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that excessive exercising in any age group is not advantageous. It should be done within limits and under proper guidance to reap the maximum benefit for our body and mind.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantage of exercise but disadvantage of excess exercise

Para 2: Disadvantage of too much exercise

Para 3: negative effect

Conclusion

167. Fast food is becoming a part of people's daily life everywhere, and this has had negative effects on people and societies. Do you agree with this statement?

In this era of technology and globalization, all spheres of life have changed dramatically and food is no exception. I agree that international fast foods and restaurants have become part of life, and this has had a detrimental effect on our lifestyles and diet. A number of arguments support my opinion.

There are a lot of detrimental effects of fast foods. Firstly, because of the easy availability and affordability, people do not feel the need to prepare and eat traditional home cooked food. Because of this the art of home cooking is suffering a lot. Secondly, family bonds and relationships are getting fragile. For example, in earlier times all family members used to sit together and eat, and over the dining table they shared their happenings of the day. These fast foods are generally eaten alone because they don't appeal to the palate of the older family members.

Furthermore, this has had a harmful effect on people's health. Fast foods are rich in fats and salts which are not good for health. Therefore, people are affected by health hazards like obesity and other diseases. Obesity is the root cause of many other diseases. An obese person is more likely to suffer from diseases like hypertension, diabetes and arthritis.

There are tangible consequences on society too. As people get inclined towards fast food and restaurants, local culture dies out. It is because traditional food is inextricably linked with culture. Undoubtedly, the identity of the society and nation will disappear. It will be monopolized by western societies. Also, if people are not healthy, the productivity of the nation will come to a standstill. Last but not least, fast foods promote use-and-throw culture which adds to the problem of garbage dumps, contamination, pollution and eventually many diseases.

To conclude, international fast foods have carved their niche and traditional food has taken the backseat. Certainly, this has had an adverse effect on our lifestyles and the society as a whole.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Effects

Para 2: effect on people's health – obesity

Para 3: effects on society

Conclusion:

168. International sporting events could contribute greatly to peace and stability in the world. Do you agree or disagree? Support your opinion with relevant examples.

I agree with the given statement that International sports events could contribute to peace and stability in the world. This essay intends to provide arguments to support the role of sports in international peace.

My first argument is that sports can certainly unite people across the world. The Olympics are one of the best examples of how sporting events can bring people of different nations together. In ancient times, the Greeks and Romans would interrupt battles to participate in games. Sports provide people of all age groups and cultures with entertainment and something to get excited about and these games are topics for conversation. They provide a common bond for complete strangers and a common team to cheer for.

Another important contribution of sports is that it can bring about social change. Through role models, sports can reach out to youth. Adding an educational message to sports or sporting events can raise awareness on societal issues, such as HIV/AIDS. Sports can reach a much larger audience than any other event. No wonder, many representatives from the world of sport, such as from International Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees have joined hands to use sport as an effective tool for development and peace.

Opponents of the view claim that sports can also bring out some of the more troubling sides of human beings, such as intolerance, corruption, mindsets that seek to win at any cost. They cite many examples of violence and conflicts, which such games have brought about. Football hooliganism or football violence is well known to all. That is why some people hold the opinion that such games divide people. However, I still believe that in general sports promote peace and development in the world.

To conclude, international sporting events generally bring people together and promote peace and harmony in the world. There are a few instances when over-patriotism prevailed and people got divided, but such incidents are very rare.

Plan followed:

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Reason

Para 2: Another reason

Para 3: Opponents view with refutation

Conclusion:

169. Some sports are extremely dangerous but many people still like them very much. Why do people take part in dangerous sports? Give some suggestions on how to deal with these dangers.

In recent years we have seen a considerable rise in dangerous or extreme sports. This essay shall discuss some of the main reasons why people engage in such sports, and suggest ways in which some risks involved in such sports can be reduced.

The main reason why people go for dangerous sports is that they get a thrill out of them. They like taking risks. They like to challenge their abilities and potentials. They feel a sense of satisfaction when they come face to face with fears while bungee jumping, rock climbing and so on. In addition, going through a dangerous experience gives them courage and confidence to face the hurdles of their daily life.

Another reason for pursuing such sports is that there is a lot of fame and money involved in them. People get attention by doing stunts on motorcycles and jumping from tall buildings. They make headlines in newspapers and TV News Channels. They feel great when their name comes in the Guinness Book of World Records. Once they get famous they get a lot of money also. For instance, many businesses hire them to endorse their products. They also get jobs on the basis of such skills.

