

BEN WORTHINGTON

# 240 IELTS

*Task 2 Questions and*

# 19 BAND 9

*Sample Essays*

**IELTS PODCAST**



## 240 IELTS TASK 2 QUESTIONS

### EDUCATION

Things like puzzles, board games and pictures can contribute to a child's development. What would you give a child to help him/her develop and why? Give details and examples in your explanation.

Do you think it is better for students to work before their university study? Why?

Use reasons and specific examples to support your choice.

Students perform better in school when they are rewarded rather than punished. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some people think that schools have to be more entertaining, while others think that their sole purpose is to educate. Which do you agree with?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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Mirza [redacted]@gmail.com>

BAND 7!!

(12 days ago) ☆



to Ben ▾

Dear Ben,

Your email and instruction helped me greatly.

i appeared for IE:LT exam on 29th July'17 and got my result on 11th Aug'17.

i secured in Speaking 7, Writing 7, Listening 8, Reading 9.

i am from Karachi, Pakistan.

to conclude, accordingly to me practice is the key to success. ones determination and confidence also plays a vital role in achieving the desired bands. It was my first attempt and i got what i want.

Regards

Mirza [redacted]



FIRST ATTEMPT!!

Nowadays computer education is compulsory for your learners in most schools. Do you think this is necessary or will children acquire these skills naturally from their daily interaction with technology everywhere?

Provide your opinion and use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people believe that children should do organised activities in their free time while others believe that children should be free to do what they want to do in their free time. Which viewpoint do you agree with?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people think that a person improves intellectual skills better when doing group activities. To what extent do you agree?

Use specific details and examples to explain your view.

Compared to the past, more people are now studying abroad because it is more convenient and cheaper than before. Do you think this is beneficial to the foreign student's home country?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some people think that children should be homeschooled when they are very young while others think it is better for them to attend a kindergarten. Which do you think is better?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Computers have become so advanced and interactive that students in the future will have no need for a human educator in the classroom. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Use reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.

In some countries, health care and education are only partially funded by the government. Some people argue that the government should be responsible for covering the full cost of these services. Do you support or oppose the opinion?

Explain your position.

Some students do very well at school and never have problems while others fall behind. Are they capable of handling this challenge themselves or should teachers and parents help them?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Doing an enjoyable activity with a child can develop better skills and imagination than reading. To what extent do you agree?

Use reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.

University students nowadays have too much freedom and do not study enough. To what extent do you agree and disagree?

Explain your opinion, using specific reasons and examples.

The internet has become so efficient and popular that many people rely on it for learning. Some suggest that it could replace the use of books as the main source of knowledge for education. Do you support or oppose the opinion?

Explain your position.

What do you think is the best way to find a job: by gaining more knowledge and education or through more practical skills?

Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.

Do you think that education and training should be completely free or it is better to require fully paid tuition? Which way do you prefer?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Students should be completely free to choose whether to study or play games. They should be allowed to manage their own time. Do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some people think that real life skills like cooking, housekeeping and gardening should be included in the curriculum as compulsory subjects? Do you agree or disagree?

Explain your opinion, using specific reasons and details.

Childcare has always been of primary concern and importance. Do you think that courses designed to help mothers are necessary or can they acquire the essential knowledge through personal experience?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Gaming is argued to have a bad influence on young children but some people think that it could have a positive effect on them as well. Which view do you agree with?

Use reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.

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Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? If students were given the choice between 'not to study' and 'study most of the time', they would choose 'not to study'.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

School curriculum is selected by the central education authority rather than by the teachers, parents and students. Some believe that the latter should take part in the choice. Which viewpoint do you agree with?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In some countries, Physical Education is a compulsory subject for the leaving certificate. Some people suggest that this practice be abolished? Which view do you agree with?

Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.

Many universities have introduced tests for evaluation rather than the old written exams based upon lessons from books. What is your opinion?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people say that school education is not useful and the essence of study can be acquired at home. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Use reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.

Spending wisely and getting into the habit of saving from an early age is important. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Modern trends in early education focus on an array of school projects and on developing natural skills through games and similar activities. Which do you consider the better approach and why?

Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.

In recent years, online education is becoming more and more popular. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon?

Use specific details and examples to explain your opinion.

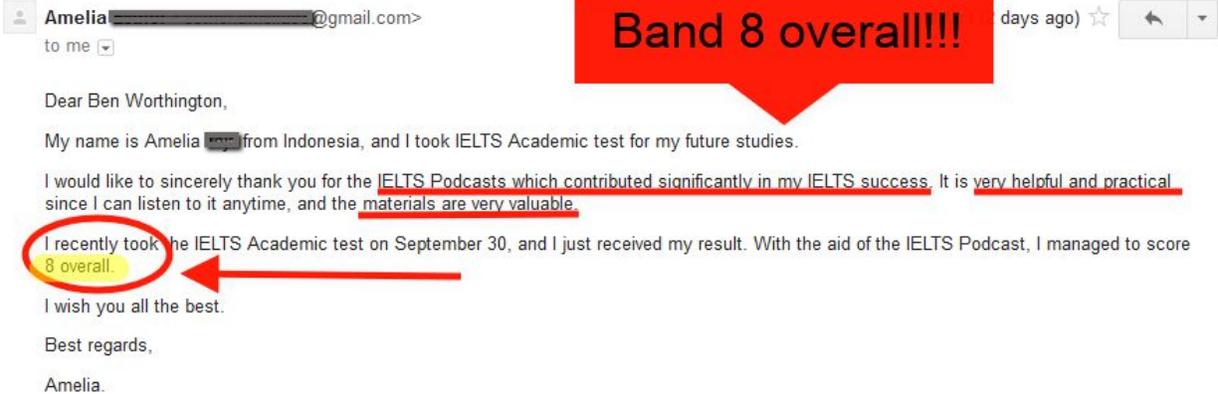
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Tuition for healthy children usually has top priority in most countries. However, teaching students with disabilities or mental issues is more difficult and even more important to support and develop. Which viewpoint do you agree with?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

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## GLOBALISATION

Some people believe that the most important aspect of their job is their salary. Others think that the job itself is the most important. What do you think is the most important aspect of a job?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

Many people say that globalization and the growing number of multinational companies have a negative effect on the environment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Why do you think social skills are now being emphasized by companies during the recruitment process?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In today's very competitive world, a worker has to possess multiple skills to succeed. Among the skills that a worker should possess, which skill do you think is more important, social skills or good qualifications?

Explain the reasons and provide specific examples to support your answer.

Do you think businesses should hire employees who will spend their entire lives working for the company?

Explain why do you agree or disagree. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Would you prefer to stay in one company or change companies at one point in your career life? What are the advantages and disadvantages for both scenarios?

Give specific details and examples to support your opinion.

Do you think that people who work online at home are more productive than office workers or the other way around?

Give reasons and examples to support your answer.

Many countries now face an economic downturn so it is better for each country to focus on its own problems rather than helping other countries. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

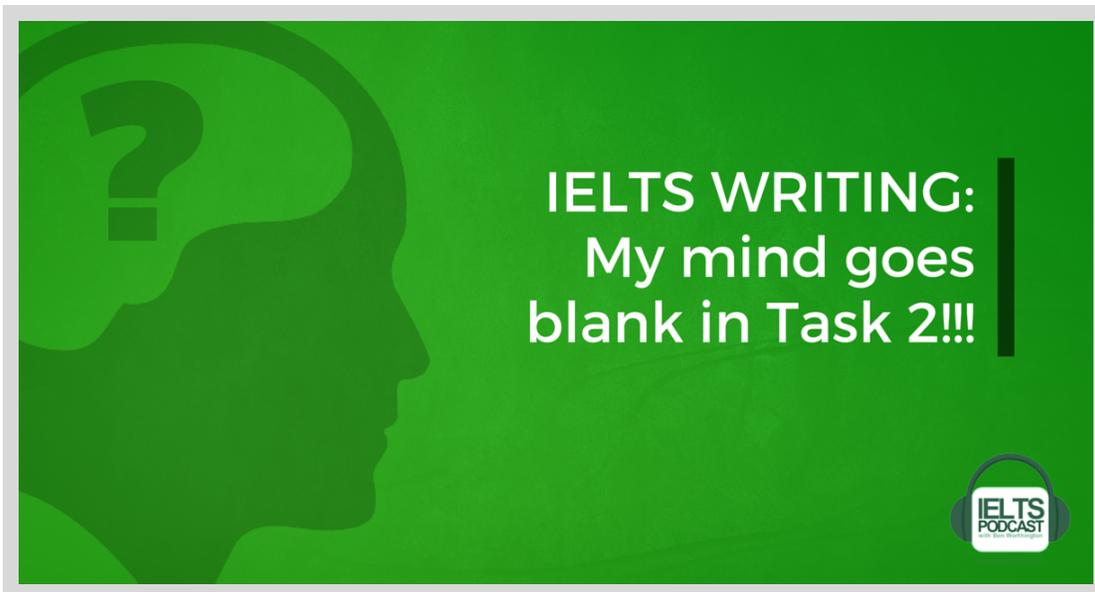
Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Every country should produce enough of everything that the country needs so it should not rely on imports. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