Many steps can be taken to reduce the risks that are involved. Firstly, these sports should be done under strict supervision. All safety precautions should be taken. Such sports should be performed after sufficient training and under supervision of professionals. Sport companies which cater to such sports should require a license for providing such training. Some people suggest banning such sports. However, I do not believe that banning is a good solution. It is well known that forbidden fruits taste sweeter and people will indulge in such sports surreptitiously which would increase the risks involved.

To conclude, people engage in such sports for fun, for money and for fame. However, such sports should be performed after sufficient training from licensed companies and under professional supervision to minimise the risks.

Plan followed

Intro: Address the question appropriately.

Para 1: Why people take part in dangerous sports

Para 2: Another reason

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:

170. Some people think government should ban dangerous sports, such as skydiving and rock climbing. Do you agree or disagree?

In recent years we have seen a considerable rise in dangerous or extreme sports. Although I do not support an outright ban on such sports, I do feel that the government should regulate such sports, so that they are played under supervision, which will minimize the risks.

Those who maintain that the government should ban dangerous sports activities argue that these sports can be highly dangerous and sometimes fatal. More than that, it is not just the participants who are at risk, but spectators too can be seriously injured. If, for example, a Formula 1 car crashes, a bouncing tire or debris may fly into the crowd. They say that a government should ban citizens from taking risks endangering themselves, whether deliberately or unintentionally.

However, banning such sports is not the answer. Instead, the government should ensure that the companies or centres, which provide the facilities for such sports should meet the required, legal safety standards. Another argument against banning is that then people would play these sports in hiding, and then they would be even more at risk. After all it is well known that forbidden fruits taste sweeter.

A further point is that in statistical terms there is a low probability of injury in many so-called dangerous sports, and people are at greater risk carrying out everyday activities such as crossing the road or cooking a meal. What is more, those sportsmen who excel in such sports bring name and fame to their country. They break records set by others, and when they do so, the name of their country shines in the whole world. I also believe that people should be allowed to go for whatever risk they choose. Not infringing on citizens' freedom should be regarded as a standard government policy.

To sum up, it can be said that such sports should be performed after sufficient training and under supervision of experts. Companies in this business should require a license for providing such training. To lay a prohibition on such sports is not the answer.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Arguments for banning

Para 2: Arguments against banning

Para 3: Arguments against banning

Conclusion: should not be banned but regulated

171. Holding International games such as the Olympic Games is an exciting event. Some people think it has positive effects while others argue it is a waste of money. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

People are divided on the issue of hosting Olympic Games and other such international sports events. Some individuals opine that it is advantageous to host such events, whereas others believe that this could be detrimental for the host country. This essay shall look into both arguments. I, personally side with the former view.

There are many reasons why some people are in favour of hosting international sports events. To begin with, such events boost the economy. For example, during the Olympics, many athletes, spectators, officials, sponsors and broadcasters come to the host country and spend money on hotels and restaurants. The country also earns by selling tickets and souvenirs. Additionally, many people get employment because there are many new jobs in construction projects of stadia and hotels and also in advertising related to such events.

On the other hand, those who are opposed to hosting such events, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, the development of that part of the country is at the expense of other parts. This is because the government of the host country usually prioritizes the allocation of its resources to the development of infrastructure related to the event. Secondly, there is the Olympic drain associated with such events. In other words, the tourism in the neighbouring area suffers, as all visitors are attracted towards the host city. Finally, when many people get together at the same place, there are chances of petty crime.

I believe it is good to host such events because the host country gets recognition in the whole world. It is also an opportunity for the host country and its people to know about the culture of other countries. Finally, the infrastructure of the host country develops at an accelerated pace. For example, when New Delhi hosted the Commonwealth Games, many flyovers and stadia were built which are now being enjoyed by the local people of Delhi.

To sum up, Looking at both arguments it is clear that there are both – advantages as well as disadvantages of hosting such events, but on the whole the pros far outweigh the cons.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: - advantages

Para 2: advantage

Para 3: disadvantages

Conclusion: pros outweigh cons

172. Do you agree or disagree that improvements in technology reduce the role of Olympic Games.

Olympic Games are the world's most important international athletic competition. Although technology is having an impact on the Olympics in a profound way, I disagree that it is reducing the role of Olympic Games. I believe that technology allows people to appreciate and enjoy these games even better.

Although technology has brought many changes in the Olympic Games of today, it has not eroded the importance of the Olympic Games. Technology plays a part in every aspect of these games, from the first torch relay hand-off to the closing ceremonies. Athletes and trainers use technology in preparing for the games to optimize their training. Sports equipment manufacturers use design technology to build improved apparatus, gear and more that will enable their clients to deliver a high level of performance.

Furthermore, broadcasters use technology to better inform viewers of all aspects of the events. As a consequence, more and more people are exposed to these games. Thousands of the finest athletes compete against one another in a variety of individual and team sports. Winning an Olympic event is the highest honour an athlete can achieve even in the modern times. Unknown athletes get the chance to attain national, and international fame. In addition, Olympic Games are the best medium of culture exchange even today. People of different countries, religions, cultures etc. get together at Olympics and the participants get a chance to know about other cultures. All these aspects are facilitated through technology.

People who opine that technology has reduced the role of Olympic Games, say so because the ugly claws of commercialism have crept into this field also. As a result, the Olympics have shifted away from pure amateurism to professionalism. A win-at-all-cost attitude has emerged and many participants use unethical means to win. I still believe that these negative things can also be exposed better through technology.

To sum up, technology has brought colossal changes in the Olympic Games of today, but in no way have they decreased the role of Olympic Games.

Plan followed:

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Role of Olympics

Para 2: How technology has increased effect of Olympics

Para 3: Why people say that technology has decreased the role of Olympics

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

173. Nowadays football supporters behave violently. What is the cause? How can we solve it?

Football hooliganism is not a new phenomenon. It dates back to 14th century England, when this sport was banned by the king of that time. In the modern form of football, such violence has also been reported many times. This essay intends to analyse the causes of this phenomenon, and suggest ways to mitigate the problem.

The main reason of violence by football supporters is that football is a competitive, physical sport, which is played by and attracts an audience, which is youthful and aggressive. The supporters of the teams form gangs, and these gangs want to assert themselves over their rivals. They have strong emotional ties with their teams. The Heysel stadium disaster is an example of such hooliganism, in which Liverpool supporters and Juventus supporters had a fight, because of which a wall collapsed and there were 39 casualties.

Secondly, the influence of alcohol is there on football violence. There were clear evidences that most of those involved in football hooliganism were drunk. Finally, the media is also considered a culprit in contributing to football violence. Studies have suggested that the language of war and combat employed by the media in covering football, incited the young supporters to indulge in violence. For instance, the Daily Mirror's headlines "Achtung! Surrender" before the match between England and Germany in 1996, was very provocative for the young supporters.

Many solutions have been proposed and tried, which has resulted in a significant decrease in football hooliganism. Such measures should be implemented more stringently to completely eradicate the menace of such violence. First of all, sophisticated policing measures should be employed. Spotting and barring the identified hooligans to attend further matches would be very helpful. Alcohol consumption during the matches should be banned. Finally, the media should be wise enough to play its role in such a way that it does not give air to hooliganism.

To sum up, football violence is a problem, but many effective steps can be taken to address the issue and prevent further mishaps.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: reason

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion

174. Many people think that the behavior of professional sportsmen/sportswomen on or off the field is not important as long as they are good players. To what extent do you agree or disagree with it?

I disagree that the conduct of professional sportspersons on and off the field is not significant. I believe our sportsmen are role models for the people, especially the youth, and therefore their behaviour, both on and off the field, should be very good.

The behaviour of professional players is important on the field because people follow these sportsmen as their role models. Qualities such as teamwork, motivation, and dedication can all be easily spotted on the field, and are a positive influence. Sportsmen have good physique, which can also promote staying in good physical condition. However, if sportsmen get carried away during a game and become rude and disrespectful towards coaches and other players, then it sets a bad example for their fans.

Similarly, there are also many qualities off the playing field that can be viewed as positive influence for people. Some professional sportsmen do a lot for charities to help raise money for children suffering from cancer or other diseases. These gestures motivate their fans also to contribute for the cause. However, if their behaviour off the field is not good, they can set negative examples. There are problems off of the field such as drugs and gambling that have a negative impact on the youth.

I believe that just as the good behaviour of sportsmen can be mimicked by children, the bad conduct can be mimicked too. Furthermore, these sportspersons are ambassadors of their respective countries and people of any particular country are judged by the behaviour of their sportspersons. When they win matches, they raise their nation in the eyes of the world. When they cheat to win, they lower the name of their nation. Finally, their bad behaviour affects their own career. For instance, when Harbhajan Singh, a famous cricketer slapped another player Shrisanth on the field, he was barred from playing for some time.