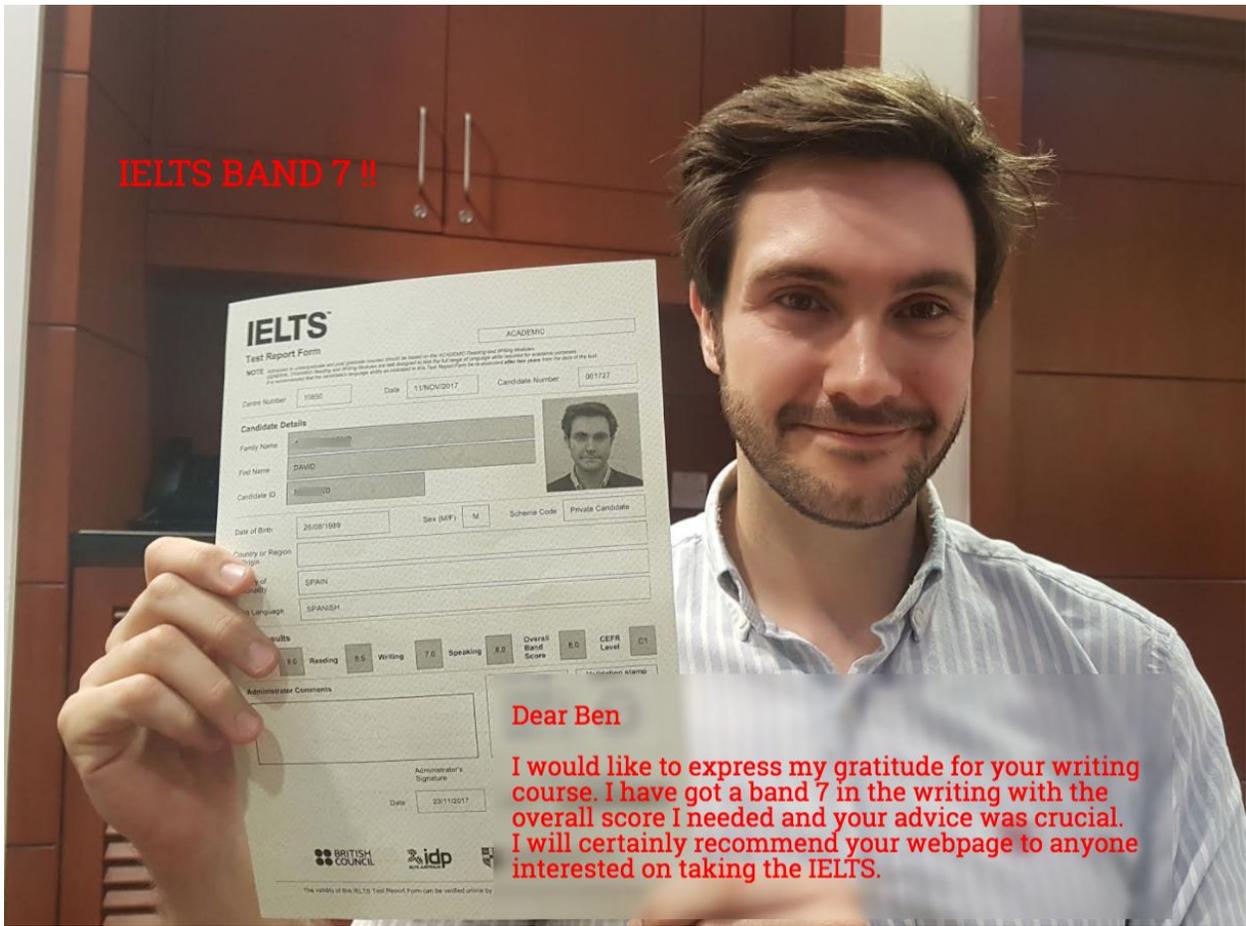
Some developed countries now have unemployment problems. Why do people still want to emigrate to these countries?

Give reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.



David [redacted] to me [dropdown]  
Dear Ben and, particularly, Andrew,  
I would like to express my gratitude for your writing course. I have got a band 7 in the writing with the overall score I needed and your advice was crucial. I will certainly recommend your webpage to anyone interested on taking the IELTS.

**BAND 7!!** (7 days ago) ☆ [dropdown]



# EQUALITY

Some people think women should be given equal chances to work and excel in their careers. Others believe that a women's role should be limited to taking care of the house and children. Which opinion do you agree with and why?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice

Parents want to achieve balance between family and career but only a few manage to achieve it. What do you think is the reason?

Discuss possible solutions and provide examples.

Nowadays both men and women spend much money on beauty care. This was not so in the past. What may be the root cause of this behaviour?

Discuss the reasons and possible results.

Some people give praise to famous scientists and mathematicians. Others think more highly of literary authors and artists than scientists or mathematicians. Which group of professionals do you regard more highly and why?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

Men and women can never share the same responsibilities at home and in everyday life. Do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Some people think that not only should professional sports and cultural enterprises be sponsored by the government but also that amateur adult and children groups should get funding. Do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Professionals like doctors, teachers and lawyers contribute equally to society with non-professionals including entertainers and sports people. Thus, they should receive equal pay. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

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# ENVIRONMENT

Environmental issues have always been an international problem because governments are not imposing harsh punishments against offenders. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Support your answer with specific reasons and examples.

Managing global environmental issues should be handled by one organization on a global scale. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Many agricultural lands are being converted into commercial centres. How does this affect the environment and the people's life style?

Discuss this situation and provide suggestions. Support your answer with specific reasons and examples.

Many efforts have been made by countries to address problems concerning the environment but, the situation has not improved. What are the possible reasons and results of this situation?

Discuss the situation and give suggestions. Provide reasons and examples to support your answer.

Nowadays, it is possible to move ocean creatures from their natural habitat at sea and have them relocated in amusement parks for the purpose of people's recreation. Do you think the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

Explain your reasons and support them with specific examples.

The government should close companies that produce toxic waste materials without their own waste treatment facility in order to protect the environment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Many believe that companies behind oil and gas production promote new boundless opportunities while others fear the results from their intrusion in nature.

Discuss possible reasons, results and solutions.

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Why do we need to prevent the extinction of some animals like dinosaurs and dodos if it is caused by natural processes? What is your opinion about this? People produce more garbage than in the past. Explain how it is affecting us and the measures that could be taken to address the situation. Provide specific examples and explanation to support your answer.

In modern times, some species of animals are slowly disappearing. Do you think that it is acceptable for species to become extinct? What are the possible reasons and consequences of this extinction? Provide reasons and examples to explain your opinion.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Protecting the Environment is the responsibility of the government. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Do you agree or disagree that the world was a better place decades ago than it is today? Why do you think so? Give specific details and examples to support your answer.

# TECHNOLOGY

Do you think that technological advancement has brought more harm than good?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

What technologies did you use to help you in your studies? Describe how it has helped you.

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

With the latest technological advancements, dating is now possible online. Would you recommend online dating for your single friends? What are the advantages and disadvantages of online dating?

Site some examples to support your answer.

All inventions and discoveries like the discovery of fire and electricity have impacts on our lives so much so that people can no longer live without them. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Traditional classrooms in the past held lectures with multiple participants. Now that technology makes it easier and faster for students to access information, the need for traditional classroom discussion is becoming less popular because the internet is a more effective method than the regular classroom. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What is your personal opinion?

Many big companies in the world are undergoing processes of modernization. What are the benefits and consequences of this modernization?

Explain the reasons and results of this change and provide specific examples.

Some people prefer to get the latest news through the internet or TV. Others still prefer to get the news from newspapers and magazines. Where do you prefer to read the news and why?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

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What is technology for the environment; a destructive force or a solution? Do we need to stop using technology to save the environment? Why or why not? Is life without technology less stressful? What is your opinion about living without technology?

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Some people think that life has become easier with modern technology. Others argue that it is more difficult and dangerous. Discuss and give examples.

What do you think is the greatest contribution of your country in the field of science and technology?

Describe it and explain why it is of great importance. Give details and examples in your explanation.

The internet has a bigger impact on people's lives because it is more popular than television. Do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Is it good for children to start using computers from an early age and spend long hours on it? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.

Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.