To conclude, sportsmen can set an example wherever they are, whether on the playing field in front of thousands of people or off the playing field doing their own thing. So, their behaviour on and off the field is very significant.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree. Their behaviour both on and off the field is very important

Para 1: They are role models.

Para 2: Their bad behaviour has negative impact

IELTS GT Essays From The Past Exams | Dr. Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar

Para 3: They are ambassadors of their respective nations.

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

175. Some people think competitive sport is important for a child's education. Others think it has negative effects on children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

In recent years, due to stiff competition in almost every area, some people opine that competitive sports have a beneficial impact on children's education. However, there are some who disagree with the above notion. In this essay, I intend to explore both perspectives. I, personally am in favour of the former view.

There are many reasons why some people say that it is advantageous for children to take part in competitive sports. The first and foremost advantage is that such sports prepare children for a society that thrives on competition. Competition is a normal part of human nature and a part of everyday life. Secondly, competitive sports provide challenges and help children deal with such challenges. Finally, these games teach discipline and help build character and confidence.

On the other hand opponents of competitive sports argue that these sports lead to stress which is detrimental to the mental health of children. If these games are played with a win-at-all-cost attitude then sometimes unethical means are adopted to win and this is definitely not what children should learn in schools. Competitive sports also have a toxic effect on the relationship among children. Each child may regard others as a rival to his own success and it may also lead children to envy winners and laugh at losers.

In my opinion, competitive sports are good but over competitiveness should be discouraged. The win-at-all-cost mentality should not be there as it leads to stress. However, this kind of stress is faced by children every day at schools, and competing in sports only helps them become more confident and tough enough to face the challenges they face in their personal and professional lives.

To conclude, competitive sports have more pros than cons. Students should play competitive sports because they make them adapt better to this competitive society. However, schools should take effective measures to avoid destructive competition.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss intro

Para 1: One view

Para 2: Other view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

176. In some countries, people are purchasing fewer new items and more second-hand goods. What are the reasons for this? Is this a positive or a negative trend?

The used goods market is gaining popularity, and this can be seen through the mushrooming growth of offline and online used goods stores. This essay intends to analyse the reasons of this growing trend. I believe this is largely a positive trend, although there are a few negatives as well.

There are myriad reasons for shopping for second hand goods. Firstly, it saves money. Buying anything used is less expensive than the new alternative, sometimes up to 90% cheaper, but generally at least 50% cheaper. Secondly, people have come to realise that buying a used branded product, which speaks quality, is better than buying a new one of inferior quality. There are many things available in the market, which are no longer of use to the first owner, but are still in good shape and can serve the needs of many others. For example, unique designer clothing can become available to a vast majority when it comes in thrift stores.

Shopping for second-hand goods is a very positive trend, especially for the environment. Buying used goods diminishes waste, as it gives a longer life to common household items. There is also less pollution as it cuts down on manufacturing demands. Another big positive effect of this trend of using second hand goods is to the seller. If a person feels that he doesn't need a thing anymore, he can sell it rather than just throw it away and buy something else instead.

The major negative effect of using second hand things is that these don't carry any warranty or guarantee. Secondly, a very careful inspection is required, which may not be possible at times. For example, a used mattress or furniture may have bugs. Despite these cons, I still believe that the benefits of this growing trend of resale shopping outweigh the negatives.

To summarise, there are many reasons for the growing popularity of resale shopping, but definitely the merits outweigh the demerit.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: Positive effects

Para 3: Negative effects with refutation

Conclusion:

177. In many countries around the world, shopping has turned into a form of entertainment rather than a way of getting what people need. Discuss the reasons for this trend. Is it a positive or a negative development?

Shopping is generally thought of in terms of fulfilling needs. However, to increase footfall and boost sales, the retail industry has integrated entertainment in it. Therefore, shopping has become an amusement, as much as anything else. In this essay, I shall discuss the reasons of this trend. This can be seen as both – a positive as well as a negative development, but the positive aspects are more.

The main reason why shopping is turning into a fun activity, is that as online sales have increased, the malls that don't use entertainment are striving more and more to survive competition. The increased number of restaurants and cafes can improve the mood and induce the shopper's buying behaviour. The longer people stay in the building, the more potential customers these outlets can entice with their product range.

On the positive side, consumers get to do multitasking, which means they combine entertainment with shopping. This is very important as people are suffering from lack of time in this highly competitive era. Furthermore, this trend has given employment to many. For instance, people are working in the food and entertainment outlets in addition to the retail outlets. Finally, the best way to cope with stress or any kind of strong and negative emotion is to hit the malls and do retail therapy and boost it up with other ways of entertainment too.