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Experts claim that there is a way to tell if a child will become a criminal at an early age. If this was possible, what do you suggest should be done to prevent these children from becoming criminals?

Explain your answer with specific reasons and examples.

Some products can be made quickly by a machine. Other items take a long time to be made by hand. As a buyer, which do you prefer and why?

Give specific details and examples in your answer.

Some people think that face-to-face communication is better than other types of communication, such as letters, email or telephone calls. Which form of communication do you prefer and why?

Give specific details and examples in your answer.

Internet and technology like mobile phones and laptops are connecting us to each other every hour of the day via networking sites and applications. Do

you think it's an advantage or disadvantage? Explain your answer.

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Some companies spend a lot of money on scientific research and use animals for testing. Many argue that this is for a just cause while others say otherwise. Do the advantages of using animals in research outweigh its disadvantages?

Support your answer with specific reasons and examples.

E-mail is now the easiest way to communicate with families and friends all over the world. Some people say that it does not have the sincerity of handwritten letters. Do you agree or disagree?

Give specific details and examples to support your opinion.

With the speed and ease of viral communication do you think it will totally replace papers and letters in their old form? If that happens, will it be for the better?

Explain and provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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There are opinions that technology and science are beneficial but also destructive. Due to technological advancement, mankind has irrevocably ruined nature and environment and affected the climate. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

In the future people will not need to have schools, galleries, museums or libraries because everything from education to culture and entertainment will be available online. Do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Being literate in technology or the internet is so popular that many believe that it will no longer be necessary to read conventional books as the main source of material for education. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Advancement in technology helps to improve the standard of life. Meanwhile, according to data, while the average change in society in developing countries is positive, in richer countries this can be exactly the opposite. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this?



## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

In many countries people tend to move overseas or move to a different part of their country after their retirement. Discuss why it is so and the outcomes of this situation.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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Some people prefer to use energy-saving modes of transportation like hybrid cars and bicycles. Others prefer the usual mode of transportation like buses and trains because it is fast and efficient. Which mode of transportation do you prefer and why?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Low-price airlines lack most of the conveniences of normal air plane flights. However, the prices of the tickets are usually lower.

Discuss negative and positive aspects of having lower rates of air plane tickets for travellers. Provide specific reasons and examples to support your response.

Is it good for families if parents need to travel a lot in their job or if they need to move to other cities? Is moving to a new location positive for children?

Discuss your opinion and support it with specific reasons and examples

Better driver education and information for better driving habits are better than heavier punishments for driving offences. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some people like to travel outside of their countries. Others would rather travel to the tourist spots in their own country first before travelling abroad. Which do you prefer to do and why?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

In some cities although more and more people use public transport the roads are still crowded. How can this problem be solved?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

People are more mobile nowadays. They seldom live in one city all their lives. Why do you think this is happening? What are the consequences of this trend? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this situation. Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

In some countries the government promotes public transport as the primary means of transportation and discourages private vehicle ownership. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this situation. Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Compared to the past, people can now work in places that are far from their homes because of modern means of transportation. How has this affected the lives of workers?

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having modern transportation. Support your answer with specific reasons and examples.

Recent surveys show increased interest in relocation and travel to other countries. What may be the reasons for this trend and what will be the possible outcome from this behaviour?

Provide examples for your opinion.

## HEALTH

In your own opinion, what do you think are the factors that contribute to longevity?

List some examples and reasons to support your answer.

Some people think that keeping pets is good for children while others think it is dangerous and unhealthy. Which opinion do you agree with?

Discuss both options and give examples.

Even when poor countries get help from rich countries, hunger is still an issue.

Discuss probable causes and solutions.

Support your answer with specific reasons and examples.

Compared to the past, more younger adults take medications for degenerative diseases.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

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Today more countries import food from different parts of the world. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this trend.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In some countries the population is ageing and the birth rate is declining. How will this affect society and how can it be prevented?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people say that it is better to promote healthy lifestyles than spend so much money to treat obese people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

More people now have children later in life. Some think it is not a good development for the family and for the country. Compare these two views.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Obesity is a serious problem in many countries, especially in rich countries. Discuss ways to solve the problem. Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

More people are now trying out different varieties of food which results in consumption of ingredients from different parts of the world. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

In some countries, health care and education are only partially funded by the government. Which do you think is better in terms of quality: free public healthcare and education or privately paid health care and education?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your position.

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Do you think that an ageing society will disappear? What are the advantages and disadvantages of having more old people in society?

Which is better: to have children earlier or later in a woman's life? What are possible reasons and effects of these two tendencies on a personal scale and for society in general?

Support your answer with specific reasons and examples.

Some people, including medical workers argue against using animals and humans for clinical tests while others think it is necessary. Which are you in favour of?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Many people think that home cooked food is healthy, but many people still prefer eating out. Why is this so?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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## **LAW AND ORDER**

Nowadays there is an increase in social problems involving young people because more parents spent time at work than with their children. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In some countries, the number of shootings increase because many people have guns at home. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

The number of refugees and immigrants is increasing. What are the possible causes and effects of this?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Nowadays you can find instructional videos for just about any crime you can think of. What possible effects can this have on individuals and society?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In many countries the age of criminals is getting lower. Give reasons and solutions to the problem.

Support your position with relevant examples.

In most countries military officers retire at the age of 45 while other people work as long as 65 to 70. Compare these two approaches.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some people believe that once a person becomes a criminal, he will always be a criminal. Do you agree with this statement?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

In some countries prisons are overcrowded which leads to many expenses for the government. To lessen the cost for prisoners' cost of living, reduced sentences are implemented. What do you suggest could be done?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people are afraid to go out for fear of being robbed on the streets. Still, there are robberies that happen inside houses. What do you think is the best thing a person can do to ensure his/her own security?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

annmarie  
to me

Just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the secret ingredients you thought me.. unfortunately I still need a 7 in reading but I'm over the moon with the 7 in writing.. will give it one more try. Thanks again for your fantastic course.



#### Your Test Result

Candidate Number:

Overall Band:	7.0
Listening:	7.0
Reading:	6.5
Writing:	7.0
Speaking:	8.0

Don't worry, we'll teach them to you as well :)

Over the moon with a band 7 in Writing!!!

In some countries prisoners are allowed comfortable accommodation, good food, and healthcare. Do you think this is appropriate? To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your position.

More people are now behaving more violently in society than before. Can this behaviour be prevented?

Discuss the causes and reasons for this trend.

Provide examples to support your opinion.

In some countries police officers do not carry guns. How does this affect the manner they implement law and order? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having a gun.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some people think that with combined effort on the part of the government and society crime can be completely eradicated, while others argue that this is completely hypothetical and that crime has always been present in societies even in ancient times. Compare these two views. Which do you agree with?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

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Crime is a growing problem on a global scale. Some think that crime prevention rather than punishment is the key to solve the problem. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Special programs for social integration and help are better alternatives than harsher prison sentences for minor crimes. Do you support or oppose this opinion?

Explain your position.

## **LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

Some people think it is better to spend and enjoy their money once they earn it. Others think it is better to save their money and enjoy it in the future. Which stand do you agree with and why?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some people think it is alright to spend money for their wants, such as a new car or the latest gadget. Others think it is better to save their money and only buy what they really need. Which opinion do you agree with and why? Give specific details and examples in your answer.

Some parents do not allow their children to watch TV during school days. Others allow their children to watch TV as long as their school work is finished. Which approach do you agree with and why?

Include specific examples and details in your explanation.

Some parents prefer to have their children be raised by their grandparents. Some prefer to raise them on their own. Which would you prefer and why? Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

Some parents allow their teenage children to live independently, away from home. Other parents don't want their teenage children to live away from them. Which do you think is better and why?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Some people believe that watching television is bad for children. Other people believe that watching television is educational for children. Which opinion do you agree with and why?

Give specific details and examples in your answer.

Some people believe that people behave differently when they wear different clothes, while others do not believe that clothes influence the way people behave. Which opinion do you agree with and why?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Some people believe that success comes from hard work. Others believe that success has to do with luck. Which opinion do you agree with and why?

Give specific details and examples to support your opinion.

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Some people think the media – television and films – negatively affect people's behaviour. Others do not think so. How do you think the media affects people's behaviour?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people believe that progress is always good. Others believe in preserving tradition. Which do you think is more important and why?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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Do we have to plan for the future? Or stay focused on our present? What is your opinion and why?

Provide examples to support your stand.

How do advertisements affect the trend of people and economy?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people believe that only people who have a lot of money are successful. Others believe that success does not always equate to having lots of money. Which statement do you agree with and why?

Give specific details and examples in your answer.

In some companies, social skill is given priority over qualifications when screening their possible employees. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this situation.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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Countries should restrict foreign companies from opening offices and factories in order to protect local businesses. Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.