On the negative side, when shopping malls include entertainment to lure customers, the small shopkeeper suffers. Now he not only has to compete with online shops, he also has to compete with these malls. Secondly, the attractive discounts they offer makes people pile up things in the home which they don't even need. It also leads to a use-and-throw society which is detrimental to the environment.

To conclude, there are many reasons why shopping has turned into entertainment, and overall it is a positive development.

Plan followed

Intro: This can be seen as both – a positive as well as a negative development.

Para 1: Reasons.

Para 2: Positives

Para 3: On the negative side,

Conclusion:

Similar essay - In many places shopping is becoming a free-time activity, replacing the traditional hobbies of the past. Discuss the reasons for this development. Is this development positive or negative?

178. Some shops are open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Do you think it is a good thing for the customers, shop staff and company as a whole?

Today, we belong to a 24/7 society, and even shops are open round-the-clock. This could be very beneficial because it adds to productivity. Definitely, it is advantageous for the customers, staff and the company as a whole.

Customers are benefited in numerous ways by these 24/7 shops. Firstly, these shops offer flexible shopping times as people are working day and night in today's globalised world. Moreover, 24-hour stores also benefit those with more urgent needs, such as patients released from hospitals during the night in need of pain medication, and parents whose sick child needs a prescription. These allow parents to shop after children go to bed and this doesn't interrupt crucial time with children. Finally, such stores are a boon for those who do not like to shop during the day because it is too busy and overcrowded.

The 24 hour supermarkets have benefited job seekers too. Plenty of jobs have been created and there are more choices for people to apply for evening work as there are vacancies for late evenings and early mornings. The option of night shifts are possible for those who have commitments during the day, such as students. Moreover, the pay for evening work can sometimes be more than that during the day. Additionally, there are staff discounts on the goods sold within such shops as well as other company benefits which is why working in such supermarkets is very popular among many job seekers.

The companies themselves also gain from opening the stores for 24 hours because it enables them to get more business as shoppers are welcome to shop and purchase whenever they want and whatever they want. They will also be able to take on staff specifically for stacking and filling shelves because during the day there will be too many customers around to be able to fill the shelves properly. 24 hour supermarkets also enable deliveries for any time of day and night without the need of worrying about late deliveries due to the store having to close.

In conclusion, it can be said that 24-hour-shops are a boon for the customers, staff and the companies as a whole.

Plan followed

Intro: It is a positive development for all

Para 1: Advantages for customers

Para 2: Advantages for staff - More jobs

Para 3: Advantages to companies

Conclusion: Repeat views of intro.

179. Many people are doing their shopping on the Internet nowadays. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of shopping online.

Today with the internet so readily accessible to us, more and more people are turning to online shopping for all their needs. This essay shall look into the pros and cons of online shopping.

There are several advantages of shopping online. The first is that a person can shop anytime, and not just when the shops are open. The second advantage of shopping online is that goods are often cheaper as the seller does not have the costs of running a shop. Moreover, one does not have to go out in adverse weather conditions. In addition one can compare products and read reviews on different websites. Finally a person is able to find and buy products from all over the world, as many sites offer imported products also.

The main disadvantage of shopping online is that shipping costs have to be paid, and the buyer has to wait for the items to be shipped and delivered. This could take several weeks if he has purchased a product from overseas, and the costs of shipping may outweigh any savings he made on the purchase price. Online shopping is also not a good idea if the product is needed very soon.

Another disadvantage is that one cannot feel or see the item and the order has to be placed by relying on the photograph and description. It can sometimes be quite hard to judge the size or quality of some items purely from a photograph. The final disadvantage of shopping online is that it is much harder and takes longer to return faulty goods. The person has to repack it and pay to ship it back to the seller. It can literally take weeks to exchange a faulty product purchased online.

In summary, there are many advantages and disadvantages of shopping online. The main benefit is of convenience and cost savings, while the main disadvantage is that the item is not immediately available.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: advantages

Para 2: disadvantages

Para 3: more disadvantages

Conclusion:

180. Some people believe that it is better to get advice from old people compared to young people. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and include relevant examples.

It is generally considered that old people can impart better advice than young people. Although I believe old people's advice should be taken, it would be wrong to consider that they can provide better suggestions than the young.

There are many reasons why it would be wrong to consider that old people can give better guidance than the young. Firstly, the world has changed and the values of the past may not help the youth survive in the tough competitive era of today. For example, today's era is the era of technology and many things which were not possible earlier are possible today because of technology, such as online education, telemedicine etcetera. Old people cannot envision the use of technology to address problems as they are not comfortable with it as much as the young and hence their advice may not be that applicable today.

The second area is the attitude towards women. Many old people's idea about gender roles and behavior are not acceptable today. Thus, approaching them for advice about relationships might actually prove counterproductive. To cite an example, many Indian elders see nothing wrong with dowry and actually think it's a man's right even though it is demeaning to women and against the law.

However, I also believe that people should not completely disregard the advice of old people. Old people by the virtue of their experience and maturity can still provide valuable advice. Although their ideas may not directly apply in today's time, they might indirectly. Moreover, I think they bring a certain calm to discussion and may prevent youth from taking hasty decisions.

In conclusion, it would be wrong to say that old people can give better guidance than youngsters, but at the same time they should still be consulted.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: Some concession to the elderly

Conclusion:

Written by: Indroop Singh

181. Many people think that every individual is responsible for his/her happiness, but some people believe there are other external factors that influence us. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is considered by some that happiness depends upon the individual person, while others believe that happiness depends upon external influences. In this essay, both perspectives will be discussed. While I believe that happiness does largely depend on the person's frame of mind, it would be wrong to completely disregard outside factors.

Those who believe that happiness is the responsibility of the person, cite the following reasons. Firstly, happiness is about a person's frame of mind. If one is able to keep a positive frame of mind even in tough situations, there is nothing that can prevent a person from being happy and joyful. It's all about focusing on the positives in life, rather than despairing over the negatives. Moreover, happiness can be brought about by good actions. If a person does good deeds, they will bring him or her self-satisfaction and in turn happiness. Nothing brings more sadness than when we ourselves do something wrong.

On the other hand, the main reason why some consider that happiness is about external factors is that today, most people are materialistic. There is nothing that brings people more joy than owning a costly car or living in a big mansion or going to a foreign country for a holiday. If a person is born to rich parents, there are much more chances that he or she can enjoy such luxuries and be happy. A life of poverty is a life of struggle and sadness. There is no bigger lie than the statement that money doesn't bring happiness.

I believe that human mind is very strong, and it is capable of staying positive even in the worst of times. Thus, to a large extent, people's happiness is in their own hands. However, there are external situations which do make it very difficult for people to remain happy. For example, the recent coronavirus outbreak led to protests against lockdowns even amongst the most rich and privileged nations of the world.

To conclude, I believe that happiness is largely dependent upon one's own actions and frame of mind, but external influences cannot be completely ignored.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: First view

Para 2: Second view

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

Written by: Indroop Singh

182. Ordinary people copy famous people whom they see on TV and magazines. Why do they do so? Do you think it is a positive development?

Celebrities are highly profiled in the media, and so common people generally tend to follow them. In this essay, I shall discuss the reasons of this development. While there are a few positive effects of this, the negative effects are much more.

The main reason why people idolise celebs is that it is a basic human desire to follow anything that seems glamorous, fascinating or powerful. Most people have a desire to be famous, and following celebs makes them feel associated with them. Subconsciously, people want to be like them. They want to know what they eat, where they go and what they wear, so that they can do some of the things they do.

The major negative aspect of this development is the body dissatisfaction young people get. For example, if their favourite celeb has 6 pack abs, they also try to achieve such a body, and so they consume a lot of unhealthy supplements. Some girls even stop eating altogether to get the size zero figure of their role model. In addition, if these celebs drink or smoke in public, the common people think it is a sort of status symbol and do the same. As a result, petty crime incidences are often seen.

On the positive side, these celebs sometimes motivate people to do good things, and not let any setbacks in their life lead them to go into depression. The encouragement given by celebrities can help them overcome such situations and achieve success as well as help others. For example, a famous Indian celeb Deepika Padukone told people how she fought with her depression in a YouTube interview. Many people were really motivated by it and learnt ways to come out of their depression.

To sum up, it is true that people tend to copy famous people who are glamourized by the media. I firmly believe that it is a more negative than a positive development. People should not follow these celebs blindly. They should be realistic and follow only the good aspects of these celebs.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: negative effect

Para 2: more negative effect

Para 3: positive effect

Conclusion

183. Some people believe that teenagers should always follow the examples of older people, whereas some believe it is natural in teenagers to challenge what old people say. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some individuals hold the opinion that teenagers should follow the advice of their parents, whereas others assert that it is acceptable if children want their own voice heard and question what their elders say. In this essay I shall discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

Those who say that teenagers should follow the advice of their elders without questioning, give their reasons as follows. Firstly, they say that elders have a lot more experience than their teenaged children. They have faced similar problems, so know what would be the right thing to do. Moreover, the elders know the temperament of their children, and so can advise them very well in the crucial decisions of their life.