Young people prefer listening to music rather than listening to the news on the radio. Is this a positive or a negative trend?

Provide reasons and examples for your opinion.

Some films are designed to make people think, while other films are designed to entertain or amuse people. Which type of film do you prefer and why?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Give reasons for the popularity of reality TV in the recent years.

Explain the effects on society and the social meaning of this trend.

These days people pay more attention to famous film stars than to famous scientists. Why is this happening?

Explain the trend, giving reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Does too much freedom for – today's children give positive results? Why or why not?

Include specific details and examples to support your answer.

Everything needs to be a bit challenging in order to be enjoyable. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Give reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.

What is the impact of computer games on the children of today? Is it helping their development or making them worse? Why and why not?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

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Some people spend more and some spend less for wedding parties, birthday parties and other celebrations? Is it a waste of money or a social requirement?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

In some countries people place more importance on their retirement years because they will have more time to enjoy their lives and will have shed most of their responsibilities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some people forget national holidays and prefer to celebrate their personal holidays more because more people are becoming less appreciative of their love of country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some parents think that the latest technologies (gadgets, computers, etc.) will help in their child's learning development. Others think giving children the latest gadgets will be a distraction in their studies. Which opinion do you agree with and why?

Give specific details and examples in your answer.

Computer games help parents in the care for their children because they keep children occupied. Do you agree or disagree? To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some countries spend large amounts of money hosting international sports events like the Olympic Games. Instead, this money should be spent to provide information campaigns and infrastructure to encourage more ordinary people to participate in sports. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Do you think that public cultural and educational institutions should have a fee?

Discuss your opinion and provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

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Every generation of people is different in important ways. How is your generation different from your parents' generation?

Include reasons and details in your explanation.

In some countries, it is normal for older people to live on their own rather than with their children. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

Give reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.

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Ravi [redacted]  
to sentenceguide, me

From 6.5 to 7.5!!!!  
YES!!!!

8 Jan (10 days ago) ☆ ↶ ↷

Hi Ben,

I would like to sincerely thank you and your team for putting up with the Sentence guide. I passed the IELTS exam with the required (L: 8, R: 7, **W: 7.5**, S: 7.5) scores. It was my second attempt at IELTS exam. In my first attempt, I got 6.5 in writing.

With 6.5 I was under the impression that with little more effort I could able to get 7. So, I was little hesitant to buy the Sentence guide, but back of my mind, I was thinking not to leave any stone unturned. So, finally after all that I went ahead and paid for the Sentence guide. In fact, it was a revelation after going through each chapter. I sincerely accept that even if I had put an effort on my own without Sentence guide, I could not come up with crystal clear academic paragraphs which are tailored explicitly for IELTS.

Thank you again for your invaluable help which enabled me to achieve this score.

I LOVE EMAILS LIKE THIS!!!

If anybody out there is still thinking to buy Ben's Sentence Guide here is my suggestion. Unless you know how to write a well-formed academic paragraph tailored for IELTS, and at the same time have the necessary skill to come up with ideas within a short span of 5 minutes, I don't think one should take a chance. There are simple and effective writing concepts and techniques in the guide which many of us doesn't know. Just go ahead and buy it, you will not regret your decision.

Thanks again Ben keep up the great work.

Regards,  
Ravi

In some countries, people live with their parents and siblings until their old age. Do you think there are more advantages or disadvantages to this behaviour?

Discuss your opinion and provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Have you ever lived away from your parents? Describe your living situation and explain its advantages and disadvantages.

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

Some people say that advertisements are not good because it encourages us to buy things we don't really need. Others say that advertisements are good because it informs us about new products that can improve our lives. Which viewpoint do you agree with and why?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

Some countries implement a national Identification system where all people's information are stored in a central database under state control. This is believed to be harmful to members of society by some. Do you support or oppose this opinion?

Explain your position.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of shopping online? Share your own experience as an example in your answer.

Give specific details and examples in your answer.

Many modern shopping centres are now becoming more popular than local market shops. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this consumer behaviour?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some people prefer to live in a traditional house. Others prefer to live in a modern apartment building. Which do you prefer and why?

Give specific details and examples in your answer.

In some developing countries, government funds are spent more on repairing buildings than building new ones. Does this help them save more money in the long run?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some believe that it is better for each family to live by themselves rather than share a house with relatives. Do you agree or disagree?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some parents allow their teenage children to live independently, away from home. Other parents do not want their teenage children to live far away from them. Which do you think is better and why?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

To what extent do you agree or disagree? Ads manipulate your taste and the way you think.

Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

What is your stand about the issue of young children having mobile phones? Is it beneficial or not? Why?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

In the past people used more formal and long expressions to communicate with each other. Nowadays, we use fewer words and are more informal. Why is this happening?

Use examples and specific details to explain your answer.

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Compared to the past, more people are now trying to learn a foreign language to increase their chances of landing a better job in their native country or to have better opportunities to work abroad. To what extent do you agree with this point of view?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

People equate a good salary with success. Some say that money is not what will make you successful. In your own opinion, what will make a person truly successful? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Money is the best way to motivate people to perform better in the workplace. To what extent do you agree with this statement.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Many children participate in social networks on the internet instead of participating in community activities in their neighbourhood. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this situation?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some people prefer to live in a quiet place, such as the countryside. Others prefer to live in a big city. Which place do you prefer to live in and why? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

People are becoming less interested in community activities. What is causing this behaviour and what will be the result?

Provide explanations and examples to support your answer.

Some people believe that children should be required to learn other languages at a young age because it will be useful for their personal development. Do you support or oppose this opinion?

Explain your position.

Some people believe that children should be obligated to help with household chores as soon as they are able to. Others believe that children should not be forced to do household chores. Which opinion do you agree with and why?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Due to computers and their busy lifestyle people do not spend as much time with other people. Do you think this is positive or negative?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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Some argue that film and television are a waste of time, because they do not have a direct connection with people's lives. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many children prefer playing interactive games to playing traditional games. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Nowadays we are more and more a consumer-oriented society. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this situation.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of shopping online? Share your own experience as an example in your answer.

Give specific details and examples in your answer.

Violent news stories should not be shown on television and newspapers because they promote violence. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Compared to the past, children now spend more time for playing virtual simulation games and participating in online social networks than meeting people in person to socialize. How has this behaviour affected society?

Discuss the reasons and consequences of this behaviour.

Provide specific examples to support your answer.

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Do children need to be rewarded when they behave properly? Do we need to punish or beat them if they make mistakes? What is your view on this? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people consider big events, such as, weddings, birthdays and overseas travel as the most significant time of their lives. Others consider their present daily life the most significant time in their lives. Which do you consider more important and why?

Do you think it is necessary to spend a lot of money when people celebrate birthdays or is it better to save the money for other purpose?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

In some countries people are happy when they retire and remain very active. In other countries, they are considered too old to enjoy their lives. Which opinion do you hold?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people think that analysing and planning is the right way to achieve things, while others believe that a more easy-going approach is better in life. Discuss your opinion and give examples.

Some believe that youngsters should be friends with older people rather than fear and respect them. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each point of view.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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Children should always start studying foreign languages from an early age. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

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Do you think that teenagers should be left to develop naturally or should be directed towards what their parents think is good for them? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these methods.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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These days even young people can become rich and famous. Do you think this is good or bad?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In your own opinion, do you think that advertisements are informative? Why or why not?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some believe that there are too many advertisements in the internet, radio and television and that even the contents of shows and news articles become advertisements themselves. To what extent do you agree or disagree to this statement?

Provide suggestions to address the situation. Give specific examples to explain your answer.

Should buildings in cities be expanded without restrictions or should their size be limited to a certain extent? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this limitation.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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Young people prefer living in big cities. What will this tendency lead to? Suggest reasons and results of this trend.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In some countries, buildings of historical value are being demolished to give way to modern buildings. Do you think that it is better to preserve the old historical outlook of buildings or it is better to incorporate only new styles of architecture? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this situation.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

In some countries, women are given special days leave for their monthly period. Some think that this is a form of discrimination between genders. Do you agree or disagree?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your position.

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More people now work overseas. What are the reasons why people are doing so? Does this trend have more advantages or disadvantages?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some companies now use services of freelancers who work online from their homes. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Nowadays many companies use low paid intern ships and student labour to their benefit. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this trend.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

The most popular modern media is the internet. Do you think it will replace all other available media of communication?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some couples nowadays prefer to maintain a good career rather than having children? What are the advantages and disadvantages of choosing career over family?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Would you prefer having children earlier or later in life? How will it affect society as a whole? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people argue that the best way to have work efficiency is for the worker to work for several days and then takes a few days off. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this arrangement?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some people think that it is better to stick to one job, while others think when they swap jobs they will have a better chance to gain more knowledge and money. Which do you agree with and why?

Discuss both sides and provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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Many people think that having lots of money is the best way to guarantee happiness, while others think that it depends on other factors. Compare these two views.

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Not all workers get to work on the job they are qualified for. Why do you think this is so?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some people think that in modern society one needs to focus on their career while leaving personal development and values behind. What do you think is more important?

Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

More people now buy products that they do not need because they are persuaded by advertising. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Young people believe that they live in a better world than older generations. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Some people believe that hard work is vital for success, while others think that education guarantees success more than anything. Which do you agree with?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

People are more aware of fashion nowadays and it continues to be a huge business, with a lot of advertising involved and millions of dollars of being paid to models. Discuss whether this is a good or bad trend. Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

According to some people, living in a big city is not as good for families as living in a small town. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

In some cities, child care centres are situated near business establishments and operate before and beyond office hours so parents can leave their children before work and pick them up on their way home. Will this be good for the child's overall development? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this situation. Provide specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

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## **GOVERNMENT**

Should the government support artists, such as, -musicians, writers, and-painters? Is it economically beneficial or is it just a waste of money? Why or why not?

Every person is essential to the development of a country. Talk about what you think is your role in the development of your country.

Use specific reasons and examples in your explanation.

Why do people from developing countries have a more positive outlook on economic growth than people from developed countries? Does economic growth really improve the standard of living?

Explain and give specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Countries should restrict foreign companies from opening offices and factories in order to protect local businesses. Do you agree or disagree?

What is the developmental effect of people who prefer to shop in supermarkets to small shops or local markets? How does it affect the local economy?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

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Do you agree or disagree that governments should spend money on other things than art even though art helps develop quality in people's life?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some countries focus on health care and education benefits while others on infrastructure and employment. Which do you think would be more beneficial for the population?

Give specific details and examples to support your opinion.

Compare these views. Politicians have the greatest influence on the world. Scientists make the greatest contribution to the world. Which do you agree with?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

How can one's government stop or prevent smuggling of illegal drugs from one country to another?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In your own opinion, how can the government of each country eradicate or lessen the crimes committed by their own people?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

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Some people think the government should focus on improving the economy of the country. Other people think the government should focus on social services such as health and education programs. Which statement do you agree with?

Explain and provide examples to support your opinion.

## **SPORTS AND PASTIMES**

Some people believe that governments should ban dangerous sports even though others claim they should have the freedom to choose a sport to their liking. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

What book or film do you think portrays a country's culture the best? Would you recommend it to a foreign friend who wishes to learn and understand that country? Describe the book or film and explain why you would recommend it.

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

International sporting events are costly and bring problems to the hosting country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Some say sports facilities are important and they promote healthy lifestyles while others believe they have only a small impact on individuals. What is your opinion?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

A film can portray the culture and traditions of a country. What films have you watched that tell a specific story of a country?

Use specific examples and details to support your response.

Do you think video games and action films promote violence that could be harmful to children? Why or why not?

Give specific details and examples to support your answer.

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Write about a certain hobby that has also provided income for people.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Some people participate in extra-curricular activities such as volunteering in charitable events or joining dance groups to gain more knowledge and experience. Others simply focus on their goals such as academic studies or work. Which do you think helps in improving a person's knowledge and experience?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.



ARTURO

to me ▾

Hello,

I am very much enjoying the course. I think it is very straightforward with many examples. All the steps to write the essays are very well explained. Also, I am learning many new tricks to write my essays. Thanks!

Regards,  
Arturo

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Enjoying the course while learning!

All praises to the IELTS Online course!!!

Some people say that playing games teaches us about life. Others emphasize that only practical experience teaches us valuable lessons about life. Which statement do you agree with and why?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

Some people think that watching television does not make people smarter. Other people think that watching television can be informative. Which opinion do you agree with and why?

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

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Some people think it is okay for adults to play computer games. Others think that only children should play computer games. Which opinion do you agree with and why?

Include specific details and examples to support your choice.

Some parents do not allow their children to watch action films and blood sports or play violent video games because it promotes bad behaviour. Others say it does not. Which opinion do you agree with and why?

Give specific examples and details in your explanation.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Sports can bring world peace. Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

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Some people go shopping as a form of recreation. It has replaced the other activities that people used to do as hobbies. Is this a positive or negative development?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Nowadays shopping has replaced many other activities that people choose as their hobby in their free time. What are the reasons for this? Is this a positive or negative development?

Most people prefer popular fun activities rather than visiting museums. Why?

Use examples and details in your answer.

## **19 BAND 9 SAMPLE ESSAYS**

**Some people think that a person improves their intellectual skills more when doing group activities. To what extent do you agree? Use specific details and examples to explain your view.**

In recent decades, many researchers have studied the importance of group-level cognition. Indeed, to my mind, there is now convincing evidence that group activities improve the intelligence of individuals. In this essay, I shall examine how research in team-games and study-groups supports this view.

To begin with, team-games clearly require individuals to perform a diverse range of rapid mental calculations. This is because, in a sporting context, players must predict and anticipate possible actions within tight time constraints. For example, a recent Cambridge study showed that soccer players can – within the span of seconds – calculate over a dozen different permutations that could result from a single soccer related action. Such predictive powers clearly improve players' mental abilities and result from activities performed in a group context.

Secondly, study-groups enable individuals to obtain information that they could not acquire in isolation. This is because peer feedback allows individuals to refine their understanding of concepts and to also learn new information from other members in the study-group. For example, a study by The British Institute for Learning found that, if individuals participated in study-groups, they had a far more objective and sophisticated understanding of a topic than learners who were not part of study-groups. Therefore, it is certainly the case that learning in a group improves an individual's mental abilities.

In conclusion, I strongly agree with the notion that group activities improve intellectual abilities. In the future, we will certainly see schools take greater measures to ensure that more group-level cognition occurs in the classroom.

(253 words)

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**Some people think that secondary school children should study international news as one of the school subjects. Other people think that it is a waste of valuable school time. What do you think? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.**

The potential for the global media to shape the views of today's youth is considerable. However, while some commentators think that the media has no place within secondary education, other analysts defend the idea that international news should be studied at school. In this essay, I shall examine a number of studies which show that both viewpoints are, to some degree, justified.

To begin with, the global media undoubtedly enriches teenagers' understanding of contemporary affairs. This is because television reports provide concise summaries of international affairs. For example, a study run by Oxford sociologists showed that the media heavily influenced teenagers' knowledge of contemporary affairs. Since any secondary school education would be incomplete without an awareness of such events, it is therefore clear that the media can play a vital role in assisting education.

On the other hand, many critics argue that teenagers are negatively affected by the global media's focus on wars and civil unrest. This is because exposure to violence often leads to depression. For example, recent surveys have discovered that depressed teenagers usually cite the dismal state of the world as a source of their depression. Since mental health is an important objective of secondary education, it is therefore questionable whether the study of international news wouldn't be a destructive and wasteful use of school resource.

In conclusion, it should be clear that there are reasons for and against the study of news at school. Thus if media studies are to enter schools in the future, schools will have to think about how negative aspects of the news can be decreased, and positive aspects maximized.

(268 words)

Amelia [redacted]@gmail.com>  
to me ▾

**Band 8 overall!!!**

days ago ☆ ↶ ▾

Dear Ben Worthington,

My name is Amelia [redacted] from Indonesia, and I took IELTS Academic test for my future studies.

I would like to sincerely thank you for the IELTS Podcasts which contributed significantly in my IELTS success. It is very helpful and practical since I can listen to it anytime, and the materials are very valuable.

I recently took the IELTS Academic test on September 30, and I just received my result. With the aid of the IELTS Podcast, I managed to score **8 overall**.

I wish you all the best.

Best regards,

Amelia.

chandrsekhar [redacted] 3 Jan ☆

to me ▾

Hi Ben,

I'm really impressed with the feedback and corrections made to my essay. So, I have opted for your Complete online course.

Please send me the free Audiobook about IELTS.

Thanks & Regards,  
Chandra

(shhhhhhhh!!!)

Melissa [redacted] (10 days ago) ☆

to me, sentenceguide, Nadyne ▾

Hello Ben,

Hi Andrew / Nadyne,

Thank you for the amazing course material. I got my results online today Bumped from a 6.5 in writing to a 7.5.  
I would have never thought that I would get anything more than a 7 in writing.

L-8.5  
R-8  
S-8  
W-7.5  
Overall - 8

I couldn't thank you and your team enough!

Thanks,  
Melissa :)

IELTS  
BREAK  
THROUGH!

BUMPED FROM 6.5 to 7.5!

**Some people like to travel outside their country. Others would rather travel to tourist spots in their own country first, before travelling abroad. Which do you prefer to do and why? Include specific details and examples to support your choice.**

Over the past few decades, the international tourism industry has gone through a boom period. Cheap air travel, in particular, has allowed ordinary working class people to travel to more international destinations than ever before. In this essay, I shall refer to a number of sociological studies to show why – contrary to popular opinion – domestic travel should initially take precedence over international travel.

To begin with, people's knowledge of their own countries and culture has grown increasingly sketchy. This is largely because foreign brands, television shows and cultural objects flood local markets. For example, The Asian Cultural Society found that Japanese teenagers knew more about American television series than 19th Century Japanese woodcuts. It should, therefore, be clear that citizens need to know much more about their own countries, and that visits to local cultural centres should occur before visits to other countries.

Secondly, people reap high economic benefits if they are well-travelled in their country of birth. This is because local travel, in particular, opens up business opportunities. For example, the Korean Society for Entrepreneurship found that 40% of successful start-up companies were run by individuals who had travelled extensively in Korea and sniffed out small openings in developmentally neglected areas. Seen in this light, local travel can also be of vital economic significance

To conclude, although few would argue outright against foreign travel, there are certainly reasons why domestic travel is initially preferable. In the future, as some of the hype surrounding foreign travel dies down, these reasons will no doubt appear more attractive and conspicuous.

(257 words)

**In some countries, the number of shootings increase because many people have guns at home. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Across the globe, many individuals own guns for self-defense and recreational purposes. Gun-related mortalities in households – in particular – throw the ethics of such forms of private gun ownership into sharp relief. In this essay, I shall appeal to crime statistics to argue that a person is at a far greater risk being shot if there is a gun in a household.

Firstly, it is intuitively obvious that having a gun in a household endangers children and teenagers. This is because minors do not have the requisite knowledge or maturity to handle guns safely. For example, the US Department of Justice recently revealed statistics showing that 150 American children and teenagers die each year because of accidents relating to household guns. Therefore it is incontrovertible that household guns lead to additional shootings.

Secondly, household guns become especially dangerous when couples have violent arguments. This is because male sexual rage, in particular, often results in deadly aggression. For example, The International Crime Bureau recently produced statistical evidence that, if a man discovers his wife having an affair, he is twice as likely to kill her in a fit of jealous rage if he has easy access to a gun. Therefore, once again, household guns correlate positively with additional shootings.

In conclusion, there is undeniable evidence that having a gun in a house leads to further shootings. Given the strength of this evidence, in the future, more legislation needs to be put in place to limit private gun ownership.

(245 words)

**Obesity is a serious problem in many countries, especially in rich countries. Discuss ways to solve the problem. Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

With the advent of urbanisation and the rise in popularity of fast food, there have been accompanying issues with rising obesity rates – especially in developed countries like Britain and the USA. After providing a careful analysis of why obesity has risen so sharply in these countries, I shall suggest a number of ways in which the obesity epidemic can be ameliorated.

To begin with, it should be unsurprising that fast food is incredibly popular in wealthy countries (like Britain and the USA). Due to the high levels of development in these countries, consumers possess more money and can therefore consume vast amounts of fast food without seriously diminishing their income. For example, the American Dietary Association found that, compared to the average Indian household, the average American household's budget for food is six times larger per month. Consequently, it is to be expected that obesity rates are much higher in countries with larger amounts of wealth.

Despite the severity of the obesity problem, however, there are a number of ways in which developed countries could battle it more effectively. Firstly, developed governments could put far more pressure on fast food outlets to provide healthy alternatives to hamburgers, french fries and soft drinks. Secondly, public exercise initiatives could be advertised and promoted far more vigorously. Lastly, modules that inform teenagers about healthy dietary requirements could be taught at schools.

In conclusion, although obesity is a serious issue in the developed world, if the above steps are taken, the situation will surely improve in the coming years.

(256 words)

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**Some people think that keeping pets is good for children while others think it is dangerous and unhealthy. Which opinion do you agree with? Discuss both options and give examples.**

In recent times, pet related injuries and fatalities have sparked heated debates about whether it is healthy for children to be around pets. In this essay I shall argue that such dangers are overemphasised and that children receive substantive psychological benefits through having pets.

To begin with, although exotic pets (e.g. snakes, spiders, apes, etc.) have been known to occasionally hurt and even kill children, such incidents are so statistically rare as to be negligible. This is because the overwhelming majority of children have non-lethal cats, dogs, fish, rodents and rabbits for pets. For example The Child Safety Institute found that over 90% of children owned the aforementioned pets, and professed that they had never felt in the least bit endangered by them. Seen in this light, it is clearly unfounded to claim that pets present any physical danger to children.

Secondly, pets can impact positively upon child psychology. This is because young pet owners frequently empathise with their pets and perform a diverse range of actions to maintain their wellbeing (e.g. feeding, grooming, administering medicine, etc). For example, the Cambridge Developmental Psychology Unit found that children who had grown up with pets were 30% less likely to bully others and to resolve conflicts through aggression. Consequently, it is undeniable that a child's pro-sociality and mental health can be improved through exposure to pets.

In conclusion, the cited evidence provides strong support for the view that children owning pets is a good thing. In the future, as more laws are introduced to ban the ownership of illegally acquired exotic pets, this viewpoint will no doubt surge in popularity.

(266 words)

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**Some products can be made quickly by a machine. Other items take a long time to be made by hand. As a buyer, which do you prefer and why? Give specific details and examples in your answer.**

Ever since the industrial revolution, mass produced goods have flooded the consumer market. Although such goods have proved to be highly popular, it is now becoming increasingly clear that handmade goods are more desirable for modern, informed consumers. In this essay, I shall look at some of the ethical and quality-based reasons for this re-evaluation.

To begin with, handmade goods can be made with far more care and attention to detail than mass produced goods. This is because machines lack a sensitivity that experienced craftsman evidently possess. For example, a study by the International Consumerist Society found that handmade furniture, musical instruments and jewellery were consistently rated as being more attractive (by consumers) than their mass made counterparts. Therefore it is clear that buyers prefer handmade goods for reasons that relate to quality of workmanship.

Secondly, handmade production companies have far more ethical attitudes towards the environment. This is because factories and chemical processes heavily underpin mass industrial production. For example the British Green Party found that the levels of toxicity and environmental damage outside handmade production centres were paltry compared to the levels found outside factories used for mass production. Consequently, since modern consumers are more environmentally conscious than ever before, these findings have clearly contributed to their preference for handmade goods. In conclusion, there are compelling reasons for why modern consumers favour handmade goods. In the future, as environmental issues worsen, this preference will no doubt grow more pronounced.

(241 words)

**Is it good for children to start using computers from an early age and spend long hours on them? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.**

In recent years, children, like adults, have become increasingly exposed to computers. While some child psychologists have claimed that this is a good thing, others have claimed that it has an overwhelmingly detrimental impact on children. In this essay, I shall draw upon a number of studies in cognitive science and industrial psychology that reveal the positive and negative aspects of this phenomenon.

To begin with, clearly there are reasons why computers do not allow children to develop long attention spans. This is because computers are packed with many supposedly child-friendly games that require minimal levels of concentration in order to be enjoyed. For example, a study by the New York Child Learning Association found that children who read from picture books were 50% less likely to get distracted than children who played educational computer games. Therefore computers almost certainly have a negative impact on young children.

However, since the world has become heavily reliant on computers, there are also clear advantages to exposing children to computers. This is because children with such exposure will stand a better chance of finding employment. For example, after being interviewed by Yale psychologists, over 70% of young office workers admitted that they had spent long hours on computers in their middle and late childhood years. Therefore it is clear that computer exposure can be beneficial to children.

In conclusion, there are advantages and disadvantages to early computer exposure. However, if, in the future, the quality of educational gaming is increased, there is good reason to believe that these negative consequences will fall entirely away.

(261 words)

**Some people think women should be given equal chances to work and excel in their careers. Others believe that a woman's role should be limited to taking care of the house and children. Which opinion do you agree with and why? Include specific details and examples to support your choice**

The question of women's rights has always sparked heated controversy. While some traditionalists claim that women should focus on the upkeep of their homes and children, more liberal minded people have claimed that women should have the same rights as men. In this essay, I shall refer to sociological studies that vindicate the liberal view.

To begin with, it is false to believe that a woman cannot have a job and raise her children effectively. This is because part-time and online work obviously gives women the time and space to care for their children. For example, the Organisation for Child Care found that mothers who did part-time or online work spent as much time with their children (after school hours) as housewives. Therefore, it is incorrect to claim – as traditionalists do – that having a career compromises a mother's ability to care for her children.

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Secondly, mothers who work also gain the means to invest more in their children's education and personal development. This is because an additional source of revenue enables parents to send their children to private schools and extra-mural classes. For example, a Harvard study found that parents were 50% more likely to invest in these services if both parents had separate sources of financial income. It is therefore clear that being a working mother can facilitate, rather than impede, good parenting.

In conclusion, there is strong evidence that women can have jobs and be good mothers. Seen in this light, it is clear that the traditionalist view is largely baseless, and that it will continue to decline in popularity.

(261 words)

**Some people believe that international sporting events are the ideal opportunity to show the world the qualities of the hosting nation. Others believe that these events are mainly a large unjustifiable expense. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Global athletic events such as the Olympics, the World Cup, the Extreme Games and even the American Super Bowl are incredible opportunities for countries. These iconic spectacles can provide a country with an economic avalanche of benefits or expose it to a public relations disaster. This essay will look at both possibilities, using Russia and the United Kingdom as examples.

Firstly, it is important to bear in mind that simply hosting the event and having the world's media attention cannot guarantee a positive promotion. This is because, although the country is receiving enormous amounts of publicity, the media will often report controversial news as well as the good. Take the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, for example. The media spotlight was shining brightly on the athletes but also highlighting the polemic legislation regarding homosexuality. Therefore, despite the international recognition to be gained, the country can also face a possible backlash.

Secondly, the expense of building the infrastructure necessary to hold these events can dwarf the benefits, unless they are fully amortized afterwards. This is largely due to the fact that stadiums, Olympic parks, ski runs etc. are expensive to construct and require large capital expenditure, often by the public sector. In the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002, the council commissioned a stadium for athletic events which was later adapted and sold to the local pre-eminent football club, Manchester City. Therefore with proper, fair, economic management of such buildings and facilities the cost can be recuperated.

To conclude, a host city or nation has a lot to gain from these events but only if they are economically administered correctly and the country has no controversial issues for the media to pull out of the closet.

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**Some people think that all children should learn geography in school. However, some others think that it is more important to learn subjects that are more relevant to life. What is your opinion?**

With constant modifications to the school curriculum and constant changes in society, the question of whether to maintain or drop geography is an interesting topic. I believe there would be severe consequences if geography were to disappear, mainly due to the understanding and open-mindedness that is derived from such studies.

Firstly, with evermore complex geopolitical strategies being played out, it can be considered extremely valuable to be able to identify the locations of these events without checking on a map. Religious and border conflicts are among the most common sources of news events, and a lack of knowledge as to where these events are taking place can be considered ignorance. For example, areas such as the Middle East are constantly in the news. Therefore, by being merely aware of their location in the world, readers or viewers can greatly increase their understanding of the conflict.

Secondly, making geography compulsory in schools would most likely encourage students to travel later in life. This is because geography can bring to light options you may not have known existed previously. For example, historically England has been the top destination to learn English. However, in recent times students have learned about more economical options such as Malta or Ireland. Therefore, without a sound geographical knowledge of Europe, these options could have been overlooked.

To conclude, removing geography from the school curriculum would reduce a student's ability to fully assimilate global events in the media. Furthermore, removing the subject could indirectly reduce the number of perceived options available to students.

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**Today, the quality of life in large cities is decreasing. Discuss the causes and solutions.**

The global phenomenon of urbanisation from the beginning of industrialisation to the present day has brought opportunity and prosperity, albeit at a cost in the quality of life. With an increasing city population, the complexity of the challenges also increases. The causes and solutions for this are outlined below.

The causes for the decrease in the quality of life are paradoxically the prosperity endowed on such metropolitan centres. Their growth is largely due to the increased opportunities on offer, which in turn increases the cities' attractiveness; essentially they are trapped in a positive self-reinforcing cycle. However, this eventually leads to a decrease in the quality of life as the city can experience overcrowding, exorbitant property prices and increased vulnerability to terrorist attacks. For example, the density of London makes it a more efficient place to attack, when compared to a smaller city, such as Bradford. Therefore, due to continuous growth and prosperity, urban citizens, especially the less well off, often experience a lower standard of living.

Considering the solutions, greater investment in public transport would ease traffic congestion, as would bike lanes. In theory, this would reduce air pollution and possibly improve the well-being of the population if they adopted a more active lifestyle and cycled to work. To counter violent terrorist attacks, cities could embark on CCTV installation, so as to closely monitor for threats. For example, it is said, the CCTV in London has foiled many potential attacks, and therefore greatly increased the security of its citizens.

To conclude, a wealthy city attracts large population inflows, which then increase pressure on existing infrastructure and security. Various solutions exist to mitigate such drawbacks, but nevertheless a definitive solution has yet to be found.

(284 words)

**Many governments in the world spend large amounts of money on art, which helps to improve the quality of people's lives. However, governments should spend money on other things rather than art. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.**

Societies with a heritage in the 'arts' have long been considered culturally sophisticated and advanced. However, with the recent financial crisis this lavishness and expense should be questioned. Tax-payers' money has to be spent practically rather than on cultural endeavours. Firstly, not everyone in society appreciates art, and, secondly, employment should take precedence. Art can bring quality into one's life if you are interested. In society, art-lovers are typically in the minority, and other activities, such as sport, are more popular. Take football, for example. Across the globe it is obvious that there are more people watching matches in stadiums than looking at sculptures or paintings. This fact shows that it is impossible for art to bring quality into a community if galleries hold little interest for the people.

Secondly, the resources diverted to such projects come from the public and should be spent in a way that benefits them. Commissioning or purchasing art is an insult to tax-payers who endure high unemployment, such as those in Newcastle, UK. This city suffers from historically high unemployment, yet the council commissioned a large sculpture called 'The Angel of the North'. Financing a job creation project would undoubtedly have been more practical for the local community.

To conclude, I believe that it is untrue to assert that art brings quality into one's life and I agree that the money should be spent elsewhere. This is because art expenditure only benefits a small minority and the expense involved should benefit the majority. Ideally in the future, governments will recognise that the quality of a person's life derives from a decent opportunity in life, not a sculpture.

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**Some people believe that children's leisure activities must be educational, otherwise they are a complete waste of time. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your experience.**

To derive a double benefit from anything is considered a bonus and this is especially the case when discussing leisure activities for children. Fusing both education and entertainment into one activity is a goal of many educators; some would even believe that failure to do this makes the activity pointless. Drawing from examples in Sweden and reviewing games, such as Pokemon, I firmly believe that all activities should have an educational value.

Leisure activities are a perfect time to take advantage of the receptiveness of a child's mind, and some countries are adamant about this. Take Sweden, for example. For many years, they have legally stipulated that all children's toys sold in the country should have some educational value. In addition, for such a rule to be passed, it must be upheld by scientific research. Therefore, the advantage of incorporating an education element into toys is scientifically proven.

On the other hand, across the UK, children are wasting their time collecting and learning the statistics of each creature on each Pokemon card. If, however, these cards had been intertwined with more educational data the child could have simultaneously gained a more practical education. Due to children learning large swathes of irrelevant and useless information, it can be argued that the time would have been better spent with real facts and figures on the cards.

To conclude, scientific evidence from Sweden and fantasy games such as Pokemon with little educational value are two clear reasons why children's leisure activities should have an element of learning involved.

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**Women can do everything that men can and they even do it better. They also can do many things that men cannot. But it is a fact that their work is not appreciated as much as men's, although they have to sacrifice a lot for their family and career... It is said: "A woman's place is in the home." What do you think?**

Women and men have had different roles in the community since the beginning of history. Under modern conditions, these differences are slowly converging. However, due to the genetic inheritance and socio-demographic components, differences do exist.

Firstly, men are undoubtedly better adapted genetically to performing physical tasks. Therefore, the assumption that women can match men in everything is clearly flawed. The difference between their physical abilities is clearly demonstrated in the sporting arena. Take, for example, the Olympics or any international sporting event. It can be clearly seen that, in these competitions, the genders are separated due to inherent differences between the sexes.

Secondly, it has been argued that women are less appreciated in society due to their traditional role in the home. This statement is true to a certain extent because it largely depends on the society. In certain traditional societies in Africa, women working are frowned upon and are seen as neglecting the family, whereas in Afghanistan, in general, women are allowed to do little else but stay at home, being a housewife. Consequently, a woman's value is largely dictated by her society, culture and history. Nevertheless, to state that her place is in the home is widely considered sexist in modern western societies.

To conclude, differences do certainly exist; however, these are largely through nature. Also, the role women may have is usually dictated by other factors, such as religion or society, not ability.

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**Improvements in health, education and trade are essential for the development of poorer nations. However, the governments of richer nations should take more responsibility for helping the poorer nations in such areas. To what extent do you agree?**

Undoubtedly the governments of developed nations should share the responsibility of helping less fortunate nations. Different measures exist, ranging from market access to direct financial payments or even medical assistance. This essay will explain why certain measures are inherently better than others.

Firstly, the most effective way to assist less developed countries is not through health or education 'hand-outs'. This method is flawed and only offers temporary relief from long-term challenges; also this assistance can be cut at any moment, leaving the country stranded. For example, economic help from the UK to disadvantaged regions in Africa has gradually been reduced since the onset of the financial crisis. Although some parts of the continent may be better educated or in better health, the benefit was short-lived, thus leaving the countries of Africa to look for other donors.

Commerce is, without doubt, the most effective type of assistance that can be given. If the less developed country has the opportunity to develop trade, then it can build strong capabilities that will serve it in the long term. These strengths can develop the local economy and are more reliable than education or health. For example, while trading with the richer country, the government can search for other foreign markets to trade with. This would offer more stability and diversification for the nation.

To conclude, assistance is definitely necessary for the poorer regions; however, 'hand-outs' are short-term solutions. The optimal solution is to offer market access so the region can produce goods and thus generate a regular income.

(254 words)

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**Most schools are planning to replace sport and exercise classes with more academic sessions. How will this change affect children's lives in your view?**

The debate between where to allocate valuable teaching resources probably started with the first educational institutions. In present-day society, the conflict continues and rightly so. In my opinion converting sports classes to more traditional subjects has two significant advantages. Firstly, it is a more effective use of a student's time. Secondly, in the future, academic skills will be more useful.

Switching time spent on sport in a school to time spent on more academic activities is a wise and cost-effective solution. Firstly, academic studies are inherently less expensive to organise than physical education. For example, to play almost any sport, one has to invest in the appropriate equipment, ranging from shorts and t-shirts to rackets and balls. Furthermore, excess time is spent in the changing rooms or washing afterwards. In more traditional subjects, students merely enter the classroom and are learning within minutes.

Secondly, it can be argued that sport is an activity practised naturally by children, especially boys. In every school at break-time, many children engage in energetic activities, whereas hardly any are studying algebra, biology or physics. As these subjects are less popular, more resources should be allocated to teaching them. In addition, academic skills are arguably more important due to the small number of people in society currently using sport skills in a work environment. Thus, focusing on skills demanded by the labour market would benefit students' lives dramatically in the future.

To conclude, young learners going through school would end up much better prepared for life by avoiding sports tuition. Furthermore, they would have taken full advantage of their school years through more time spent learning.

(270 words)

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**Crime is a big problem in the world; many believe that nothing can be done to prevent it. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your own opinion.**

Crime is unquestionably one of the most prevailing and worrying aspects in any society, and its prevention should be taken seriously. Crime prevention can be achieved in various ways, firstly through a sustained honest presence in the community and secondly through international cooperation.

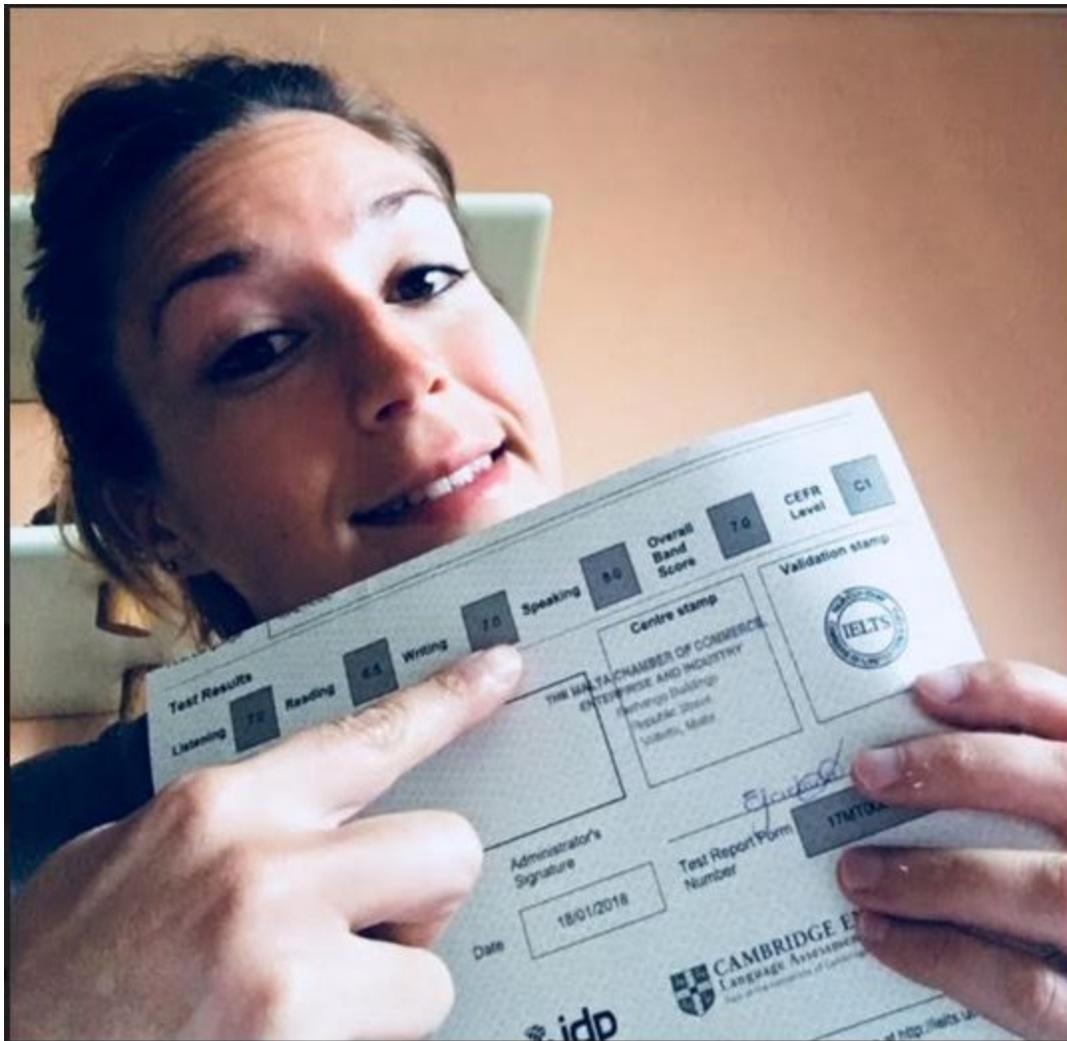
A local presence by incorruptible law enforcement authorities may be costly but the long-term investment will pay dividends in the future. A safer region would encourage trade, investment and set an invaluable example for younger generations. For example, crime has dramatically been reduced in the Favelas around Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. This was achieved largely through the government committing large funds of money to stationing police headquarters in and around the slums. These financial expenditures greatly benefited the community.

Secondly, due to its severity and the global impact that crime has in some areas of the world, global cooperation is critical. Operating in a parochial way would incur significant financial losses and render any expenditure futile. For example, Somali pirates in Africa have spread terror among many ocean transport companies in the area. Only through large-scale international cooperation was policing the area possible. Therefore, crime reduction can be attributed to a joint effort between countries.

To conclude, illegal activities are a costly and dangerous fact in the present global economy; through large-scale government investment, however, prevention is an attainable goal. Also, by spreading the expense through international cooperation, the resources invested can be significantly more effective in reducing criminals' impact abroad.

(245 words)

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**Should education and healthcare be free of charge and funded by the government, or should it be the responsibility of the people to pay for these services? Discuss the above and give your opinion using examples.**

A healthy and educated society is the backbone of any successful country; deciding who is to provide this, however, is a sensitive topic. I strongly believe the government should be held responsible for providing these services for two reasons. Firstly, the entire society benefits and secondly the whole population is paying for the services. However, if one prefers extra services they should be prepared to pay for it themselves.

Firstly, education is largely considered a basic right. A population unable to calculate, read, write or even learn would be doomed in a competitive global economy. Globalisation has increased competition and shifted the emphasis to knowledge, information and science. A state education should, therefore, be freely available to everybody. However, if people wish to purchase private education, this should also be allowed or even encouraged. Private education reduces the strain on public services and provides a source of tax revenue for the government, in effect, subsidising state education.

Secondly, health services must undoubtedly be available to all because the entire nation is paying taxes and, therefore, should not be excluded from any service. Take the NHS in the UK, for example; this organisation caters for the entire population, and no private medical insurance is needed. Unfortunately waiting lists can be long and service is occasionally slow; therefore, some purchase private medical insurance for a faster service. This reduces the workload of the public sector.

To conclude, I believe both healthcare and education are basic fundamental rights, necessary for any advanced society and, therefore, the responsibility should lie with the government. Nevertheless, if individuals require more than the standard level, then they should be prepared to pay for it.

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