On the other hand, there are many reasons given by those who think that teens should not be forced to do what their elders say, and should have the right to challenge them. Firstly, the teens of today have more knowledge about their lives, needs and concerns, as they belong to a global village. They know what is happening even in the remotest corners of the planet Earth. They want to explore new things and opportunities, and want to walk on the untrodden path. But, the elderly force their decisions on them, which stifles their personality.

I believe that teens should be heard and their views given enough weightage. If parents think that their children are on the wrong path, then they should talk their children out of that, and not just force them to stop doing something. If parents learn to see the perspective of their teenaged children and advise accordingly, they will get respect from their children. Otherwise, they may see their teens turn into rebels.

To sum up, teenagers should have the right to challenge what their elders say, and should not blindly follow their elders. At the same time, the elders too have to see that they treat their teenaged children like friends and not force their ideas on them.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: 1st side view

Para 2: 2nd side

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

184. Many parents are unhappy with the amount of violence in video games, TV programs and other such leisure activities. How harmful could this be to children? What could be done to solve this problem?

In recent years, a lot of parents have raised their voice against the amount of violence being portrayed on the TV, electronic games and even other leisure activities. I believe that this can have considerable detrimental impact on children. However, various measures can be implemented to curtail their effect.

The main adverse effect this violence has on the children is that it makes them physically aggressive in real life as well. The children are more likely to have aggressive thoughts and feelings and sometimes act out on them as well. Secondly, it makes violence in general more acceptable to them. In other words, children start to consider things like gun violence, murders and even mass shootings as ordinary day occurrences.

Furthermore, studies have shown that violence makes children more prone to be disobedient to their parents and teachers as well. It makes these TV shows and games more addicting and as a result, children see parental moderation as an infringement of their rights. In extreme cases, children have also tried to harm their parents.

Both the authorities and the parents can take certain steps to address this. On the government level, there should be strict regulation on the amount of violence being shown in TV shows or being present in video games. There should be strict age ratings and content warning so that parents can make an informed choice while allowing their children to play games or watch TV shows. On the parental level, before buying a game or letting children watch a TV show, parents must first check the rating, the age limit, and any content warnings. Also, parents should try to limit the time children spend on playing video games and watching TV as most of the adverse effects manifest only when children become addicted to such games.

In conclusion, the excessive violence in TV shows and video games can have a considerable negative influence on children and thus parents and government need to be proactive and try to curtail these negative consequences.

Plan followed:

Intro: Problem solution essay intro

Para 1: Effect

Para 2: More effects

Para 3: Solutions

Written by: Indroop Singh

185. Some people become famous at a very young age. Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?

The reality shows of today have developed an insatiable lust for fame, especially among the talented young people. I believe that most child stars cannot cope with this fame and are affected by the negative side of fame.

The main disadvantage of becoming a child star is that the money which comes with this fame makes him/her the family's chief bread-winner. Some pushy parents may exploit this and make the child even miss school to earn more and more. They may also invest a huge amount of time and money on their child, and this risky sacrifice pressurizes the child even more.

Another big disadvantage is that child celebs get addicted to fame, and when this fame withers away, they go into unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Some may even resort to drugs or alcohol if their celebrity status is short lived. They have fear to re-adjust with non-stardom. To cite an example, Amanda Bynes, a Nickelodeon star, is undergoing treatment by a psychiatrist for her troubling behavior. Very few child stars have a smooth transition from being a child celeb to an adult celeb.

Finally, child celebs do not enjoy normal childhood. They are not allowed to mix with other children and in a way their childhood is stolen. They have no privacy and are always surrounded by paparazzi. They also have to cope with jealousy from their peers, siblings and from older artists. They may go into depression or have anxiety attacks. They may become overly self-important and arrogant. They do not have true friends and lead lonely lives.

To sum up, the bright lights, fame and fortune of child stardom come at a high price for young blood.

Plan followed

Intro: It is bad

Para 1: Reason 1

Para 2: reason 2

Para 3: Reason 3

Conclusion

186. It is better for children if the whole families (e.g. aunts, uncles and grandparents) are involved in the children's upbringing, rather than their fathers and mothers only. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (Agree)

Because of the rising trend of nuclear families and its negative effect on today's children it is believed that children should be raised in joint families in which aunts, uncles and grandparents contribute in bringing up children. I agree that a joint family is better in raising children. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The major advantage of a joint family is that the child's upbringing becomes very easy as there are so many people to look after the child. So the young parents can be totally focused on their career or work without the tension of their child. They have no need to worry about feeding, bathing or even helping the child with his/her homework. A joint family is also a huge relief especially in times of sickness of the child.

Secondly, a joint family teaches adjusting and flexibility, as children live with various people of different natures. So, they understand the dynamics of human psychology. In the long run, it becomes easy to understand people and their emotions. This can go a long way in life when such children marry or when they have to live an independent life in a totally new or different environment. By contrast, children brought up in a nuclear family do not learn sharing and caring and so find it difficult to cooperate and adjust later on in life.

Finally, parents do not have to deal with attention-related problems which are usually seen in children brought up in nuclear families. In such cases the child, finding both parents absent and no one else from the family, usually resorts to attention seeking behavior. Such behavior can make the child sad, insolent, and reclusive among other things.

To sum up, in a joint family a child is reared by a number of people, thus dividing work and saving time. The child also learns adjusting, & selflessness. For working parents, it's a blessing to have reliable, trustworthy caretakers for their child. Therefore it is better to raise a child in a joint family.

Plan followed:

Intro: Agree

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: Second reason

Para 3: Third reason

Conclusion: Reiterate your point

187. It is better for children if the whole families (e.g. aunts, uncles and grandparents) are involved in the children's upbringing, rather than their fathers and mothers only. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (disagree)

Because of the rising trend of nuclear families and its negative effect on today's children it is believed that children should be raised in joint families in which aunts, uncles and grandparents contribute in bringing up children. However, I disagree that a joint family is better in raising children. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, in a nuclear family, parents can bring up their children with their own set of values and principles, without any "interference". This can be easily established in a nuclear family as the child is not confused with varying opinions of different people living together in a joint family. For instance, if a person's values are not that traditional, and he wants his child to be more broad-minded, he may not be able to do so in a joint family, if his independent values don't match with that of the majority.

Secondly, nuclear families make the child more self-reliant and decisive as the child does not have a large number of family members to help in making decisions and taking actions. This independence can come in handy, as the child grows into an adult and has to make many decisions himself/herself. So, there is more space for individuality and self-expression in a nuclear family set-up.

Finally, communication channels between the child and parent can also be more open and transparent, in a nuclear family. Parents have their attention focused on their child, and do not have to divide their time with too many household responsibilities as there are many other older members of the household needing their time in a joint family.

To sum up, it is better to raise a child in a nuclear family as the child is reared by the parents alone. Therefore, they can instill whatever values they want in their child. The child is also more independent and has better relations with parents.

Plan followed:

Intro: Disagree.

Para1: First reason

Para 2: Second reason

Para 3: Final reason

Conclusion: Reiterate your point

188. Some people believe that technology such as mobile phones has destroyed social interaction. Do you agree or disagree?

Electronic devices, such as smart phones have become ubiquitous nowadays, and people are so engrossed in them that they are cut off from their surroundings. That is why some people hold the view that these gadgets have had an adverse effect on social interaction. However, I disagree with this notion. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

My first argument is that mobile phones have not destroyed social interaction, they have merely changed the way people interact with each other. Now people don't meet each other face to face, they are connected to each other through this marvel of technology. Various apps are there through which people are connected even with long lost friends, and not just those in their propinquity. For example, my aunt met her old college friend, with whom she had lost contact 20 years ago, on Facebook, and now they are constantly exchanging messages with each other.

Secondly, social interaction has enhanced a lot because of these cell phones. Today's youngsters have the largest social network that ever in the history of the mankind. People can make friends with others of similar interests anywhere in the world. For example, if a person is interested in knitting, he can find a group of people who love knitting and join that group and share patterns with each other.

Undoubtedly, face to face interaction has come down, but that is not because of these cell phones. It is the fast paced lifestyle, which is to blame for that. Over the last half century, people's lifestyles have changed beyond their wildest expectations, and so they have become workaholics. This is the main reason for the loss of the social interaction. The mobile phones only help the people stay interconnected in today's time.

To sum up, cell phones have not lessened social interaction, they have merely changed the way of interaction, and they have in many ways increased the social network of the people.

Plan followed:

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: Second reason

Para 3: Why social interaction has come down

Conclusion: