

QUANG MINH  
RENEE GEHMAN - ALMOS MAKSAY - LAURA KRISTOFFERSEN

220 Bài luận tiếng Anh

# 220 ENGLISH ESSAYS

TRUNG CẤP & NÂNG CAO

Useful for C level, IELTS, TOEFL, ...

NHÀ XUẤT BẢN HÀ NỘI - 2009

TailieuVNU.com Tổng hợp & Sưu tầm

## *Lời nói đầu*

Học ngoại ngữ là một quá trình đòi hỏi chúng ta phải nắm bắt được ý nghĩa và cách dùng đúng ngoại ngữ đó. Không những chúng ta phải nghe được, nói được mà còn phải viết được. Viết được một bài luận tiếng Anh, chính là các bạn đã và đang hòa nhập vào lối sống văn hóa của họ.

220 bài luận mẫu, với các đề tài và thể loại thường được gặp trong môn thi viết TOEFL, IELTS, trong các trường phổ thông, cao đẳng, đại học chuyên Anh, sẽ mang đến cho bạn nguồn thông tin cần thiết và cách viết chuẩn mực, làm nền tảng vững chắc giúp các bạn thêm dồi dào ý tưởng và ngôn ngữ để tự diễn đạt khi gặp một đề tài tương tự.

Hy vọng cuốn sách này sẽ là tập tài liệu hữu ích giúp cho học sinh, sinh viên luyện tập trong quá trình viết, giúp giảng viên, giáo viên tham khảo khi giảng dạy, ra đề kiểm tra thường xuyên hay đề thi viết cuối khóa.

Chúc các bạn thành công!

*Tác giả*

# Contents

## CHAPTER 1. Education

TOPIC 1	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children should begin studying a foreign language as soon as they start school.	27
TOPIC 2	Studying the English language in an English-speaking country is the best but not the only way to learn the language. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?	28
TOPIC 3	Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes. Others believe that going to classes should be optional for students. Which point of view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.	29
TOPIC 4	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important for students to study history and literature than it is for them to study science and mathematics. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.	30
TOPIC 5	Students should pay the full cost of their own university studies, rather than have free higher education provided by the state. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?	31
TOPIC 6	University education should be restricted to the very best academic students, rather than being available to a large proportion of young people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	32
TOPIC 7	In some countries young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decide to do this.	33
TOPIC 8	In many countries children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong, while others consider it as valuable work experience, important for learning and taking responsibility. What are your opinions on this?	34
TOPIC 9	Some people believe that children's leisure activities must be educational, otherwise they are a complete waste of time. Do you agree or disagree?	35

TOPIC 10	People attend college or university for many different reasons (for example, new experiences, career preparation, increased knowledge). Why do you think people attend college or university? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	36
TOPIC 11	Many teachers assign homework to students everyday. Do you think that daily homework is necessary for students? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.	37
TOPIC 12	Some universities require students to take classes in many subjects. Other universities require students to specialize in one subject. Which is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	38
TOPIC 13	Schools should ask students to evaluate their teachers. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	39
TOPIC 14	Going overseas for university study is an exciting prospect for many people. But while it may offer some advantages, it is probably better to stay home because of the difficulties a student inevitably encounter living and studying in a different culture. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.	40
TOPIC 15	Disruptive school students have a negative influence on others. Students who are noisy and disobedient should be grouped together and taught separately. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.	41
TOPIC 16	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents are the best teachers. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	42
TOPIC 17	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Most experiences in our lives that seemed difficult at the time become valuable lessons for the future. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.	43
TOPIC 18	Students at universities often have a choice of places to live. They may choose to live in university dormitories, or they may choose to live in apartments in the community. Compare the advantages of living in university housing with the advantages of living in an apartment in the community. Where would you prefer to live? Give reasons for your preference.	44
TOPIC 19	Some people believe that a college or university education should be available to all students. Others believe that higher education should be available to only good students. Discuss these views. Which view do you agree with? Explain why.	45

TOPIC 20	Subjects such as Art, Sport and Music are being dropped from the school curriculum for subjects such as Information Technology (IT). Many people feel that children suffer as a result of these changes. To what extent would you support or reject the idea of removing these subject from the school curriculum?	46
TOPIC 21	What are the advantages and disadvantages of co-education?	47
TOPIC 22	It has been said, "Not everything that is learned is contained in books." Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why?	48
TOPIC 23	Many students have to live with a roommate while going to school or university. What are some of the important qualities of a good roommate? Use specific reasons and examples to explain why these qualities are important.	49
TOPIC 24	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Teachers should be paid according to how much their students learn. Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.	49
TOPIC 25	People learn in different ways. Some people learn by doing things; other people learn by reading about things; others learn by listening to people talk about things. Which of these methods of learning is best for you? Use specific examples to support your choice.	50
TOPIC 26	Some high schools require all students to wear school uniforms. Other high schools permit students to decide what to wear to school. Which of these two school policies do you think is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.	51
TOPIC 27	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? High schools should allow students to study the courses that students want to study. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.	52
TOPIC 28	Some people believe that students should be given one long vacation each year. Others believe that students should have several short vacations throughout the year. Which viewpoint do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.	53
TOPIC 29	In the future, students may have the choice of studying at home by using technology such as computers or television or of studying at traditional schools. Which would you prefer? Use reasons and specific details to explain your choice.	54
TOPIC 30	Many students choose to attend schools or universities outside their home countries. Why do some students study abroad? Use specific reasons and details to explain your answer.	55

TOPIC 31	In many countries these days, the number of people continuing their education after school has increased, and the range of courses available at universities and colleges has also increased. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?	56
TOPIC 32	Modern societies need specialists in certain fields, but not in others. Some people therefore think that governments should pay university fees for students who study subjects that are needed by society. Those who choose to study less relevant subjects should not receive government funding. Would the advantages of such an educational policy outweigh the disadvantages?	57
TOPIC 33	University education should be restricted to the very best academic students, rather than being available to a large proportion of young people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	58
TOPIC 34	Some people think it would be a good idea for schools to teach every young person how to be a good parent. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Describe the skills a person needs to be a good parent.	59

## CHAPTER 2. Family

TOPIC 35	Young people in the modern world seem to have more power and influence than any previous young generation. Why is this the case? What impact does this have on the relationship between old and young people?	60
TOPIC 36	It is generally accepted that families are not as close as they used to be. Give some reasons why this change has happened and suggest how families could be brought closer together. Include any relevant examples from your experience	61
TOPIC 37	Some people think men and woman have different natural abilities that make them suitable for different types of work. Others, however, believe that both men and women can be equally suited to do any type of work. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.	62
TOPIC 38	Many people believe women make better parents than men and that this is why they have the greater role in raising children in most societies. Others claim that men are just as good as women at parenting. Write an essay expressing your point of view. Give reasons for your answer.	63



TOPIC 39	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children should be required to help with household tasks as soon as they are able to do so. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	64
TOPIC 40	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement. Classmates are a more important influence than parents on a child's success in school. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	64
TOPIC 41	It is better for children to grow up in the countryside than in a big city. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to develop your essay.	65
TOPIC 42	Some people think that family is the most important influence on young adults. Other people think that friends are the most important influence on young adults. Which view do you agree with? Use examples to support your opinion.	66
TOPIC 43	What are the important qualities of a good son or daughter? Have these qualities changed or remained the same over time in your culture? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	67
TOPIC 44	What are some of the qualities of a good parent? Use specific details and examples to explain your answer.	68
TOPIC 45	Some people think that family is the most important influence on young adults. Other people think that friends are the most important influence on young adults. Which view do you agree with? Use examples to support your opinion.	69
TOPIC 46	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents or other adult relatives should make important decisions for their older (15-18 year old) teenaged children. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.	69

### CHAPTER 3. Economics

TOPIC 47	It has been claimed that workers over 50 are not responsive to rapidly changing ideas in the modern workplace and that for this reason younger workers are to be preferred. To what extent would you support or reject this idea?	71
TOPIC 48	In recent years some countries have experienced very rapid economic development. This has resulted in much higher standards of living in urban areas but not in the countryside. This situation may bring some problems for the country as a whole. What are these problems? How might they be reduced?	72

TOPIC 49	In some countries, it can be very difficult for people over the age of 50 to get good jobs, despite their experience. What do you think are the causes of this problem, and what measures could be taken to solve it?	73
TOPIC 50	Some people regard work as the most important thing in life and have little interest in anything else. Other people are more enthusiastic about their hobbies and leisure interests than their jobs. Discuss both these attitudes and give your own opinion.	74
TOPIC 51	Improvements in health, education and trade are essential for the development of poorer nations. However, the governments of richer nations should take more responsibility for helping the poorer nations in such areas. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?	75
TOPIC 52	In many countries children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong, while others consider it as valuable work experience, important for learning and taking responsibility. What are your opinion on this?	76
TOPIC 53	Many people are using credit cards or loans to run up huge personal debts that they may be unable to repay. It should therefore be made more difficult for individuals to borrow large amounts of money. What are your opinions on this?	77
TOPIC 54	We all work or will work in Jobs with many different kinds of people. In your opinion, what are some important characteristics of a co-worker (someone you work closely with)? Use reasons and specific examples to explain why these characteristics are important.	78
TOPIC 55	In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea? Support your opinion by using specific reasons and details.	78
TOPIC 56	You have enough money to purchase either a house or a business. Which would you choose to buy? Give specific reasons to explain your choice.	79
TOPIC 57	A company has announced that it wishes to build a large factory, near your community. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this new influence on your community. Do you support or oppose the factory? Explain your position.	80
TOPIC 58	If you were an employer, which kind of worker would you prefer to hire: an inexperienced worker at a lower salary or an experienced worker at a higher salary? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.	81

TOPIC 59	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The most important aspect of a job is the money a person earns. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	81
TOPIC 60	The international community should reduce or eliminate the debts of the world's poorest countries. To what extent would you support or reject this proposal?	82
TOPIC 61	Some of the methods used in advertising are unethical and unacceptable in today's society. To what extent do you agree with this view?	83
TOPIC 62	Some people argue that the government should give every unemployed person a mobile phone and should make sure they have access to the Internet. They believe this is the best way of using public money to reduce the problem of unemployment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	84
TOPIC 63	Workers like doctor and teachers are under valued and underpaid, at least compared to actors and actresses. What is your opinions on this matter.	85
TOPIC 64	Is it better to enjoy your money when you earn it, or is it better to save your money for some time in the future? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.	86
TOPIC 65	Businesses should hire employees for their entire lives. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	87
TOPIC 66	Which would you choose – a high-paying job with long hours that would give you little time with family and friends or a lower-paying job with shorter hours that would give you more time with family and friends? Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.	88
TOPIC 67	It is sometimes said that borrowing money from a friend can harm or damage the friendship. Do you agree? Why or why not? Use reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.	88
TOPIC 68	More and more qualified people are moving from poor to rich countries to fill vacancies in specialist areas like engineering, computing and medicine. Some people believe that by encouraging the movement of such people rich countries are stealing from poor countries. Others feel that this is only part of the natural movement of workers around the world. What is your opinion? Do you think rich countries should pay poorer countries for the people they encourage to come? What other measures could rich countries take to encourage qualified people to stay and help develop their own countries?	89

TOPIC 69	Business should hire employees for their entire lives. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	90
TOPIC 70	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Advertising can tell you a lot about a country. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	91

#### CHAPTER 4. Transportation

TOPIC 71	The only way to reduce the amount of traffic in cities today is by reducing the need for people to travel from home for work, education or shopping. To what extent do you agree or disagree?	93
TOPIC 72	We know that cars cause pollution and other problems. Many city centres now have car-free areas, and in some countries drivers have to pay a pollution tax. However, the car is still very popular as it is the cheapest and most comfortable way to travel. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answers.	94
TOPIC 73	Air traffic is increasingly leading to more noise, pollution and airport construction. One reason for this is the growth in low-cost passenger flights, often to holiday destinations. Some people say that governments should try to reduce air traffic by taxing it more heavily. Do you agree or disagree?	95
TOPIC 74	There is an excessive number of cars on our roads today and this leads to many problems. Individuals and governments should ensure that public transport plays a more important role in modern to tackle these problems. To what extent do you agree with this statement?	96
TOPIC 75	Should governments spend more money on improving roads and high-ways, or should governments spend more money on improving public transportation (buses, trains, subways)? Why? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.	97
TOPIC 76	You need to travel from your home to a place 40 miles (64 kilometers) away. Compare the different kinds of transportation you could use. Tell which method of travel you would choose. Give specific reasons for your choice.	98

TOPIC 77	The burning of oil for transport, especially in private cars, is wasteful and environmentally irresponsible. Taxation on petrol and diesel fuel should be increase to very high levels to discourage the use of private cars. To what extent would you support or reject this idea?	99
TOPIC 78	We know that cars cause pollution and other problems. Many city centers now have car free areas, and in some countries drivers have to pay a pollution tax. However, the car is still very popular as it is the cheapest and most comfortable way to travel. Do you agree or disagree?	100

## CHAPTER 5. Travelling and tourism

TOPIC 79	Tourism is a modern form of colonialism. It distorts local economies, causes environmental damage and ruins the places it exploits. To what extent would you support or reject this idea?	101
TOPIC 80	People who travel to another country to live, work or study for a period of time often suffer badly from homesickness. Why is this? What are the best ways to reduce this problem?	102
TOPIC 81	You have the opportunity to visit a foreign country for two weeks. Which country would you like to visit? Use specific reasons and details to explain your choice.	103
TOPIC 82	Imagine that you have received some land to use as you wish. How would you use this land? Use specific details to explain your answer.	103
TOPIC 83	A foreign visitor has only one day to spend in your country. Where should this visitor go on that day? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.	104
TOPIC 84	Many people visit museums when they travel to new places. Why do you think people visit museums? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	105
TOPIC 85	Some people like to travel with a companion. Other people prefer to travel alone: Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.	106
TOPIC 86	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The best way to travel is in a group led by a tour guide. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	107
TOPIC 87	If you could travel back in time to meet a famous person from history, what person would you like to meet? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.	108

## CHAPTER 6. Entertainment

TOPIC 88	Many people believe that the high levels of violence in films today are causing serious social problems. What are these problem and how could they be reduced?	109
TOPIC 89	Music is played in every society and culture in the world today. Some people think that music brings only benefits to individuals and societies. Others, however, think that music can have a negative influence on both. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.	110
TOPIC 90	Sports which depend on violence for their entertainment, such as boxing and wrestling, have no place in a civilized society and should be banned. To what extent would you support or reject this idea?	111
TOPIC 91	Successful sports professionals can earn a great deal more than people in other important professions. Some people think this is fully justified while others think it is unfair. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.	112
TOPIC 92	Movies are popular all over the world. Explain why movies are so popular. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.	112
TOPIC 93	Films can tell us a lot about the country where they were made. What have you learned about a country from watching its movies? Use specific examples and details to support your response.	113
TOPIC 94	How do movies or television Influence people's behavior? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.	114
TOPIC 95	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television has destroyed communication among friends and family. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinions.	115
TOPIC 96	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Games are as important for children as they are for adults. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answers.	116
TOPIC 97	Some young children spend a great amount of their time practicing sports. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	117
TOPIC 98	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Watching television is bad for children. Use specific details and examples to support your answer.	118

TOPIC 99	People listen to music for different reasons and at different times. Why is music important to many people? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.	118
TOPIC 100	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television, newspapers, magazines, and other media pay too much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public figures and celebrities. Use specific reasons and details to explain your opinion.	119
TOPIC 101	Why do you think some people are attracted to dangerous sports or other dangerous activities? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	120
TOPIC 102	Some movies are serious, designed to make the audience think. Other movies are designed primarily to amuse and entertain. Which type of movie do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	121

**CHAPTER 7. Telecommunication - Technology** 122

TOPIC 103	In the last 20 years there have been significant developments in the field of information technology (IT), for example the World Wide Web and communication by e-mail. However, future developments in IT are likely to have more negative effects than positive. To what extent do you agree with this view?	122
TOPIC 104	Using a computer every day can have more negative than positive effects on young children. Do you agree disagree?	123
TOPIC 105	E-mail has had a huge impact on professional and social communication, but this impact has been negative as well as positive. Do the disadvantages of using e-mail outweigh the advantages?	124
TOPIC 106	We are becoming increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in businesses, hospitals, crime detection and even to fly planes. What things will they be used for in the future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits?	125
TOPIC 107	Parents should restrict the using television and computer of their children. Do you agree or disagree?	126
TOPIC 108	Some people think that Internet provide human with a lot of valuable information. Other think access to so much information creates problems. Which view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.	127

TOPIC 109	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Modern technology is creating a single world culture. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	128
TOPIC 110	Some people think the Internet provides people with a lot of valuable information. Others think access to so much information creates problems. Which view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.	129
TOPIC 111	The 21st century has begun. What changes do you think this new century will bring? Use examples and details in your answers.	130
TOPIC 112	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? With the help of technology, students nowadays can learn more information and learn it more quickly. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	130
TOPIC 113	Some people think that the automobile has improved modern life. Others think that the automobile has caused serious problems. What is your opinion? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	131
TOPIC 114	Some people say that computers have made life easier and more convenient. Other people say that computers have made life more complex and stressful. What is your opinion? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	132
TOPIC 115	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Technology has made the world a better place to live. Use specific reasons and examples to support your statement.	133
TOPIC 116	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Telephone and e-mail have made communications between people less personal. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.	134
TOPIC 117	What discovery in the last 100 years has been most beneficial for people in your country? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.	135
TOPIC 118	Some people think that governments should spend as much money as possible on developing or buying computer technology. Other people disagree and think that this money should be spent on more basic needs. Which one of these opinions do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.	136

<b>CHAPTER 8. Medicine</b>	138
TOPIC 119	Currently there is a trend towards the use of alternative forms of medicine. However, at best these methods are ineffective, and at worst they may be dangerous. To what extent do you agree with this statement? 138
TOPIC 120	"Prevention is better than cure" Out of a country's health budget, a large proportion should be diverted from treatment to spending on health education and preventative measures. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? 139
TOPIC 121	Most developed countries spend a large proportion of their health budgets on expensive medical technology and procedures. This money should be spent instead on health education to keep people well. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? 140
TOPIC 122	Write an essay expressing your point of view on the following topic: People's access to good health care should not depend on social factors such as their level of income or social status. 141
TOPIC 123	People do many different things to stay healthy. What do you do for good health? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. 142
TOPIC 124	Should parents be obliged to immunize their children against common childhood diseases? Or do individuals have the right to choose not to immunize their children? 142

<b>CHAPTER 9. Culture and tradition</b>	144
TOPIC 125	When a country develops its technology, the traditional skills and ways of life die out. It is pointless to try and keep them alive. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? 144
TOPIC 126	Schools and parents often require their pupils to wear school uniforms. The pupils, however, usually dislike this. There are acceptable arguments both for and against the wearing of school uniforms. Explain some of the arguments both for and against the wearing of school uniforms and state what is your opinion on the subject. 145
TOPIC 127	The twentieth century saw great change. In your opinion, what is one change that should be remembered about the twentieth century? Use specific reasons and details to explain your choice. 146

TOPIC 128	Holidays honor people or events. If you could create a new holiday, what person or event would it honor and how would you want people to celebrate it? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. 147
TOPIC 129	Describe New Year celebrations in your country. 147
TOPIC 130	Describe a custom from your country that you would like people in other countries to adopt. Explain your choice using specific reasons and examples. 148
TOPIC 131	When people move to another country, some of them decide to follow the customs of the new country. Others prefer to keep their own customs. Compare these two choices. Which one do you prefer? Support your answer with specific details. 149
TOPIC 132	Would you prefer to live in a traditional house or in a more modern apartment building? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice. 150
TOPIC 133	Some people enjoy change and they look forward to new experiences. Others like their lives to stay the same, and they do not change their usual habits. Compare these two approaches to life. Which approach do you prefer? Why? 151
TOPIC 134	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People behave differently when they wear different clothes. Do you agree that different clothes influence the way people behave? Use specific examples to support your answer. 152
TOPIC 135	Holidays honor people or events. If you could create a new holiday, what person or event would it honor and how would you want people to celebrate it? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. 153
TOPIC 136	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Dancing plays an important role in a culture. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. 153

<b>CHAPTER 10. Pets</b>	155
TOPIC 137	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A zoo has no useful purpose. Use specific reasons and examples to explain your answer. 155
TOPIC 138	Many people keep dogs and cats as companions. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of pet ownership for the animals involved and for the community as a whole. 156

TOPIC 139	Too much attention is paid to and too much money is spent on keeping pets, while people throughout the world are starving. Discuss the arguments for and against keeping pets. To what extent do you agree?	157
TOPIC 140	What is the most important animal in your country? Why is this animal important? Use reasons and specific details to explain your answer.	157
TOPIC 141	Many people have a close relationship with their pets. These people treat their birds, cats or other animals as members of their family. In your opinion, are such relationships good? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.	158

## CHAPTER 11. Supplements 160

TOPIC 142	Research indicates that the characteristics we are born with have much more influence on our personality and development than any experiences we may have in our life. Which do you consider to be the major influence?	160
TOPIC 143	Nowadays we are producing more and more rubbish. Why do you think this is happening? What can governments do to help reduce the amount of rubbish produced?	161
TOPIC 144	Some governments say how many children a family can have in their country. They may control the number of children someone has through taxes. It is sometimes necessary and right for a government to control the population in this way. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.	162
TOPIC 145	The position of women in society has changed markedly in the last twenty years. Many of the problems young people now experience, such as juvenile delinquency, arise from the fact that many married women now work and are not at home to care for their children. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?	163
TOPIC 146	Without capital punishment (the death penalty) our lives are less secure and crimes of violence increase. Capital punishment is essential to control violence in society. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?	164

TOPIC 147	Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems. Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals tackle these problems.	164
TOPIC 148	In recent years, many countries have become extremely concerned about the increase in crimes committed by young people. Tough measures and strict punishments are necessary to stop youths from re-offending. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?	165
TOPIC 149	Many governments are now trying to prevent global warming and the effect it has on our environment. They are trying to reduce the things which contribute to global warming such as pollution from cars and destruction of the rain forests. Describe what you think the problem is and the actions you think your government should take to solve it.	166
TOPIC 150	It has been claimed that workers over 50 are not responsive to rapidly changing ideas in the modern workplace and that for this reason younger workers are to be preferred. To what extent would you support or reject this idea?	167
TOPIC 151	Happiness is considered very important in life. Why is it difficult to define? What factors are important in achieving happiness?	168

## CHAPTER 12. Letters 170

TOPIC 152	You and your family are living in rented accommodation in an English-speaking country. You are not satisfied with the condition of some of the furniture. Write a letter to the landlord. In your letter. - introduce yourself - explain what is wrong with the furniture - say what action you would like the landlord to take	170
TOPIC 153	You borrowed some books from your school or college library. Unfortunately you have to go away to visit a sick relative and cannot return the books in time. Write a letter to the library. Explain what has happened and tell them what you want to do about it.	171
TOPIC 154	You travelled by plane last week and your suitcase was lost. You have still heard nothing from the airline company. Write to the airline and explain what happened. Describe your suitcase and tell them what was in it. Find out what they are going to do about it.	171

TOPIC 155	You have decided to join a club which puts pen friends from around the world in touch with each other. Write a letter giving details about yourself and about the sort of person you would like to correspond with. They will use this information to put you in touch with a suitable person. Write a letter to the club providing this information.	172
TOPIC 156	One month ago you travelled to Japan by plane. You arrived four hours late because of a mechanical problem, and your luggage was lost. Your luggage has still not been returned to you. Write a letter to the airline. Explain what happened and tell them what you want them to do about this situation.	173
TOPIC 157	You are due to start a new job next week but you will not be able to because you have some problems. Write a letter to your new employer. In your letter. - explain your situation - describe your problems - tell him/her when you think you can start.	174
TOPIC 158	You have had a bank account for a few years. Recently you received a letter from the bank stating that your account is \$240 overdrawn and that you will be charged \$70 which will be taken directly from your account. You know that this information is incorrect. Write a letter to the bank. Explain what has happened and say what you would like them to do about it.	175
TOPIC 159	Your neighbours have recently written to you to complain about the noise from your houseflat. Write a letter to your neighbours. In your letter. - explain the reasons for the noise - apologise - describe what action you will take	176
TOPIC 160	You wrote to the Harvey School of English last month asking for a brochure and for details of how to arrange accommodation. You have received nothing. You have telephoned but only spoken to the caretaker. Write a letter to the school owners. Explain the situation and tell them what you want to happen.	176
TOPIC 161	You have bought a packet of breakfast cereal at Gibbon's Supermarket. When you opened it at home it had clearly gone bad. Write a letter of complaint to the manager of the supermarket and explain what you want to happen.	177

TOPIC 162	A letter to a former school friend who has moved to another town.	178
TOPIC 163	A letter to a company asking for help with a school project.	179
TOPIC 164	Letter to a penfriend about his forthcoming visit.	179
TOPIC 165	Letter to a friend about a recent experience.	180
TOPIC 166	Write a letter to your friend who has recently met with a family disaster. Your letter must be a comforting and consoling one.	181
TOPIC 167	Write a letter to a newspaper protesting against street noise.	182
TOPIC 168	Write a letter to thank someone for returning a lost wallet.	183
TOPIC 169	Write a letter to a friend inviting him to visit you during the holiday.	183
TOPIC 170	Write a letter to the manager of a bus station to complain about the facilities.	184
TOPIC 171	Write a letter to inform a friend of your holiday plans.	185
TOPIC 172	Write a letter to apologise for a misunderstanding.	185
TOPIC 173	Write a letter to a neighbour complaining about noise.	186
TOPIC 174	Write a letter inviting somebody to stay at your home	187
TOPIC 175	Write a letter to a cousin, congratulating him on passing his exams	187
TOPIC 176	Your friend sent you a present for a birthday, write a letter to him, thanking him for the gift.	188
TOPIC 177	Write a letter to your friend expressing your apology in not being able to keep an appointment.	189
TOPIC 178	Write to your friend explaining what you would like to do. Tell him/her what type of work or studies you have been doing for the past few years and ask for assistance in contacting an appropriate institution.	190
TOPIC 179	You are a student living in a rent house, and your next month's rent is due on Saturday, however, you cannot pay in due course. Write a letter to the landlord explaining this, and additionally state some problems.	191
TOPIC 180	You took a two-day course, you are asked to write a letter to the course organiser. Describe the details about the course and give suggestions on how to improve the course. Write a letter to the course organiser and describe the details about the course and give suggestions.	191

**TOPIC 181** You are a student who seek accommodation for a group of students and have to write a letter to the Manager of Student H6tel Services. Describe your situation and specify your demand for the accommodation. 192

Write a letter to the manager and describe the details about your requirements.

**TOPIC 182** You are studying at a university in the north of England. Your passport has been stolen. Here is the form filled in for the police: 193

Lost Passport Details	Police Reference Number: CX241
Passport number A4847009X	
Date of issue 28/2/1992	Date of expiry 27/2/2002
Place lost Leeds bus station	Date and time lost 9 October 10:20am

Write to your embassy in London, giving details of who you are, what happened and asking what you should do to get a new passport.

**TOPIC 183** You live in a room in college which you share with another student. You find it very difficult to work there because your roommate always has friends visiting. He/She has parties in the room and sometimes borrows your things without asking you. 194

Write a letter to the Accommodation Officer at the college and ask for a new room next term.

**TOPIC 184** You are a commuter. One morning on your way to work you suddenly felt dizzy and lost consciousness. One gentleman on the same bus sent you to a hospital. 195

Write a letter to the company where the gentleman works to extend your gratitude.

**TOPIC 185** As an Asia-wide traveller, you have quite many opinions on travelling. Write a letter to a travel agency and make some suggestions. 196

**TOPIC 186** You are a university student. Write a letter apply for scholarship. 197

**TOPIC 187** Write a letter to a roommate apologizing for not saying good-bye to him/her when you left school the last day of semester. Explain the reason why you were not able to say good-bye to him/her and invite him/her to visit you. 198

## CHAPTER 13. Reports

199

**TOPIC 188** The graph and table below give information about water use worldwide and water consumption in two different countries. 199

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

**TOPIC 189** The diagrams below show the life cycle of the silkworm and the stages in the production of silk cloth. 200

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

**TOPIC 190** The charts below give information about USA marriage and divorce rates between 1970 and 2000, and the marital status of adult Americans in two of the years. 202

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

**TOPIC 191** The graph below shows four countries of residence of overseas students in Australia. 203

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

**TOPIC 192** The diagram below shows the environmental issues raised by a product over its life cycle. 204

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

**TOPIC 193** The charts below show the number of girls per 100 boys in all levels of education. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting on the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. 205

**TOPIC 194** The table below shows causes of injuries in Australia for teenagers and the general population. 206

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, making comparisons where relevant.

**TOPIC 195** The graphs below show the number of visits to and from the UK between 1979 and 1999, and some destinations of UK citizens traveling abroad. 207

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

**TOPIC 196** The graph below shows the number of students learning foreign languages in certain British schools between 1940 and 2000. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below. 208



TOPIC 197	The graph shows figures for motorcycle production in five countries during the period 1940-1990. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	209
TOPIC 198	The following table shows the sources of generated electricity for five European countries. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	210
TOPIC 199	The graph below shows the proportion of the population aged 65 and over between 1940 and 2040 in three different countries. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.	211
TOPIC 200	The charts below show the main reasons for study among students of different age groups and the amount of support they received from employers. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.	212
TOPIC 201	The following graph gives information about book-buying over 30 years in New York. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	213
TOPIC 202	The chart below shows the amount spent on six consumer goods in four European countries. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	214
TOPIC 203	The chart below show the levels of participation in education and science in developing and industrialized countries in 1980 and 1990. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	215
TOPIC 204	The graph below shows the unemployment rates in the US and Japan between March 1993 and March 1999. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	216
TOPIC 205	The graph below compares figures for the production and consumption of energy in the US from 1950 to 2000. It also predicts figures for 2025. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.	217
TOPIC 206	The table below shows the results of a survey to find out what members of a city sports club think about the club's activities, facilities and opening hours. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make any comparisons where relevant.	218

TOPIC 207	The charts below give information about the way in which water was used in different countries in 2000. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.	219
TOPIC 208	The diagrams below show the development of a small fishing village and its surrounding area into a large European tourist resort. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.	220
TOPIC 209	The map below is of the town of Garlsdon. A new supermarket (S) is planned for the town. The map shows two possible sites for the supermarket. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.	221
TOPIC 210	The table below gives information about the underground railway systems in six cities. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.	222
TOPIC 211	The graph below gives information about the progress of certain diseases during childhood between 1950 and 2000 in a developing country. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	223
TOPIC 212	The following table shows preferences for academic subjects studied at degree level in different countries. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	224
TOPIC 213	The table below shows the total appearances in court or 10 to 18 year old children distinguished by age and sex in New South Wales, Australia between July 1994 and June 1995. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	225
TOPIC 214	The table below shows the consumer durables (telephone, refrigerator, etc.) owned in Britain from 1972 to 1983. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	226
TOPIC 215	The chart below shows the amount of leisure time enjoyed by men and women of different employment status. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.	227

- TOPIC 216 The first chart below shows the results of a survey which sampled a cross-section of 100,000 people asking if they travelled abroad and why they travelled for the period 1994 - 98. The second chart shows their destinations over the same period. 228  
Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.
- TOPIC 217 The table below shows the figures for imprisonment in five countries between 1930 and 1980. 229  
Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.
- TOPIC 218 The graphs below show the number of drivers in Britain who have been caught driving too fast by speed cameras placed on roads, and the number of people killed in road accidents, over an eight year period since the introduction of speed cameras. The tables show the results of a survey on people's opinions on speed cameras. 230  
Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information below.
- TOPIC 219 The diagram below shows the process for making a water clock. 231  
Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information below.
- TOPIC 220 The bar charts and line graph below show the results of a survey conducted over a three-year period to discover what people who live in London think of the city. 232  
Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information below.

## CHAPTER 1

# Education

### TOPIC 1

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children should begin studying a foreign language as soon as they start school.**

Children should begin studying a foreign as soon as they start school. Childhood is the best time to learn a foreign language. It is easier at that time, it contributes to a child's development, and it helps children expand their knowledge.

Everybody knows that it is much easier to learn foreign languages when you are young. Children's minds are ready to learn many new things. When children learn foreign languages, they learn them as well as their native language. If they wait until they are older to study a language, it is much harder to become fluent.

Many studies have shown that learning a language helps the child's mind develop. Children who learn foreign languages also do better in their other subjects. It helps their intellect develop more. This isn't so true for older students.

Learning foreign languages can help children expand their knowledge of the world. If they learn a foreign language, they will be interested in the people who speak that language. They will want to know about their country and customs. They will want to understand them instead of becoming afraid of them because they are different.

Learning a foreign language has many advantages for everybody. It contributes to our intellectual development and our understanding of the world. The younger a language student is, the more advantages he or she gets from learning the language. So, the best time for a child to start studying a foreign language is when he or she starts school.

**Topic 2**

**Studying the English language in an English-speaking country is the best but not the only way to learn the language.  
Do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

Studying a language in a country where it is widely spoken has many advantages. It is, therefore, a good idea to study English in a country such as Britain. However, I believe it is not the only way to learn the language.

In the first place, most students in non-English-speaking countries learn English at secondary school, and sometimes at university nowadays. Although their spoken English is not usually of a very high standard, their knowledge of grammar is often quite advanced. This is certainly useful when students come to an English-speaking country to perfect the language.

Secondly, studying the basics of English at secondary school is less stressful than learning the language while overseas. This is because student's living at home do not have to worry about problems such as finding accommodation, paying for their study and living costs, and trying to survive in a foreign country where day to day living causes much stress.

However, there are obvious advantages of learning English in Britain. Every day there are opportunities to practice listening to and speaking with British people. Also students can experience the culture first-hand, which is a great help when trying to understand the language. This is especially true if they choose to live with a British family, as exchange students for example. Furthermore, if students attend a language school full-time, the teachers will be native speakers. In this case, not only will students' speaking and listening skills improve, but attention can be given to developing reading and writing skills as well.

In general, even though it is preferable to study English in an English speaking country, a reasonable level of English can be achieved in one's own country, if a student is gifted and dedicated to study

**Comment:** *This is a very good model essay.*

**Possible: Band 9 score (IEL TS).**

**Topic 3**

**Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes. Others believe that going to classes should be optional for students. Which point of view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.**

Some people believe that going to classes should be optional for university students, but I disagree. Students learn a lot more in classes than they can learn from books. In class they have the advantage of learning from the teacher; of interacting with their classmates, and of developing the responsibility it takes to be a good student.

When students attend class, they receive the benefit of the teacher's knowledge. The best teachers do more than just go over the material in the class textbook. They draw their students into discussion of the material. They present opposing points of view. They provide additional information by inviting guest speakers or showing documentary films.

Going to class also teaches students how to work with other people. In class, students have to present their ideas to their classmates. They have to defend their ideas if their classmates disagree with them, but still remain friendly when the discussion is over. They have to learn to work in groups to complete class projects.

Attending classes teaches students responsibility. Having to be at a particular place at a particular time prepares them for getting a job. Having to complete assignments on time also helps develop responsibility.

Anyone can get information from books, but students get a great many more advantages when they attend class. They get the benefit of the teacher's knowledge and experience, and even more than that, they learn how to work with others and to develop a sense of responsibility. These are not optional skills in life, so attending classes should not be optional at a university.

**TOPIC 4**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important for students to study history and literature than it is for them to study science and mathematics. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

In my opinion, it is much more important for students to study science and mathematics than it is for them to study history and literature. Science and mathematics are much more practical. It is easier to get a job with science and math skills. Scientists and mathematicians have more social prestige, and they can earn higher salaries.

People who study science and mathematics get jobs more easily than people who study history and literature. There are always jobs in fields such as medicine, computer science, engineering, and other professions that require a science or math background. People who study history or literature can only become writers or college professors. It is difficult to get well-paying jobs in those fields.

Scientists and mathematicians have a lot of social prestige. Let's face it - our society values science and math. If you go to a party and say, "I am a rocket scientist," people will be interested in you. They will want to talk to you and be your friend. If you say, "I am an historian," no one will pay any attention to you.

Scientists and mathematicians also earn more money than people in other fields because society values them more. A doctor, a chemist, a medical researcher, - a person in anyone of these professions usually earns a far higher salary than a literature professor, for example, or a history expert.

Our society values science and math, so it is important to develop skills in these areas. If you have a science or math background, you are sure to get a good job, have lots of social prestige, and earn a good salary. Faced with this fact, who would want to study anything else?

**TOPIC 5**

Students should pay the full cost of their own university studies, rather than have free higher education provided by the state. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Student fees have been a constant subject of debate all round the worlds in recent years. There are many different opinions about this issue and educational systems and financial support to students from states have changes significantly.

In my opinions, there are a number of points that need to be taken into consideration here.

Firstly, the education of students is extremely expensive these day. Students have to pay a great deal of money for various things, such as accommodation, student fees or books. The importance of this is that majority of students can not afford these things. I consider that solutions should be found in financial aid from states to students.

In addition, considering gifted students who do not have money to pay for education. I believe that states should finance their education. For instance, many scientists have received money for education in my country. Afterwards, they have discovered and invented a variety of things which have been beneficial for the society. So, states should always support talented students who do not have money. Further more, states' financial support can be an extremely motivating and encouraging factor for students. In other words, in terms of leisure and holidays, they can do many things which they cannot do without this states' aid, such as hobbies sport activities or travelling. However, students can use this money in wrong purposes, but generally I claim that this is a good investment for country.

On the other hand, considering the high number of people who want to study, I object strongly that high education should be only provided by states. I claim that states can not pay all extra costs of education for students. As a result, I argue that states and students should reach a compromise regarding this issue.

In conclusion, although there are a number of different points of view regarding costs of university studies, I claim that this should be finance by both students and states. Moreover, states should provide funds which would support gifted students.

**Possible: Band 7 score (IELTS)**

**TOPIC 6**

University education should be restricted to the very best academic students, rather than being available to a large proportion of young people.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In the past, tertiary education was limited to a small proportion of people who were the most academic students. Today, however, many more young people, have the opportunity of going to university, and think that this is a much better situation for several reasons.

Firstly, individuals today need much higher level skills and technical knowledge. For example, many professionals require advanced computer skills and an ability to adapt to a rapidly changing workplace. Schools do not have the resources to equip students with these skills, so universities have to fulfil this role.

Furthermore, societies cannot continue to develop unless more citizens are educated. In order to progress and compete in the modern world, each country needs people who can develop modern technologies further and apply them in new fields.

Finally, it is only fair that anyone who could benefit from a university education should have access to one. Therefore, there should be equal opportunities for every to realise their full potential. Going to university is part of this.

In conclusion, I totally disagree with the statement because I believe that the increasing availability of tertiary education is vital both for the individual and for society as a whole. Individuals need as high a level of education as possible to achieve their full potential, and in the same way, society in the 21st century cannot function unless it has large numbers of highly educated people to cope with the changes to our living and working environment that are likely to occur in the coming decades.

**TOPIC 7**

In some countries young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decide to do this.

It is quite common these days for young people in many countries to have a break from studying after graduating from high school. The trend is not restricted to rich students who have the money to travel, but is also evident among poorer students who choose to work and become economically independent for a period of time.

The reasons for this trend may involve the recognition that a young adult who passes directly from school to university is rather restricted in terms of general knowledge and experience of the world. By contrast, those who have spent some time earning a living or travelling to other places, have a broader view of life and better personal resources to draw on. They tend to be more independent, which is a very important factor in academic study and research, as well as giving them an advantage in terms of coping with the challenges of student life.

However, there are certainly dangers in taking time off at that important age. Young adults may end up never returning to their studies or finding it difficult to readapt to an academic environment. They may think that it is better to continue in a particular job, or to do something completely different from a university course. But overall, I think this is less likely today, when academic qualifications are essential for getting a reasonable career.

My view is that young people should be encouraged to broaden their horizons. That is the best way for them to get a clear perspective of what they are hoping to do with their lives and why. Students with such a perspective are usually the most effective and motivated ones and taking a year off may be the best way to gain this.

**Topic 8**

In many countries children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong, while others consider it as valuable work experience, important for learning and taking responsibility.

What are your opinions on this?

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

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

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

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

**Topic 9**

Some people believe that children's leisure activities must be educational, otherwise they are a complete waste of time.

Do you agree or disagree?

Today, education has become a priority for many parents seeking to secure a good future for their children in this rapidly changing world. They believe that if their children apply themselves and work hard at school, then they will increase their opportunities for going to higher education and eventually getting a good job. Of course they are right, and as access to the best education and best jobs is becoming more competitive, then it is true that children have to make the best of their study time when they are young.

However, the parents who do not allow their children sufficient free time for leisure activities outside school hours, are misguided. Such activities are far from being a waste of time for the children simply because they are not academic. It is important to remember that children need to develop skills other than intellectual ones, and the best way to do this is through activities such as sports, games and playing with other kids. If they cannot play make-believe games, how can they develop their imagination? How can they learn physical co-ordination or learn important social lessons about winning and losing if they do not practise any sports? Many children form strong, personal relationships with the friends they play with, and without the opportunity to do this, they could grow up emotionally immature or unformed.

Finally, I think it is also important to remember that children need to relax as well as work. If everything they do must have some educational or academic relevance, then they will soon get tired of studying altogether, which is the last thing parents would want.

**TOPIC 10**

People attend college or university for many different reasons (for example, new experiences, career preparation, increased knowledge). Why do you think people attend college or university? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

People attend college for a lot of different reasons. I believe that the three most common reasons are to prepare for a career, to have new experiences, and to increase their knowledge of themselves and of the world around them.

Career preparation is probably the primary reason that people attend college. These days, the job market is very competitive. Careers such as information technology will need many new workers in the near future. At college, students can learn new skills for these careers and increase their opportunities for the future.

Students also go to college to have new experiences. For many, it is their first time away from home. At college, they can meet new people from many different places. They can see what life is like in a different city. They can learn to live on their own and take care of themselves without having their family always nearby.

At college, students have the opportunity to increase their knowledge. As they decide what they want to study, pursue their studies, and interact with their classmates, they learn a lot about themselves. They also, of course, have the opportunity to learn about many subjects in their classes. In addition to the skills and knowledge related to their career, college students also have the chance to take classes in other areas. For many, this will be their last chance to study different subjects.

Colleges offer much more than career preparation. They offer the opportunity to have new experiences and to learn many kinds of things. I think all of these are reasons why people attend college.

**TOPIC 11**

Many teachers assign homework to students everyday. Do you think that daily homework is necessary for students? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

I believe that daily homework is not necessary. Students already spend most of the day in school. They need their time outside of school to do other things. They need time to spend with their families, to work, and to just relax. They can learn their lessons with homework two or three times a week, but every day isn't necessary.

All students need to spend time with their families. They are still young and they need the guidance and support their parents can give them. They need the companionship of their brothers and sisters. In addition, many families rely on their older children to help out at home. They take care of the younger children and help with the cooking and cleaning. If students have too much homework, they won't have time for their families.

Many high school students have jobs. They go to their jobs after school and on weekends. Some work in order to help their families. Others work to save money for college. Students' jobs are important to them. If they have too much homework, they won't have time and energy to go to work.

Students need time to relax. They study hard in school all day and many work at jobs after school. But they are still young. They need to spend time with their friends and have fun. When students relax with friends, they then have more energy for school and work. They have a chance to develop social skills or to pursue their own interests. Having free time is important for a child's development. If students have too much homework, they won't have time for relaxation.

Homework is important for students, but other things are important, too. Some homework is good, but daily homework can take time away from a student's family, job, and relaxation. There needs to be a balance.

**Topic 12**

**Some universities require students to take classes in many subjects. Other universities require students to specialize in one subject. Which is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Universities offer opportunities to study many different subjects and university students should take advantage of this. Studying many subjects can help students better prepare for their careers. It can also help them become responsible members of society and can add to their personal enjoyment, as well.

Studying many subjects can help students be better prepared for their careers. A doctor doesn't need to know only about medicine, for example. She also needs to know how to respond to patients' emotional needs. She might need to know about accounting and legal contracts so she can run her own office. Each profession requires certain specialized skills, but all professionals also need other, more general skills in order to do their jobs well.

Studying many subjects can help students become more responsible members of society. They need to understand the economic and social issues of their communities so that they can vote responsibly. They might want to do volunteer work at a community organization. They will need to be able to educate their children, no matter what their children's abilities and interests are. They will need to know about more than just their profession in order to do these things.

Studying many subjects can add a great deal of enjoyment to a student's life. If students understand art and music, they will get a lot of enjoyment from museums and concerts. If they study literature, they will continue to read good books. Life is about more than just career. If students know about a lot of subjects, they will get a lot out of life.

Some university students think only about their careers. If the choice is left to them, they might only study courses for their future profession. They will have a much better future, however, if they study subjects in addition to their career. Therefore, universities should require students to take classes in many subjects.

**Topic 13**

**Schools should ask students to evaluate their teachers. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

I think it is a good idea for schools to ask students to evaluate their teachers. It is good for the teachers, good for the school administrators, and good for the students themselves.

Teachers can get a lot of useful information from student evaluations. They can find out what the students like about the class and what they don't like. They can learn what the students think is easy or difficult. They can discover which kinds of activities the students prefer. Generally, they can find out the ways they reach the students and the ways they don't. All of these things can help teachers improve their classes.

Student evaluations are also helpful for school administrators. Student evaluations help administrators learn which teachers are most effective. They give an idea of how students are satisfied or dissatisfied with their school program. With this kind of information, administrators can work better with the teachers. They can work together to improve the school program where necessary.

Evaluating teachers is a good exercise for students. They have to organize their thoughts about their teacher. They have to think about how they themselves learn best and what kind of help they need. This can help them do better in class. Evaluations also give students a chance to develop honesty and responsibility. Evaluations with real and useful information are valuable to the school. Evaluations that are used as a way of being mean or getting favors aren't worthwhile.

Student evaluations can provide a lot of useful information to a school. They help the teachers, the school administrators, and the students. I think they are a very good idea.



Going overseas for university study is an exciting prospect for many people. But while it may offer some advantages, it is probably better to stay home because of the difficulties a student inevitably encounter living and studying in a different culture.

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

Give reasons for your answer.

There is no doubt that going to study in a foreign country, with its different language and culture, can be a frustrating and sometimes painful experience. But while overseas study has its drawbacks, the difficulties are far out-weighted by the advantages. Indeed, people who go abroad for study open themselves up to experiences that those who stay at home will never have.

The most obvious advantage to overseas university study is real life use of a different language. While a person can study a foreign language in his or her own country, it cannot compare with constant use of the language in academic and everyday life. There is no better opportunity to improve second-language skills than living in the country in which it is spoken. Moreover, having used the language during one's studies offers a distinct advantage when one is applying for jobs back home that require the language.

On a university campus, the foreign student is not alone in having come from far away. He or she will likely encounter many others from overseas and it is possible to make friends from all around the world. This is not only exciting on a social level, but could lead to important overseas contacts in later professional life.

Finally, living and studying abroad offers one a new and different perspective of the world and, perhaps most important, of one's own country. Once beyond the initial shock of being in a new culture, the student slowly begins to get a meaningful understanding of the host society. On returning home, one inevitably sees one's own country in a new, often more appreciative, light.

In conclusion, while any anxiety about going overseas for university study is certainly understandable, it is important to remember that the benefits offered by the experience make it well worthwhile.

**Comment:** *A very good model essay.*

**Possible:** Band 9 score (IEL TS)

Disruptive school students have a negative influence on others. Students who are noisy and disobedient should be grouped together and taught separately.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer.

There is no doubt that some students in schools behave badly and their behavior causes difficulty for others either because it has a negative effect on the group or because ordinary students find it difficult to study with them.

One solution is to take these students away and teach them on their own. However, if we simply have them removed after one or two warnings, we are limiting their educational opportunities because it seems to me that a school which caters for difficult students is a sort of "prison" whatever name you give it and the people who go there may never recover from the experience. This can then cause problems for the wider society.

Perhaps we need to look at why the disruptive students behave badly before we separate them. Disruptive students may be very intelligent and find the classes boring because the work is too easy. Perhaps these students need extra lessons rather than separate lessons. Or perhaps the teachers are uninspiring and this results in behavioral problems so we need better teachers. On the other hand, most students put up with this situation rather than cause trouble, and some people argue that we have to learn to suffer bad teachers and boring situations and that students who can't learn this lesson need to be taught separately.

So before we condemn the students to a special school, we should look at factors such as the teaching, because once the children have been separated, it is very unlikely that they will be brought back.

**Comment:** *This is a very good model essay.*

**Possible:** Band 9 (IEL TS)

**TOPIC 16**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents are the best teachers. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Parents shape their children from the beginning of their children's lives. They teach their children values. They share their interests with them. They develop close emotional ties with them. Parents can be very important teachers in their children's lives; however, they are not always the best teachers.

Parents may be too close to their children emotionally. For example, they may limit a child's freedom in the name of safety. A teacher may organize an educational trip to a big city, but a parent may think this trip is too dangerous. A school may want to take the children camping, but a parent may be afraid of the child getting hurt.

Another problem is that parents sometimes expect their children's interests to be similar to their own. If the parents love science, they may try to force their child to love science too. But what if the child prefers art? If the parents enjoy sports, they may expect their child to participate on different teams. But what if the child prefers to read?

Parents want to pass on their values to their children. However, things change. The children of today are growing up in a world different from their parents' world. Sometimes parents, especially older ones, can't keep up with rapid social or technological changes. A student who has friends of different races at school may find that his parents have narrower views. A student who loves computers may find that her parents don't understand or value the digital revolution.

Parents are important teachers in our lives, but they aren't always the best teachers. Fortunately, we have many teachers in our lives. Our parents teach us, our teachers teach us, and we learn from our peers. Books and newspapers also teach us. All of them are valuable.

**TOPIC 17**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Most experiences in our lives that seemed difficult at the time become valuable lessons for the future. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

People say that experience is the best teacher, and I believe this is true. Difficult experiences, especially, can teach us valuable lessons. They can help us overcome fears, they can teach us better way to do things, and they can show us that we have friends who are ready to help us.

Difficult experiences can help us overcome fears. I remember the first time I had to give a presentation to my classmates. I was very shy and afraid to speak in front of the whole class. I spent a long time preparing for my presentation. I was nervous and didn't sleep well the night before. I was surprised when I gave my presentation and everyone listened. No one laughed at me. They asked questions and I could answer them. Now I know I can talk in front of the class and do a good job.

Difficult experiences can teach us better was to do things. I had a very embarrassing experience when I took the test to get my driver's license. I didn't practice for the test because I thought I was such a good driver. But I failed. I didn't really know what to expect so I got nervous and made mistakes. I was embarrassed about my failure and my parents were disappointed. Now I know that it is always better to prepare myself for something, no matter how ready I think I am.

Difficult experiences can show us that we have friends. Once I was very sick and I missed several months of school. I thought I would have to repeat the year. I didn't have to because there were a lot of people who helped me. My teachers gave me extra time to do my work. My classmates explained the homework to me. People who I didn't even know well helped me make up the work I lost. I learned that I had friends where I hadn't expected any.

Nobody looks for difficult experiences, but we all have to go through them from time to time. They help us overcome fears, learn better ways of doing things, and show us who our friends are. These are all valuable lessons for our future.

**Topic 18**

Students at universities often have a choice of places to live. They may choose to live in university dormitories, or they may choose to live in apartments in the community. Compare the advantages of living in university housing with the advantages of living in an apartment in the community. Where would you prefer to live? Give reasons for your preference.

I think it is better for university students to live in a dormitory. It makes their lives much easier, it gives them more opportunities to make friends, and it helps them become more involved in the university community.

Dormitory life is much easier than apartment life for a university student. If a student rents an apartment, that means she has to buy furniture and kitchen utensils. She has to shop and cook for herself every day. She has to spend time keeping the apartment clean. A dormitory room, on the other hand, already has furniture, and meals are served in the dormitory dining room. The student doesn't have to spend time taking care of household things and can just concentrate on her studies.

A student living in a dormitory has potential friends living all around her. First she'll make friends with her roommate, then with the other students living on her floor. She can make friends in the dormitory dining room and the lounge. If she feels lonely, if she needs help with her classwork, if she misses her family, there is always someone to turn to. If she lives in an apartment, she won't have all this support. She might have a roommate, but other she will be alone. She'll have to put more effort into making friends in her classes.

By living in a dormitory a student is right in the middle of the university community. She is close to all the university activities and it is easy to participate in them. She can become involved in clubs, sport, or the student government. If she lives in an apartment, she is farther from all these activities. It takes more time to get to club meetings.

It is harder to find out what activities are going on. It's more difficult to be part of the community.

Living in an apartment has advantages for some people, but for me dormitory life is much better. It makes daily tasks, meeting new friends, and being involved in university activities much easier. It is a convenient and fun way to live.

**Topic 19**

Some people believe that a college or university education should be available to all students. Others believe that higher education should be available to only good students. Discuss these views. Which view do you agree with? Explain why.

Some people believe that only the best students should go to a college or university, but I don't. Academics are not the only purpose of a university education. Another important goal is to learn about yourself. When you are separated from your parents, you have to learn to be independent and make decisions about your future. I believe every student should have the opportunity to have this kind of experience.

I can understand why some people think that a college or university education should be available to only good students. Higher education is very expensive. It might seem like a waste of money to send a mediocre student to college. If a better student will learn more, why not send only the better student to college? Higher education is also a big investment of time. Maybe a mediocre student could spend his or her time in a better way, by getting a job or going to trade school.

I don't agree with this position. I think higher education should be available to all students. It is true that it is expensive and takes a lot of time, but I think every student deserves the opportunity to try it. People change. A student who didn't like school as a teenager may start to like it as a young adult. Also, having the opportunity to make independent decisions is part of a good education. A student may try college for a while and then decide that trade school is a better place for him or her. Or a student may decide, "I will work hard now because I want a good future." At a college or university students have the opportunity to make changes and decisions for themselves.

All students who want to should be given the chance to go to a college or university. In college they will have the opportunity to learn independence and to make adult decisions about their future. This is a basic part of education and an experience every student should have.

**Topic 20**

Subjects such as Art, Sport and Music are being dropped from the school curriculum for subjects such as Information Technology (IT). Many people feel that children suffer as a result of these changes.

To what extent would you support or reject the idea of removing these subject from the school curriculum?

To study of subjects such as Art, Competitive Sport and Music are being forced out of the school curriculum to make way for other subjects as IT. In my opinion, I don't agree with it for three reasons.

Firstly, these subjects such as music and art are very important to children because when they are brought up they need to study different subjects to improve their IQ and EQ. I think the best way to improve their EQ is learning some subjects like art, music and competitive sport. If we teach them IT but abandon art and music, children will only think and behave like robots, cold and expressionless.

Secondly, for children, art, music and competitive sports are more fun than other subjects such as IT. Especially in primary school and middle school, the ages of those students are quite young. It is too strict for them to sit all day in the class and learning scientific subjects. They should have more fun, studying art, music and competitive sport during playing games in class.

Thirdly, a society needs not only scientists and politics, but also artist, musicians and sportsmen. It means we need to educate those people when they were young. If we cease to teach these subject in class, how can the children find they are interested in it and wish to go further when they grow up?

In conclusion, I think removing art, music and competitive sports from the school curriculum is wrong. Children should have more opportunities to study these subjects freely.

**Possible: Band 7. Score (IELTS)**

**Topic 21**

What are the advantages and disadvantages of co-education?

The main argument in favour of co-education is that it provides a powerful incentive to both sexes to work in competition with the other. Hence, a higher standard of work results because both boy and girl are "on their mettle." But the competition may not be confined to work only! It may be channeled to boys competing to capture the attention of girls and preoccupation of a sexual nature are, of course, detrimental to work.

The mixing of the sexes through "difficult" ages and stages in co-educational schools, eradicates shyness and gaucheness in the boy/ girl relationship. This is true and they do benefit by living, working and playing together. On the other hand, boys and girls in separate schools do not experience shyness and gaucheness in the boy-girl relationship. Sexes are part of the curricula of most schools nowadays, and it is always possible to get to know the opposite sex through the contacts of family life.

Good manners are said also to be inculcated through co-education. This is to some extent true, as the "courtesies" and "social niceties" are in fact imbibed in the school room. Social good manners can of course, and usually are instilled in the home and are also quickly "gleaned" in out of school activities. Schools of separate sexes also train pupils in good manners

Finally, co-education leads to a more balanced school life because of the mutual interest between the sexes. Plays, concerts and so on, are very much easier to produce when girls and boys can both take part, and the final results are often better. But this difficulty has been overcome in the past and will of course be overcome in the future. The school, in any case, exists in the main for education.

The biggest danger is that adolescents will become too preoccupied with sex and that they may become involved in difficulties of a serious social nature. This, with proper supervision is not of course insurmountable. In any event, co-education has come to stay and while clearly it cannot have very much effect on the side of work, it may bring advantages on the social side.

**Comment: This is a very good essay.**

**TOPIC 22**

**It has been said, "Not everything that is learned is contained in books." Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why?**

"Experience is the best teacher" is an old cliché, but I agree with it. We can learn a lot of important things from books, but the most important lessons in life come from our own experiences. Throughout the different stages of life, from primary school to university to adulthood, experience teaches us many skills we need for life.

As children in primary school, we learn facts and information from books, but that is not all we learn in school. On the playground we learn how to make friends. In our class work, we learn how it feels to succeed and what we do when we fail. We start to learn about the things we like to do and the things we don't. We don't learn these things from books, but from our experiences with our friends and classmates.

In our university classes, we learn a lot of information and skills we will need for our future careers, but we also learn a lot that is not in our textbooks. In our daily lives both in class and out of class, we learn to make decisions for ourselves. We learn to take on responsibilities. We learn to get along with our classmates, our roommates, and our workmates. Our successes and failures help us develop skills we will need in our adult lives. They are skills that no book can teach us.

Throughout our adulthood, experience remains a constant teacher. We may continue to read or take classes for professional development. However, our experiences at work, at home, and with our friends teach us more. The triumphs and disasters of our lives teach us how to improve our careers and also how to improve our relationships and how to be the person each one of us wants to be.

Books teach us a lot, but there is a limit to what they teach. They can give us information or show us another person's experiences. These are valuable things, but the lessons we learn from our own experiences, from childhood through adulthood, are the most important ones we learn.

**TOPIC 23**

**Many students have to live with a roommate while going to school or university. What are some of the important qualities of a good roommate? Use specific reasons and examples to explain why these qualities are important.**

It is important to have a good roommate. A good roommate can become your best friend, but a bad roommate can be your worst enemy. A good roommate is considerate, flexible, and fun.

A good roommate is considerate of your needs. He doesn't make noise when you want to sleep or study. He doesn't plan a party or use your things without asking. A good roommate doesn't think only about himself; he thinks about you, too.

A good roommate is flexible. He can adjust to your habits. If you are neat and your roommate is messy, for example, you each try to change a little bit. Your roommate tries to be a little neater and you try to live with a little mess.

Finally, a good roommate is fun. If he knows about a party or a concert, he invites you to go with him. He introduces you to his friends. You plan some free time activities together. A good roommate may be serious about his studies, but he knows that it is important to have fun, too.

It is great to have a roommate who can be your friend, too. If your roommate is considerate, flexible, and fun, you are sure to get along well together.

**TOPIC 24**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Teachers should be paid according to how much their students learn. Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.**

It is a bad idea to pay teachers according to how much their students learn. It just encourages teachers to teach only the material on a test. It discourages them from paying attention to slow students. It is unfair because teachers can't decide which students will be in their class. Instead of improving teaching, it keeps teachers from doing the best job they can.

If a teacher is paid according to how well his students do on a test, then he will teach only what is on the test. He will spend time teaching his students to memorize facts. He won't be able to teach them other things. The students will miss the opportunity to gain a wider variety of knowledge. They won't have the chance to develop skills besides memorization. They will learn less, not more, in this way.

Another problem is that teachers may ignore the slower students. Some students learn more quickly and easily than others. The teacher won't want to spend time with the few slowest students. She will prefer to focus on the average and fast students to make sure they get high scores on tests. She can't waste time with the students who can get only mediocre scores. These students, who need the most help in school, will get very little help at all.

Finally, a teacher has no control over which students are placed in his class. One teacher may get all the best students in a school. Another may get several of the worst. If the teacher has some average students, a few below average, and no students who are above average, then of course the class will get lower test scores on their tests. People will think those students didn't learn much. It is not fair to base a teacher's salary on something over which he has no control.

Most teachers, like other professionals, want to do the best job possible. They want to teach their students useful skills and knowledge and they want to help the students who need help. Teachers need encouragement, but basing their salary on their students' performance is not a good way to provide this.

#### TOPIC 25

**People learn in different ways. Some people learn by doing things; other people learn by reading about things; others learn by listening to people talk about things. Which of these methods of learning is best for you? Use specific examples to support your choice.**

I have never been able to learn well from reading or from listening to someone talk. My mind wanders and I can't grasp the situation. The best way for me to learn is by doing things. It helps me understand and remember information better, and it is much more interesting for me than reading and listening.

Doing things helps me understand. Someone may explain to me how a musical instrument works, for example. I don't really understand this, however, until I try to play the instrument myself. Then I can hear and see and feel how the sound is made. I can feel how hard I have to push a key or pluck a string to make the sound I want. Or I could read a recipe in a cookbook. But I don't really understand how to prepare the food until I try to make it myself.

Doing things helps me remember. A teacher could explain some grammar rules to me, but it's hard for me to remember them. However, when I practice using the grammar rules by speaking the language, then I will remember them better. The more I speak the language, the better I remember the rules. I could also read about math formulas in a book. But I can't remember them unless I use them to try to solve some math problems.

Doing things holds my attention. When I listen to a lecture, my thoughts wander to other things and I don't hear the information at all. When I read something, it is hard for me to follow the ideas unless I concentrate really hard. When I do something, on the other hand, I am always interested in it. I have to pay attention because I am the one who is doing it.

We all have our own learning styles. For me, it is clear that I learn best by doing things. It is the only way I can really focus my attention on information, understand it, and remember it.

#### TOPIC 26

**Some high schools require all students to wear school uniforms. Other high schools permit students to decide what to wear to school. Which of these two school policies do you think is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.**

Many high schools require students to wear uniforms. I think this is an excellent policy because uniforms can make things more equal for all students. When all the students dress alike, no one will be treated differently because of economic level, personal looks, or who his or her friends are.

Uniforms make students equal on an economic level. With uniforms, students from poor families dress the same as students from rich families. This can prevent envy and jealousy about stylish clothes. It can also encourage students to form friendships based on personality, not clothes.

Uniforms can reduce unequal treatment by teachers. Research suggests that teachers often have higher expectations for more attractive students, and this includes students with nicer clothes. Uniforms help teachers make judgments based on ability, not appearance.

Uniforms encourage the individual students of a school to feel like part of a bigger group. Their feelings of being together; working together, and having something in common are all helped by uniforms. Students are less likely to be left out because they belong to the "wrong crowd."

It is my opinion that all schools should have a policy requiring uniforms. Uniforms give every student an equal chance.

#### TOPIC 27

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? High schools should allow students to study the courses that students want to study. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.**

I think the basic subjects, such as mathematics, literature, and science, should be required for all students. However, I also believe it is important to allow high school students to choose some of the subjects they study. In this way, they get to explore subjects they might want to study in college. They also get a chance to learn responsibility and to take some subjects just because they like them.

Students can start exploring possible career interests when they are allowed to choose some of their own subjects. If they have the chance to take a journalism class, for example, they may discover that field as a possible career. Or, students who like science may have the chance to learn about different branches of science. Then they can make better choices about a course of study when they go to college.

When students choose some of their own subjects, they have the chance to learn responsibility. They have to decide which course are most compatible with their goals and interests. They have to think about what is the best way to spend their time in school. They will have to make decisions and choices for themselves throughout life. They should begin to get some experience with this in high school.

Students should also have a chance to enjoy themselves in school. If they can choose some of their own subjects, they can choose subjects they are interested in. A class such as international cooking may not be the start if a brilliant professional career, but it can be an enjoyable learning experience. Students should be able to spend some of their time exploring their interests and doing things they enjoy.

When students are allowed to choose some of their subjects, they get a chance to explore their interests and goals and take responsibility for themselves. This is an important part of education.

#### TOPIC 28

**Some people believe that students should be given one long vacation each year. Others believe that students should have several short vacations throughout the year. Which viewpoint do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.**

I think several short vacations throughout the year are better than one long vacation. Students can concentrate on their studies better if they have more frequent breaks. Frequent breaks also make it easier to get a fresh start when necessary. Finally, I think students can make better use of their vacation time if it is shorter.

More frequent vacations make it easier for students to concentrate on their work. Students often get tired near the end of a long school year. Time seems to drag on during the last two months of school and nobody gets much work done. If the school sessions were shorter, they would be over before students had a chance to get tired. Then students could have a break, get rested, and return for the next school session with plenty of energy to start studying again.

With more frequent vacations, students can more easily get a fresh start when they need one. Sometimes a school year just starts out badly for some students, and no matter what they do, it's hard to change. They have to wait for a new school year to begin so they can start again. If the school year is long, a lot of time is wasted. With more frequent breaks, a student who is having a bad time doesn't need to wait a whole year to be able to start anew. That opportunity will come more quickly.

If students have more frequent, shorter vacations, they can actually make better use of that vacation time. A student may start a long vacation with plans, but those plans are soon used up. He becomes bored and just sits around doing nothing. With shorter vacations, a student can plan an interesting trip or project or take a job. Before he has time to get bored with those activities, it's time for school to start again. Then he has time to make fresh, new plans before the next break comes up.

I think shorter, more frequent vacations help students make better use of both their school time and their vacation time. It is a plan that every school should adopt.

#### TOPIC 29

**In the future, students may have the choice of studying at home by using technology such as computers or television or of studying at traditional schools. Which would you prefer? Use reasons and specific details to explain your choice.**

I believe that it is better to study at school than at home. I can learn a lot if I study alone at home, but I can learn more if I study at school with other people. I can gain a lot of information from other people. I also learn a lot by interacting with them. I am motivated to study more if I don't work alone. Therefore, I believe I can learn a lot more at school.

Information comes from technology, but it also comes from people. If I study at home, I can get a lot of information from my computer, DVD player, and television. If I study at school, I can get all this information, and I can also get information from my teachers and classmates. So, I learn more.

Interaction with other people increases my knowledge. At home I have nobody to talk to. Nobody can hear my ideas. At school I have the opportunity to interact with other people. We can explain our ideas to each other. We can agree and disagree. Together we can develop our ideas and learn to understand new things.

Competition motivates me. When I am at home, nobody can see my work. Nobody can tell me that I did a good job or a bad job. When I am at school, my teacher and my classmates see my work, and I can see my classmates' work. I want to do a good job like my classmates, or even a better job. So, I want to study harder.

Some people can study very well when they are alone at home, but I can't. I need to have other people near me. When I am with other people, I have the possibility to learn more information. I have the opportunity to develop my ideas more completely. I have the motivation to do a better job. Therefore, school is the best place for me.

#### TOPIC 30

**Many students choose to attend schools or universities outside their home countries. Why do some students study abroad? Use specific reasons and details to explain your answer.**

Although students can get a good education in most subjects in their home countries, it is important to study abroad for at least part of one's college education. By studying abroad, students have the chance to learn a new language, to become familiar with another culture, and to grow in different ways.

It is important to be bilingual or even multilingual in today's world. International communication is important for our global economy. In addition, the Internet and satellite TV give us the opportunity to receive information from all over the world. We need to be familiar with different languages in order to take advantage of this.

Familiarity with other cultures is also important today. It teaches us respect for other ways of life. It can encourage peaceful solutions to conflicts. This will make the world a safer place for ourselves and our children.



Finally, living in a new environment opens us up to experimenting with different ways of doing things. We can have new experiences and try out different things. We can make changes in our habits if we want to. This gives us a chance to explore ourselves and the world more than we could at home.

Study abroad can be enriching. Not only can we learn a new language and understand more about a different culture, but we can learn more about ourselves, too. At the same time, of course, we get an education in the formal sense. Study abroad is a complete educational experience.

#### TOPIC 31

**In many countries these days, the number of people continuing their education after school has increased, and the range of courses available at universities and colleges has also increased.**

**Do you think this is a positive or negative development?**

Most people would say that education is a good thing, and therefore that it is a positive development that more and more people are continuing their education after they leave school. A more educated population must have a positive impact on a country, in both economic and social terms.

From the point of view of the people themselves, they have more choice as to what they can do, and this must also be a positive thing. People can now study subjects that really interest them, rather than subjects they had to do because there was less choice, and they can also study more subjects that are directly related to the kind of work they want to do. There are many more specialised courses on offer that qualify people for specialised jobs.

On the other hand, lots of people these days do courses that may be regarded as a bit silly. You can do courses in all sorts of things that have no connection with jobs and that cannot be taken seriously as academic subjects. I have heard of people doing degrees in subjects like pop music, and it is hard to see how useful such courses and qualifications are. Also, many people now do subjects such as media studies because a lot of young people want to work in the media. However, there are not that many jobs available for these people, and so a lot of them have

simply wasted their time doing a degree in a subject that does not help them to get a job.

In general, I think that the increase in people continuing their education after school and the increase in the range of courses available to them is both a positive and a negative development.

#### TOPIC 32

**Modern societies need specialists in certain fields, but not in others.**

**Some people therefore think that governments should pay university fees for students who study subjects that are needed by society. Those who choose to study less relevant subjects should not receive government funding.**

**Would the advantages of such an educational policy outweigh the disadvantages?**

In every country there are fashions among students about which subjects are the best to study at university. Sometimes the popularity of a subject is determined by how much money a graduate could subsequently earn in that field. Or subjects that are perceived as relatively 'easy' may also become popular, in spite of later difficulties of finding appropriate employment. It is up to governments to give incentives to students to choose subjects that match the needs of their society.

Obviously one way to do this would be for the government to pay the fees of those choosing such subjects. The advantage would certainly be that higher numbers of students would enrol and would later fill the employment gaps.

However, the disadvantages of such a policy would be considerable. For example, the students attracted by the funding may not have any real interest in or aptitude for that subject. Such students may drop out before graduation or after working only a short time in a related job. Furthermore, funding one group of students but not others would penalise those with a genuine interest and ability for another field. Such discrimination would certainly affect the whole of higher education of the country and students would develop very negative attitudes towards going to university altogether. This would be very counter-productive for any country.

In conclusion I think that there are many other incentives for students that could be considered, such as making courses more interesting to take, or the job rewards greater after graduation. The educational policy proposed above, however, would certainly have more long-term disadvantages than benefits for society.

Possible: Band 9 Score (IELTS)

**TOPIC 33**

**University education should be restricted to the very best academic students, rather than being available to a large proportion of young people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

In the past, tertiary education was limited to a small proportion of people who were the most academic students. Today, however, many more young people have the opportunity of going to university, and I think that this is a much better situation for several reasons.

Firstly, individuals today need much higher level skills and technical knowledge. For example, many professionals require advanced computer skills and an ability to adapt to a rapidly changing workplace. Schools do not have the resources to equip students with these skills, so universities have to fulfil this role.

Furthermore, societies cannot continue to develop unless more citizens are educated. In order to progress and compete in the modern world, each country needs people who can develop modern technologies further and apply them in new fields.

Finally, it is only fair that anyone who could benefit from a university education should have access to one. Therefore, there should be equal opportunities for everyone to realize their full potential. Going to university is part of this.

In conclusion, I totally disagree with the statement because I believe that the increasing availability of tertiary education is vital both for the individual and for society as a whole. Individuals need as high a level of education as possible to achieve their full potential, and in the same way, society in the 21st century cannot function unless it has large numbers of highly educated people to cope with the changes to our living and working environment that are likely to occur in the coming decades.

**TOPIC 34**

**Some people think it would be a good idea for schools to teach every young person how to be a good parent.**

**Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Describe the skills a person needs to be a good parent.**

Every young person, male or female should know more about being a good parent before having children. There are many cases in which very young women give birth to little babies, without having a clue what means to be a parent.

In addition, school should provide courses, teaching young persons to be good parents. It might seem as something very easy. Every woman can be a mother, the problem is what kind of mother she is.

It is said that human instinct develops after giving birth to a child and every mother – father instinctually feels what to do for the baby. But, there are some things that ought to be known before.

A child is not a simple toy. A child is a big responsibility, love and care. A mother should know if she is ready or not to have a child, and a couple should prepare before having children.

We can see many cases with families behaving badly – in real life, on TV, reading newspapers, when children are very bad, when parents abuse their only children, screaming and shouting, smacking them. Who is guilty then? The parent or the child? This cases can end really badly if the persons in charge – here – parents and not the children – don't learn how to behave themselves, how to handle their children, how and when to give them support.

In addition to all the things written above, it would be a very good idea for schools to young persons become good parents, as this can help young people how to to handle their own problems and above all their children's problems.

A child is the mirror of the parents.

## TOPIC 35

Young people in the modern world seem to have more power and influence than any previous young generation.

Why is this the case?

What impact does this have on the relationship between old and young people?

I would agree that young people today play a bigger role in society than their parents' or grandparents' generation did. This is mainly due to the large social and technological changes that have increased the experience gap between the generations. For instance, young people today are generally better educated, and because they have been trained from a young age to use computer technology, they have Internet access to information in a way that was unimaginable for earlier generations.

This means that they are probably better informed than their parents or grandparents were at their age, and their hi-tech skills give them confidence in dealing with the very rapid changes in technology that are so uncomfortable for older people.

In addition, younger people are often the most affected by globalisation. They follow fashions in clothes, music and social habits that are common among young people throughout the world. So they have become powerful consumers who influence big global markets today.

As a result of all these developments, relationships with older people are often difficult. Teachers and parents are no longer treated with respect, and experience is undervalued because young people think they know everything, or at least can learn about everything from the Internet. In many cultures this has led to a lack of discipline in schools, family breakdowns and even serious social problems.

However, the current generation gap is the responsibility of both younger and older generations. Both have to make efforts to understand each other and a good starting point would be for families to spend more time together than they normally do today.

## TOPIC 36

It is generally accepted that families are not as close as they used to be. Give some reasons why this change has happened and suggest how families could be brought closer together. Include any relevant examples from your experience

The today's family-life changed a lot. Many parents are divorce, a lot of mothers and fathers have their job's far away from home. The children are often alone and lonley ... but what are the reasons for this happening?

First of all, I think that the modern technology is one of the main reason for this problem. Many parents work in their nearest cities from their home. They work with computer in big offices and came home late at night. However, they have no time to look after their children.

In the past, families used to work "as a family". Every member worked hard and helped the family to survife, for example farmers. Furthermore, the education used to be contra led by the parents, not like today's day-schools with teachers and professors. On the other hand, there must be a solution to bring separeted families together. At my point of view, families should spend their free time together. I am thinking about weekends or the time after work. Children need their parents even when they are older. To give a reasonable example: I often go out with my parents, mostly for a dinner. Then my brother and I speak about our future plans or something else. An intensive conversation is a possible solution. A similar way is, to divide your job into half-part work-times and spend your free time leftover with your loved persons. A point against this statement is to have financial problems.

To sum up I wish that every family is as close as possible with each other, if they like that.

**TOPIC 37**

Some people think men and woman have different natural abilities that make them suitable for different types of work. Others, however, believe that both men and women can be equally suited to do any type of work. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

It is understandable that some people believe that the physical and genetic differences between men and women equip them for different activities and skills. Because women have babies, they have traditionally worked in the home in most cultures. In addition, employed women have tended to dominate the so-called 'caring professions' such as teaching, nursing or social work, and this has reinforced the idea that women are particularly suited to such jobs.

However, it is very difficult to separate this notion from our cultural traditions and to arrive at any clear idea of what natural abilities belong to one or the other gender. As more and more women in different countries get jobs outside the home, it is clear that they are able to perform jobs that were traditionally only held by men. With high levels of education, even the highest positions in science, politics or law, for example, can be held successfully by women. Therefore, those who claim that the sexes can do the same jobs equally seem to have a good point, especially in terms of intellectual work.

There is also increasing scientific evidence that individual differences between people may be more important than gender differences. In other words, some women may be physically stronger than some men, while some male individuals may be more sensitive, or more caring than some women.

In my opinion, only science will be able to identify what is 'natural' to each gender. But in the meantime, I think that in the modern world individual men and women can be trained to develop similar abilities. Differences in aptitude and talents are greater at the individual level than at the gender level.

**TOPIC 38**

Many people believe women make better parents than men and that this is why they have the greater role in raising children in most societies. Others claim that men are just as good as women at parenting. Write an essay expressing your point of view. Give reasons for your answer.

The view that women are better parents than men has shown itself to be true throughout history. This is not to say that men are not of importance in child-rearing; indeed, they are most necessary if children are appreciate fully the roles of both sexes. But women have proven themselves superior parents as a result of their conditioning, their less aggressive natures and their generally better communication skills.

From the time they are little girls, females learn about nurturing. First with dolls and later perhaps with younger brothers and sisters, girls are given the role of babysitter. Girls see their mothers in the same roles and so it is natural that they identify this as a female activity. Boys, in contrast, learn competitive roles far removed from what it means to nurture. While boy may dream of adventures, girl's conditioning means they tend to see the future in terms of raising families.

Girls also appear to be less aggressive than boys. In adulthood, it is men, not women, who prove to be the aggressors in crime and in war. Obviously, in raising children, a more patient, gentle manner is preferable to a more aggressive one. Although there certainly exist gentle men and aggressive women, by and large, females are less likely to resort to violence in attempting to solve problems.

Finally, women tend to be better communicators than men. This is shown in intelligence tests, where females, on average, do better in verbal communication than males. Of course, communication is of the most importance in rearing children, as children tend to learn from and adopt the communication styles of their parents.

Thus, while it is all very well to suggest a greater role for men in raising children, let us not forget that women are generally better suited to the parenting role.

**Comment: This is a very good model essay.**

**TOPIC 39**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children should be required to help with household tasks as soon as they are able to do so. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

I believe that children should be required to help with household tasks. It helps them learn skills and responsibility, and it helps the family. Sharing in household tasks benefits children of all ages.

First of all, household tasks build skills. Very young children learn motor skills and classification skills when they pick up their toys and put them away. Older children learn skills they'll need as adults. They learn cooking and cleaning, which may seem dull, but that are undoubtedly useful skills they'll need when they leave home.

Children learn responsibility when they help with household tasks. They learn to organize their time so they can fulfill their responsibilities. They learn that chores have to be completed before they can play. Children who understand that effort pays off will be more successful later in life.

When children help with household tasks, everyone in the family is happier. When parents come home from their jobs, they are faced with all the housework. If children share in the housework, everything is easier. The work gets done more quickly, and then the family can relax together. The children are helpers and the parents don't have to feel like servants to them.

Kids should not work all the time. A happy life needs balance. But if they can successfully handle tasks at home, they will handle life better, too. They will know the satisfaction of doing a good job, be involved in family life, and become more confident and responsible adults.

**TOPIC 40**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement. Classmates are a more important influence than parents on a child's success in school. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

I believe that parents have more influence on a child's school success than classmates do. Classmates have an important social influence on each other,

especially as they get older, but the influence of parents is stronger than this. Parents are the most important model a child has, parents love their children, and they have expectations of them. All of these things are important influences on a child's success in school.

Parents are important role models their children. Young children like to copy other children, but they like to copy adults more. When children see their parents read, they read too. When children hear their parents talk about books or news or politics, they will think these are interesting subjects, too. Children may learn other things from their classmates, but the examples they get from their parents are stronger.

Parents are the most important people who love and care for a child. Children know how important this is, and they love their parents, too. They may have close friends in school, but their feelings for their parents are more important. If they feel loved and cared for at home, they will have the necessary confidence to do well in school.

Parents have expectations for their children. They expect them to behave well and be good people and be successful in school. Children want to please their parents so they try to fulfill their parents' expectations. They want to be nice to their classmates and get along with them, but this is not the same as fulfilling their parents' expectations.

**TOPIC 41**

**It is better for children to grow up in the countryside than in a big city. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to develop your essay.**

I have to disagree that it is better for children to grow up in the countryside. In the countryside, children have limited opportunities to see and learn about things. In the city, on the other hand, they are exposed to many different things. They see all kinds of different people every day. They have opportunities to attend many cultural events. They see people working in different kinds of jobs and therefore can make better choices for their own future. Growing up in the city is definitely better.

All different kinds of people live in the city, while in a small town in the countryside people are often all the same. City people come from other parts of the country or even from other countries. They are of different races and religions. When children grow up in this situation, they have the opportunity to learn about and understand different kinds of people. This is an important part of their education.

In the city, there are many opportunities to attend cultural events, whereas such opportunities are usually limited in the countryside. In the city there are movies and theaters, museums, zoos, and concerts. In the city children can attend cultural events every weekend, or even more often. This is also an important part of their education.

People in the city work in different kinds of jobs, while in the countryside there often isn't a variety of job opportunities. People in the city work at all different types and levels of professions, as well as in factories, in service jobs, and more. Children growing up in the city learn that there is a wide variety of jobs they can choose from when they grow up. They have a greater possibility of choosing a career that they will enjoy and do well in. This is perhaps the most important part of their education.

People usually move to the city because there are more opportunities there. Children who grow up in the city have these opportunities from the time they are small. The city is definitely a better place for children to grow up.

### Topic 12

**Some people think that family is the most important influence on young adults. Other people think that friends are the most important influence on young adults. Which view do you agree with? Use examples to support your opinion.**

Although friends make an impression on your life, they do not have the same influence that your family has. Nothing is as important to me as my family. From them, I learned everything that is important. I learned about trust, ambition, and love.

Your family is with you forever. They are not going to leave you because they find another daughter or son they like better. They are not going to leave you because they think you are too much trouble. Friends come and go, but a family is permanent. You can always trust your family.

Your parents are your role models. They will encourage you to do your best, to push yourself, and to improve yourself. Friends want you to stay the same; they don't want you to be different. Your family is ambitious. Friends are not.

A family's love is not judgmental. They love you for everything you are. Friends may love you because you have a new car or because you go out with them on Saturday evenings. Friends may only like you, but your family loves you.

Without my family, I wouldn't know what to do. I wouldn't feel as secure. I might not have the ambition to go to school. I probably would be afraid to love. My family is my greatest influence.

### Topic 13

**What are the important qualities of a good son or daughter? Have these qualities changed or remained the same over time in your culture? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

The qualities that parents wish their sons and daughters to have—obedience, loyalty, respect—have not changed. Any parent will tell you that, like their ancestors, they expect these qualities from their children. However, they do not always get what they expect.

Parents expect their children to obey them. Even when their sons and daughters grow up and get married, parents still expect obedience from them. At least, that's the way it was. Children these days still obey their parents when they are young. When they reach age 18 or 20, however, they want to make their own decisions. They want to follow their own ideas even if these ideas are against their parents' wishes.

Parents also expect loyalty from their children. If there is a dispute between families, parents expect their children to side with their own family. This is

probably still very common. Most children today will support their family against others.

Parents, of course, demand respect. As children become introduced to nontraditional ways of doing things, however, this quality may not endure. Children sometimes see their parents as old-fashioned. They think their parents are too old to understand them. They lose respect for their parents.

Obedience, loyalty, and respect are virtues that are being challenged today. These days we tend to show these qualities to our parents less and less. I hope, though, that my children obey me, are loyal to me, and respect me.

#### TOPIC 44

**What are some of the qualities of a good parent? Use specific details and examples to explain your answer.**

I am fortunate to have good parents, so it is easy for me to identify the qualities that make them good. These qualities are unconditional love, trust, and respect for me and my brothers and sisters.

All parents love their children, but not all love is unconditional. Some parents would not love their children if they married someone of a different religion or ethnic group. Some parents would not love their children if they had a different sexual orientation. My parents would. My parents love us no matter what choices we make for ourselves.

Part of unconditional love is trust. My parents trust us to do what is right. They know we would never do anything to harm them. They trust us so we trust them. We know they won't hurt or mistreat us.

Because our parents love us, they also respect us. They treat us as individuals. They accept our differences. They do not expect us to be like them. They want us to make our own way in the world, not follow in their footsteps.

Without my parents' love, I would not feel confident. Without their trust, I would not feel free to do what I want. Without their respect, I would not feel comfortable on my own. All children should have such wonderful parents.

#### TOPIC 45

**Some people think that family is the most important influence on young adults. Other people think that friends are the most important influence on young adults. Which view do you agree with? Use examples to support your opinion.**

Although friends make an impression on your life, they do not have the same influence that your family has. Nothing is as important to me as my family. From them, I learned everything that is important. I learned about trust, ambition, and love.

Your family is with you forever. They are not going to leave you because they find another daughter or son they like better. They are not going to leave you because they think you are too much trouble. Friends come and go, but a family is permanent. You can always trust your family.

Your parents are your role models. They will encourage you to do your best, to push yourself, and to improve yourself. Friends want you to stay the same; they don't want you to be different. Your family is ambitious for you. Friends are not.

A family's love is not judgmental. They love you for everything you are. Friends may love you because you have a new car or because you go out with them on Saturday evenings. Friends may only like you, but your family loves you.

Without my family, I wouldn't know what to do. I wouldn't feel as secure. I might not have the ambition to go to school. I probably would be afraid to love. My family is my greatest influence.

#### TOPIC 46

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents or other adult relatives should make important decisions for their older (15-18 year old) teenaged children. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.**

No one knows me as well as my parents, and no one cares about me like they do. It is natural that I should allow my parents to make important decisions for me.

I think all older teenagers should take their parents advice on decisions that concern their education, their social life, and their future careers.

My parents are the ones who can make the best decisions about my education. They have always chosen the best schools for me to attend. They have hired tutors to make sure I understood my classes well. They have sent me to special prep classes to help me prepare for exams. When it is time to choose a college, I know they will choose the right college for me.

My parents make good decisions about my social life. When I was young, they invited children over to play with me. I became very close to these children and we are still friends. Even though I am older now, my parents still guide me in my social life. I know they don't want me to hang out with the wrong crowd. I know they want me to marry a good person who is right for me. They have more experience than I have and they can help me make decisions about my social life.

I need my parents to help me make decisions about my future career. Both my parents have successful careers of their own. My father runs a business and my mother is a well-known politician. I want to be as successful as they are, so of course I will listen to their advice about my career.

If all children follow their parents' wishes, they will be happier. They will be more successful in school, in work, and in their social life. After all, parents want only the best for their children.

## CHAPTER 3

# Economics

### Topic 4

**It has been claimed that workers over 50 are not responsive to rapidly changing ideas in the modern workplace and that for this reason younger workers are to be preferred.**

**To what extent would you support or reject this idea?**

The essay title proposes that younger people are to be preferred as employees because they are more able to accept changes in the workplace compared to a more mature workforce.

One argument in favour of younger employees is that older workers are more often set in their ways and are believed to be resistant to change. There may be an element of truth in this but there are many intelligent and flexible older workers as well as narrow-minded and younger ones set in their ways. Attitude to change is a matter of personality type rather than age. Nonetheless, there are physical changes which progress with age that may make some jobs better suited to a younger element. For example, it seems to be accepted by psychologists that memory diminishes with age. In some modern, hi-tech industries like computer programming, where there is a premium on the regular memorising of large amounts of new information, it would seem younger workers have an advantage.

However, older workers do have many other positive qualities which they can bring to their company working environment. Generally speaking they have more working experience than youngsters and this can benefit the firm whilst planning long-term policies. Their maturity and managerial skills can be viewed as a way of training the younger workers to be leaders themselves.



**TOPIC 48**

In recent years some countries have experienced very rapid economic development. This has resulted in much higher standards of living in urban areas but not in the countryside.

This situation may bring some problems for the country as a whole.

What are these problems?

How might they be reduced?

From the evidence of developing countries all over the world it seems inevitable that economic growth is generated in the business and industrial centres of the major cities. As a result, urban citizens have access to jobs and facilities that improve their living standards considerably. However, it is usually the case that these are not equally enjoyed by people in the countryside and this generates several problems for the countries concerned.

First of all, people from the countryside will try to move to the cities to get more employment opportunities and better access to the facilities available there. But this increase in the urban population puts great pressure on housing and services, and leads to the creation of massive slum areas where conditions may be lower than in the rural villages. These are often left under-populated and this can impact on food production and can have severe affects for people in both urban and rural areas.

Finally, as a country's economy develops, there may be an increasing sense of inequality as the towns get richer and the villages get poorer, and this may lead to more crime and even civil unrest.

The key to reducing these problems seems to lie in improving the standards of living and the facilities available in the countryside. Perhaps incentives can be offered to factories and companies to relocate; road and rail networks can be built to make such relocation possible; doctors and teachers could be required to spend part of their professional lives in rural areas, etc.

In conclusion, however, improving rural living standards requires investment and political will that is sometimes not easy to generate.

**TOPIC 49**

In some countries, it can be very difficult for people over the age of 50 to get good jobs, despite their experience.

What do you think are the causes of this problem, and what measures could be taken to solve it?

Many older people are forced to end their working lives much earlier than they would like to, and this is a shame because their experience is valuable. Also, it is good for people to work if they want to. If more older people were able to get good jobs, it would be good for business, the economy and society.

One reason why older people find it difficult to get good jobs is that many jobs these days require skills and knowledge that they did not get when they were younger. In particular, computer and information technology play a very big role in many professions, and these are things that only came into existence after older people had finished school or college and after they had begun their working lives.

Another reason is that in many countries these days, there is a view that younger people are preferable for many jobs to older people. Experience is seen as being less important than youth. Many businesses and industries have a majority of workers who are young, and young people are promoted to top jobs much more quickly than they used to be. One way of solving the problem is for older people to be re-trained so that they learn the skills required in the modern world. Training course should be made widely available and affordable. Older people should be made to feel that they can get good jobs after re-training, and this will encourage them to re-train. Employers should understand that older workers have a lot to offer, and that their experience can be very useful to companies, for example because they can pass their experience of work and life on to younger employees.

**TOPIC 50**

Some people regard work as the most important thing in life and have little interest in anything else. Other people are more enthusiastic about their hobbies and leisure interests than their jobs.

Discuss both these attitudes and give your own opinion.

Some people live for their work. They are obsessed by it and they work and work. Workaholics like this often experience health problems after a while because they do not rest or eat properly and they are in a permanent state of stress. They do not know how to relax and they do not know how to enjoy life. This surely cannot be a good thing. However, some people whose job is the most important thing in their lives are perfectly happy. If you are lucky enough to have a job that you love, doing it all the time is not exhausting or problematic because you enjoy it all the time. People who have careers that make them happy do not need hobbies and leisure pursuits for relaxation – they are happy and satisfied anyway.

Of course it is true that most people have to earn a living and that, unfortunately, this often involves doing a job that you don't enjoy. Lots of people have jobs they hate or that they find very boring or depressing. For such people, hobbies and leisure pursuits are extremely important. They provide something to look forward to at the end of a working day or week, and they provide something that people can give all their enthusiasm and attention to. For example, a big interest in playing or watching sport allows people to forget their jobs and other problems for a while and concentrate fully on something that is simply enjoyable. Hobbies that may seem strange to other people can also give people something they can focus their energies and thoughts on.

In my opinion, hobbies and leisure pursuits are vital. You shouldn't think only about work. You need a balance in your life, you need something that offers simple pleasure and compensates for the unpleasant aspects of work. Some people don't need this because their jobs are also a pleasure for them, but I don't know any people like that!

**TOPIC 51**

Improvements in health, education and trade are essential for the development of poorer nations. However, the governments of richer nations should take more responsibility for helping the poorer nations in such areas.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

In balancing the world economic growth, the underdevelopment of the Third World Nations have been drawn to the attention of the developed countries of the Western. Thus, governmental policies and interference in the agricultural business of the poorer nations were made to secure their dominant source of the economy. Many discussions among economists and politicians also put their focus on the other aspects. That is, to improve the health, education and trade for the developing countries. However, the improvements cannot be made by these countries, but more external assistance and aids should be done.

Because of the shortage of food supply, the people in poorer nations (i.e. Africa) are easily prone to disease, hunger and death. When natural or environmental disasters happen, they are threatened with their lives. Education cannot be well developed as a result of frequent droughts, famines and disease spreading. The other countries, while emphasising on the development of agriculture in the Third World, cannot really give the solution to the cyclical problem which has been existing for a long time. It is time to consider the consequences of all the waste of efforts in trying to help the economic growth of the Third World and to think from the other perspectives. The richer countries have the power to rebuild the Third World by taking care of the essentials - health, education and trade. More aids for providing the medicine, educational needs and materials can be done by the richer countries. The assistance of trade and developing business in the poorer countries also can be of a great help to the poorer nations.

If the richer countries can be more serious about the essential issues of how a nation develops, and well consider the special situations and circumstances those poorer nations are facing, the improvements will be more efficiently made. The governments of developed countries are, in some ways, responsible - though not obliged - for the future of those developing countries.

**TOPIC 52**

In many countries children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong, while others consider it as valuable work experience, important for learning and taking responsibility.

What are your opinion on this?

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

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

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

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

**TOPIC 53**

Many people are using credit cards or loans to run up huge personal debts that they may be unable to repay. It should therefore be made more difficult for individuals to borrow large amounts of money.

What are your opinions on this?

Nowadays, people are able to reach easily to financial sources by financial instruments such as mortgage loans and credit cards. There are many people who spend money by using credit card or loans without repaying ability. It is the aim of essay to present some benefits and drawbacks when people are not able to borrow easily money.

There are some advantages, when banks don't lend money to people easily. To start with, people are controlled their expenditure in order not to spend too much money more than their repaying ability. As a result, this is a possible cause that leads to decreasing crime in society. Further more, when financial institutions have less risks, they can lend money to people with low interest rate. What is more, economy will be safer when financial institutions have no risks. For example, in 1996, the Thai financial institutions lent too much money to people who could not repay. Consequently, it is one of the causes of the crisis in the Thai economy in 1997.

However, when banks are stricter about lending money to people, people need to find another financial source such as to borrow money from mafias or illegal financial institution. As a consequent, this doesn't support economy and danger of their life. Moreover, banks lose the opportunities to earn more money and to increase monitoring cost.

In conclusion, I think every financial instruments are important in economy and encourage economy to be stronger. However, we should be careful of how to use it because it will be a cause of economic problems such as in the crisis of the Thai economy.

**We all work or will work in Jobs with many different kinds of people. In your opinion, what are some important characteristics of a co-worker (someone you work closely with)? Use reasons and specific examples to explain why these characteristics are important.**

I've worked in several offices, and I've found there are certain characteristics that all good co-workers have in common. They tend to be cooperative people, they adapt well to changes, and they are helpful to others in the office. People who have these characteristics are easy to work with.

A good co-worker is very cooperative. She does her best to get along with others. She tries to do her part well because she knows that if one person doesn't get her work done, it affects everyone else. She also has a positive attitude that creates a pleasant working environment.

A good co-worker is adaptable. She is not stubborn about changes in schedules or routines. She doesn't object to having her job description revised. She has no problem with new procedures and welcomes changes when they come.

A good co-worker is helpful. She helps out when someone falls behind in his or her work. She is willing to change her schedule to accommodate another worker's emergency. She doesn't keep track of how often she has to take on extra work.

We spend more time with our co-workers during the week than we do with our family. Thus, it's important for our co-workers to be people we can get along with. When co-workers are cooperative, adaptable, and helpful, everyone gets along better and can get their job done well.

**In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea? Support your opinion by using specific reasons and details.**

I don't think it is a good idea for teenagers to have jobs while they are still students. It can interfere with their studies, it can disrupt their home life, and it takes away part of their childhood that they can never replace.

A job can interfere with a teenager's schoolwork. Education today is very complex and difficult. In order to learn and get good grades, a student must work very hard and concentrate. This means attending classes for most of the day, then doing research for projects, then going home and doing homework. It is very difficult to do all this and have a job, too.

Having a job can also disrupt a teenager's home life. If a teenager has a job to go to after school he won't be home for dinner. He won't be home after dinner either, and may not get home until late at night. This means he doesn't have much time to spend with his family. Teenagers may be almost grown up, but they still need the companionship and support they get from their families.

The main drawback of a teenager having a job is that he misses out on the fun of being young. He has a whole lifetime ahead of him in which he'll have to earn a living. This is the last free time he'll have. It's the last chance he'll have to hang out with friends and just enjoy himself. Soon enough he'll have to start worrying about paying the rent and buying food.

Jobs bring money, but money isn't everything. For a teenager it is important to concentrate on his studies, spend time with his family, and enjoy being young. A teenager with a job gives up too much.

**You have enough money to purchase either a house or a business. Which would you choose to buy? Give specific reasons to explain your choice.**

If I had enough money, I would purchase a business, not a house. A house is only a place to live, but a business is much more. With a business, I could earn enough money to buy a house and do other things as well. I could travel, for example, and I could help my family, too.

I have always wanted to buy a house, and a business would make this possible. With a business I would earn enough money to buy a house. It might not happen right away, but after few years in the business, I am sure I would have enough money. Then I would have both a business and a house.

After I buy my house, I could use my money to travel. I would like to visit other countries. With a business, I could earn enough money to do this. I might also

travel for business. I might have to go to other countries to attend conferences or meet clients. One way or another, a business would give me the chance to travel.

One of my goals is to help my family. My parents don't own a house. With a business, I could help them buy one. I could also take care of them when they get older. I would also like to be able to send them on a trip. If I had a good business, I could help my parents in all these ways.

A house is just one thing, but a business is so much more. A good business would give me the opportunity to buy a house, travel, and help my parents. Buying a business is an investment for the future.

**TOPIC 57**

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

People like factories because they bring new jobs to a community. In my opinion, however, the benefits of a factory are outweighed by the risks. Factories cause pollution and they bring too much growth. In addition, they destroy the quiet lifestyle of a small town. That is why I oppose a plan to build a factory near my community.

Factories cause smog. If we build a new factory, the air we breathe will become dirty. Everything will be covered with dust. Factories also pollute rivers and streams. Our water will be too dirty to drink. The environment will be hurt and people's health will be affected by a factory.

Some people will say that more jobs will be created by a factory. However, this can have a negative result. Our population will grow quickly. Many new homes and stores will be built. There will be a lot of traffic on the roads. Fast growth can cause more harm than good.

Our city will change a lot. It is a pleasant place now. It is safe and quiet. Everybody knows everybody else. If a factory brings growth to the city, all of this will change. The small-town feel will be lost.

A factory would be helpful in some ways, but the dangers outweigh the benefits. Our city would be changed too much by a factory. I cannot support a plan to build a new factory here.

**TOPIC 58**

**If you were an employer, which kind of worker would you prefer to hire: an inexperienced worker at a lower salary or an experienced worker at a higher salary? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.**

If I were an employer, I would prefer to hire an inexperienced worker at a lower salary. Of course it would save me money, at least at first. I could also train an inexperienced person exactly as I want, and he or she might be willing to work longer hours, as well.

As an employer, my first concern is money. I have to make sure the business brings in more money than it spends. When I save on salaries, I save a lot of money. I don't want to pay my employees less than the salary they expect, but I want to save on salaries when I can. Hiring inexperienced workers is one way to do this.

I like to train my employees to work according to my company's methods. Experienced people are used to doing things a certain way. If they get their experience at another company first, it is hard to change their methods when they come to my company. It is much easier to train inexperienced workers to follow my company's methods.

I don't like to ask my employees to work overtime, but sometimes I have to. Sometimes we have a lot of work to do in a short period of time. Inexperienced workers want to gain experience, so they more often volunteer to work extra hours.

People may think it is not good for a company to hire inexperienced workers, but I disagree. I think everyone benefits this way. The workers get training and experience and the company saves money. I think it is the best plan.

**TOPIC 59**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The most important aspect of a job is the money a person earns. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

I certainly agree that the most important aspect of a job is the money a person earns. When I get a job, I want to earn a lot of money. If I earn a lot of money, people will know I am successful, smart, and a good candidate for marriage.

Money equals success. If I earn a lot of money, I can wear nice clothes, get a big car, buy my parents a nice apartment, and spend a lot of money on my friends. Everyone will know I am rich and very successful.

Earning a lot of money will show people how smart I am. Everyone knows you can't be stupid and earn a lot of money. Who will trust someone stupid to do a job?

When I earn a lot of money, my mother will be able to find me a good wife. She will be able to tell everyone what an important job I have. It will make it easy for her to find someone for me since all girls want to marry a rich man.

I don't care what kind of work I do as long as I earn a lot of money. That is the most important thing for me. Having a well-paying job will show everyone that I am successful, smart, and a good catch.

**The international community should reduce or eliminate the debts of the world's poorest countries.**  
**To what extent would you support or reject this proposal?**

Many of the poorest countries in the world are locked into a cycle of debt to the rich countries. Loans arranged years or even decades ago when interest rates were low, are now very expensive as interest rates are high. What little these countries can earn in foreign exchange through the sale of raw materials, is used to pay off these massive debts.

There are obvious reasons why these debts should be eliminated or reduced. In poor countries it would seem much more sensible to spend foreign currency on medicines to combat disease, machinery to help indigenous industry and agriculture so everyone can work, or on teachers, trainers so the education system can combat ignorance and poverty. In the absence of these things Third World citizens are suffering and dying young and those benefiting from the huge interest paid by the underdeveloped countries are the rich bankers in the West. It would be more sensible to reduce these debts and improve the lives of people in the Third World.

It can be argued that these debts should be retained. One argument is that these debts have been legally incurred and like any other debt must be honored. It

would damage the whole banking system of the West decided to abandon some debts and not others. Everyone with a debt would want it eliminated and difficult decisions would have to be made concerning which debts to drop.

Where people are suffering and dying for debts incurred by others sometimes years before they were born, such arguments do not seem logical or powerful. Banks can and do write off bad debts and for humanitarian reasons they should do so for the under-developed countries of the Third World.

**Comment: This is a very good model essay.**

**Possible: Band 9 score. (IELTS)**

**Some of the methods used in advertising are unethical and unacceptable in today's society.**  
**To what extent do you agree with this view?**

There is no doubt that advertising dominates the world we live in today. Adverts appear on television, on the World Wide Web, in the street and even on our mobile phones. However, many of the strategies used to sell a product or service can be considered immoral or unacceptable.

Indeed, the fact that we cannot escape from advertising is a significant cause for complaint. Constant images and signs wherever we look can be very derisive and irritating at times. Although we expect adverts in numerous situations, it now seems that there are very few places we can actually avoid them.

A further aspect of advertising that I would consider unethical is the way that it encourages people to buy products they may not need or cannot afford. Children and young people in particular, are influenced by adverts showing the latest toys, clothing or music and this can put enormous pressure on the parents to buy these products.

In addition, the advertising of tobacco products and alcohol has long been a controversial issue, but cigarette adverts have only recently been banned in many countries. It is quite possible that alcohol adverts encourage excessive consumption and underage drinking, yet restrictions have not been placed on this type of

advertising in the same way as smoking. Many people consider this to be unacceptable and I tend to accept this view.

It is certainly true to say that advertising is an everyday feature of our lives. Therefore, people are constantly being encouraged to buy products or services that might be too expensive, unnecessary or even unhealthy. In conclusion, many aspects or advertising do appear to be immoral and are not acceptable in today's society.

### Topic 62

**Some people argue that the government should give every unemployed person a mobile phone and should make sure they have access to the Internet.**

**They believe this is the best way of using public money to reduce the problem of unemployment.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Unemployment causes many problems for society. Individuals suffer not only economically, but also in terms of their self respect and 'even health. Inevitably when the breadwinner is unemployed, other family members become victims too. Young people without prospects may turn to drugs or crime to escape boredom and poverty. For all these reasons, any measures which can reduce unemployment are to be welcomed.

The first priority for the job seeker is information, and here the Internet offers a unique tool. Details of job vacancies and training schemes can be accessed within minutes on a computer screen, saving time and money that would otherwise be spent visiting employment agencies or buying newspapers. In addition, the Internet can be very useful in preparing for job interviews.

Once a suitable job vacancy has been identified, it's via to respond quickly, and in this respect it can be argued that a mobile phone is more convenient than a conventional phone. Since calls on a mobile can be very expensive, however, costs can easily get out of hand unless they are monitored carefully.

It has to be said that, like any tools, the Internet and the mobile phone are only as good as their user. Both need to be used effectively, and of course both are

open to abuse. There is little point in making technology available, therefore, without providing basic training in using it.

In conclusion, I believe there are strong arguments for giving unemployed people access to the Internet.

However, the case for providing mobile phones is less convincing, and it may be more cost-effective in the long run to invest in relevant training programs.

### Topic 63

**Workers like doctor and teachers are under valued and underpaid, at least compared to actors and actresses. What is your opinions on this matter.**

Whether workers like doctors and teachers are undervalued or not is a debatable issue. However, I believe that workers such as teachers and doctors should be paid more money for a countless reasons.

First of all, in my opinion, workers like teachers are more important for the society than actors. Therefore, they should be paid large sums of money to keep them educating people. Education is very essential for any society to progress and develop. Therefore teachers play an important role for performing this necessary aspect of development. Without teachers it will be impossible to know the basic levels of education, so teachers build students progress socially, intellectually and educationally. As a consequence of this teachers should be valued according to this very essential role for the society.

Secondly, I personally believe that film actors/actresses do not play the same role as doctors. Doctors protect people from spread of infections diseases which could damage not only the health of the general public, but also can deteriorate all aspects of our life. Without doctors, many well educated and productive people may be killed by diseases. Therefore, the doctors are very useful in health and progress which are necessary for any nation in the world. As a result of this position they should be paid some more money to keep the general public health and productive.

Thirdly, I largely disagree that film actors/actresses are important. I think they do not take part in developing a nation's health and progress. Although they receive huge sums of money, they do not achieve any significant development for

the society. I believe that their job is not as essential as health, economic progress and technological achievement. In contrast, progress and technological development as well as health of the nation depend mostly on teachers and health care workers. Therefore, the latter should be more respected and paid to them the amount of money they deserve.

To sum up, I strongly believe that workers such as teachers and doctors are more important than film actors/actresses. Therefore, the former should be considered more than the latter and paid to them accordingly to this essential role they do for the society.

**Is it better to enjoy your money when you earn it, or is it better to save your money for some time in the future? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.**

When I have a choice between spending money or putting it in my savings account at the bank, I always put it in the bank. I will have a lot of expenses in the future, like my education, travel, and unforeseen emergencies. I need to set money aside for these expenses.

Education is expensive. I can't depend on my parents to pay all my bills. I have tuition, room and board, books, and incidental expenses to pay for. My parents help me, but I have to pay part of it. If I spend my money now, I won't be able to pay for my education.

Travel is also very expensive. I don't mean vacation travel. I mean travel to and from school, because my school is far from home. First I have to get to school, then, of course, I want to return to my family for important festivals and family occasions. I need to save money for these trips.

Emergencies could arrive at any moment. I might have an unexpected illness while I am at school. One of my family members may need help and I will have to send them money. You can't predict emergencies like these, but you can be prepared. I need to save money for these emergencies.

When you are not rich, you cannot spend your money carelessly. You must plan ahead. I know I will have expenses for my schooling and for traveling to and from home. I know that I will also have unexpected expenses from time to time. I must be prepared. I need to save money for these events.

**Businesses should hire employees for their entire lives. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

In some business cultures, it is the practice to hire workers when they are young and employ them until they retire. In other business cultures, companies hire people to do a job and then fire them when they are not needed. I agree with the latter position. In today's economy it is not important to hire employees for their entire lives. The important considerations for companies are an employee's performance, speed, and ability to change. Loyalty is not a consideration.

Today there is a lot of competition so you need to hire workers who can perform their jobs well. We need to find skilled workers who can do a job without a lot of extra training. We need to match the job to the worker, and if the job changes, we change the worker.

Because of competition, we also need to be able to produce our goods and services quickly. We need young people who are aggressive and will push themselves to do their job faster. We need young people who are willing to work long hours.

In order to compete, we have to be able to change to meet the changing demands of the market. By changing our workforce frequently, we can bring in new ideas. By hiring young workers, too, we get fresh points of view.

Although a feeling of loyalty between a company and its workers is a noble idea, it is not practical today. A company needs to keep up with the changing forces of the economy. In order to be able to do this, it needs to be able to change its workforce as necessary.



**TOPIC 68**

**Which would you choose – a high-paying job with long hours that would give you little time with family and friends or a lower-paying job with shorter hours that would give you more time with family and friends? Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.**

At this time in my life I would definitely choose a higher-paying job even if I had to work long hours. If I want a good future, first I have to gain experience, move up in my company, and save a lot of money. I will have plenty of time for friends and family later, after I get a good start on my career.

When I finish school, I will have a lot of knowledge. I won't have any experience, however. I can get experience only by working. I want a lot of experience so that I can be among the best in my career. The only way to get experience is to work a lot of hours.

I want to have a high position in my company. I don't want to be just an employee, I want to be a supervisor, and someday, director or president. I can't do this if I work only forty hours a week. The only way to move up is to work long hours.

Living a comfortable life is important to me. I want to have a nice house, fashionable clothes, and a couple of cars. When I get married, I want my family to have nice things too. This takes money. The best time to save money is now, before I have a family. The only way to save a lot of money is to work hard and earn a high salary.

A high-paying job with long hours will give me the experience, opportunities, and money that I want. After I reach a high position in my company and have a big bank account, I can take the free time I want to relax with friends and family.

**TOPIC 69**

**It is sometimes said that borrowing money from a friend can harm or damage the friendship. Do you agree? Why or why not? Use reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.**

It is not a good idea to borrow money from a friend. It is not fair to the friend. It is hard for a friend to say no, to admit that she doesn't have enough money, or to ask for her money back when she needs it.

If you ask a friend for money, it is hard for her to say no. She may do many favors for you easily, but she still might feel uncomfortable about lending money. However, she doesn't want to be rude to you. If you ask her for money, she feels like she has to lend it. This puts her in an unfair position.

Your friend may not be able to admit that she doesn't have enough money. She may be embarrassed to tell you this. Or maybe she just doesn't want to disappoint you. She lends you the money, then she doesn't have enough for herself.

Your friend may feel awkward about asking for her money back. If some time passes before you repay the loan, the friend may feel embarrassed to ask you for it. Maybe she needs it, or maybe she just wants to know what is going on. But she also doesn't want to put pressure on you or make you angry. It is a difficult position to be in.

People all have different ideas about money and it can cause a lot of problems. It is better to borrow money from people you don't know well, such as bankers. Then, if necessary, you can have problems with them, and maintain good relationships with your friends.

**TOPIC 68**

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

**What is your opinion?**

**Do you think rich countries should pay poorer countries for the people they encourage to come?**

**What other measures could rich countries take to encourage qualified people to stay and help develop their own countries?**

The so-called 'brain drain' from poor to rich countries is now robbing poorer countries of essential personnel like doctors, nurses, engineers, and the trend is continue, if not to get worse.

Some people say this movement of people around the world is not new phenomenon. Migrant workers have always been attracted by the wider choice of employment and greater opportunity in major cities in their own countries and abroad. Recently, as the technological age advances and as richer countries find themselves with not enough workers to feed their development, they have had to turn to other parts of the world, to find the necessary manpower. Many richer European countries, for example are now trying to attract skilled IT workers from my home country India by offering higher salaries than they could hope to earn at home. With the globalization of the world economy, many people feel that the process cannot be stopped.

Others, myself included, are of the opinion that measures should be taken to address the problem, by compensating poorer countries financially for the loss of investment in the people they have trained, like doctors and nurses. Admittedly, this may be cumbersome to administrator, but an attempt could be made to get it off the wound. Another step, which in part has already begun to happen, is to use the forces of globalization itself. Western countries could encourage people to stay in their own countries by direct investment in projects like computer factories or by sending patients abroad for treatment, as is already happening.

It is obviously difficult to restrict the movement of people around the world and it is probably foolish to try to stop it, but attempts should be made to redress the imbalance.

**Possible Band: 9 (IELTS)**

**Topic 39**  
**Business should hire employees for their entire lives. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

In some business cultures, it is the practice to hire workers when they are young and employ them until they retire. In other business cultures, companies hire people to do a job and then fire them when they are not needed. I agree with the latter position. In today's economy it is not important to hire employees for

their entire lives. The important considerations for companies are an employee's performance, speed, and ability to change. Loyalty is not a consideration.

Today there is a lot of competition so we need to hire workers who can perform their jobs well. We need to find skilled workers who can do a job without a lot of extra training. We need to match the job to the worker, and if the job changes, we change the worker.

Because of competition, we also need to be able to produce our goods and services quickly. We need young people who are aggressive and will push themselves to do their job faster. We need young people who are willing to work long hours.

In order to compete, we have to be able to change to meet the changing demands of the market. By changing our workforce frequently, we can bring in new ideas. By hiring young workers, we get fresh points of view.

Although a feeling of loyalty between a company and its workers is a noble idea, it is not practical today. A company needs to keep up with the changing forces of the economy. In order to be able to do this, it needs to be able to change its workforce as necessary.

**Topic 40**  
**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Advertising can tell you a lot about a country. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Advertising is like a window into the life of a country. It tells a lot about the people there. Advertisements show what kinds of things the people in a country like to buy. It shows what kinds of situations are attractive to them. It even shows whether or not the people tend to be affluent. You can learn a lot by looking at advertisements.

By looking at advertisements, you can see what kinds of things people like to buy. Are there more advertisements for soda or for juice? For movies or for music? For vacations or for furniture? You can see what kinds of food people prefer, how

they like to spend their free time, or what they save their money for. You can learn just about anything about the average lifestyle in a country.

By looking at advertisements, you can see what kinds of situations are attractive to people. If an ad shows someone driving a car freely down an open highway in beautiful scenery, you can see that people value feeling free. If an ad shows a professional looking person in an expensive car in front of an elegant house or office building, you will know that people value success.

By looking at advertisements, you can know whether or not a country is affluent. If ads are usually about food, clothes, and other necessities of life, the people in the country may not have a lot of money. If more ads are for luxury items and expensive, high-quality products, then you know that more people in that country have money.

Advertisements can tell you a lot about a country. They show how the people here live. They show what the people want to buy and can buy. Ads give a picture of a country's daily life.

## CHAPTER 4

# Transportation

### TOPIC 71

**The only way to reduce the amount of traffic in cities today is by reducing the need for people to travel from home for work, education or shopping.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

It is certainly true that today traffic in cities throughout the world has become a major problem. This is obvious from the number of vehicles on our roads and the amount of pollution they cause. Probably the traffic problem is due to individuals travelling for work, study or shopping purposes, and this is evident in the rush hours we experience every morning and evening.

It is also true that today such daily commuting is not always necessary because people can do these things from home. We can see this in the options information Technology gives us today. For instance, on-line work, distance learning and shopping facilities are all available via the Internet.

However, even if everyone had access to the technology and the opportunity to work from home, it is unrealistic to think that everyone would want to. Even though the technology for working, studying or shopping on-line makes this option a possibility, nevertheless it would mean people had less freedom of choice and less social contact in their lives. This would have a large impact on society as a whole.

So, in conclusion, I think that while this practice could reduce the traffic problems in our cities, it is most unlikely to be an acceptable solution. In terms of other solutions, perhaps we need to think more carefully about facilitating public transport and limiting private cars in our city centres. The development of public transport that is not road-based, such as sky trains or subways, would probably be a more acceptable alternative measure to reduce jams on our roads.

We know that cars cause pollution and other problems. Many city centres now have car-free areas, and in some countries drivers have to pay a pollution tax.

However, the car is still very popular as it is the cheapest and most comfortable way to travel.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answers.

Many problems arise from the widespread use of private cars in most large cities. Everywhere we see the twin evils of private car use, cost and danger, and they affect both individuals and society.

The economic costs of cars are high for society: they include the continuing upkeep of road networks and the health care associated with car-crash injuries. But the damage and danger caused by cars are perhaps more severe. In the first place, car exhausts contribute considerably to atmospheric pollution. Cars also disturb the public's peace as motorway noise is audible up to 10 kilometres away. In addition, many people face respiratory problems due to pollution, and accidents result in many deaths every year.

However, despite these problems, cars are clearly still a popular choice in virtually all travel situations because cars are swift, comfortable and comparatively cheap. Drivers can choose their route and can stop wherever they want.

Unfortunately, the car is used so much because there are so few viable alternatives. These days rail networks are being replaced by motorways and air travel is expensive. For short journeys, people are forced to use their cars as public transport is so badly organised with a lack of government funding.

To sum up, despite the fact that the car damages the environment and in the wrong hands, is dangerous, most people would choose to travel by car mainly for the convenience and independence it offers to the driver.

Air traffic is increasingly leading to more noise, pollution and airport construction. One reason for this is the growth in low-cost passenger flights, often to holiday destinations.

Some people say that governments should try to reduce air traffic by taxing it more heavily.

Do you agree or disagree?

In recent years, traveling by plane has become a very common means of transport for many people. Mainly because it's practical, quick and easy, but it also became incredibly cheap and accessible for all. Consequently, people are highly encouraged to choose it and air traffic is increasing rapidly. Although taxing flight tickets more heavily could enable to reduce air traffic considerably, this decision could also lead to many drawbacks.

First of all, if plane tickets become more expensive, many people might reconsider their way of traveling. Therefore, this would certainly encourage more of them to take a train to travel short distances, from a European country to another, for example.

As a result of this, air traffic could decrease and new airport construction not be needed.

On the other hand, to me it is obvious that people will choose to travel using a car or a coach as an alternative way. Therefore, this would lead to lots of noise and pollution on the roads, mostly during holidays. Moreover, economically, the choice of taxing flight tickets heavily could be seen as a discrimination as traveling abroad could only be afforded by wealthy people. Finally, high costs flying might simply disadvantage tourism as it would slow down cultural and economic exchanges between countries.

To sum up, when bearing in mind the consequences of heavy taxes on plane tickets, it does not seem to be an appropriate solution against noise or pollution. Besides, traveling by plane is needed and important to maintain goods exchanges, tourism communication, technology developments ...

**TOPIC 74**

**There is an excessive number of cars on our roads today and this leads to many problems. Individuals and governments should ensure that public transport plays a more important role in modern to tackle these problems.**

**To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

There is no doubt that in recent years the number of cars on the road has increased significantly. This has led to numerous problems such as a rise in air pollution, a higher accident rate and, of course, far more traffic congestion. Some argue that if public transport played a greater role, then some of these problems might be reduced. However, the current situation is unlikely to change dramatically in the near future unless certain actions are taken.

There are two important changes that the government would need to make in order for people to use public transport more. Firstly, prices would have to be reduced – travel by train, in particular, is not cheap in this country. Secondly, the quality and frequency of public transport services would need to be improved. Many types of public transport are uncomfortable, unreliable or simply infrequent. In addition, more dramatic changes, such as higher car taxes or congestion charging, might put some individuals off driving, particularly if there was a better public transport service.

Yet even if these changes were implemented, I still believe that the attraction of the private vehicle is too powerful these days. Most people prefer to travel in their own car because it is convenient and gives almost total independence.

To sum up, it is important that the government aims to increase the role of public transport. In order to encourage individuals to use it more. As a result, traffic-related problems might be reduced. Nonetheless, these aims may not be fulfilled as long as the car remains such a powerful influence in the modern world.

**TOPIC 75**

**Should governments spend more money on improving roads and highways, or should governments spend more money on improving public transportation (buses, trains, subways)? Why? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.**

Governments should definitely spend more money on improving all forms of public transportation. The widespread use of private cars has contributed to some serious problems in society, including depletion of natural resources, increased pollution, and the loss of a sense of community. By encouraging the use of public transportation, governments can do a lot to counteract these problems.

Cars depend on oil and gasoline, which are nonrenewable resources. Once we have used them up, they are gone forever. Every time a person gets into a private car to go to work, to the store, or anywhere, gasoline is used up just to take one person to one place. The more people drive their cars, the more resources are used up. When people use public transportation, on the other hand, less oil and gasoline are used up per person.

Cars cause pollution. Every time a person drives his car somewhere, more pollution is put into the air. In many big cities, the high amount of air pollution causes health problems for the residents. Public transportation means fewer cars on the road, and that means less pollution.

Cars tend to isolate people from each other. When a person uses a private car, he is alone or only with people that he already knows. He doesn't have the opportunity to see other people or talk to them or feel that he is part of a larger community. When he uses public transportation, however, he is surrounded by neighbors and other fellow city residents. He has a chance to be with people he might not otherwise see, and maybe even to get to know them a little.

Environmental problems and increased isolation are some of the most serious problems of modern society. Encouraging the use of public transportation is one way governments can work against these problems and start creating a better world.

**TOPIC 76**

You need to travel from your home to a place 40 miles (64 kilometers) away. Compare the different kinds of transportation you could use. Tell which method of travel you would choose. Give specific reasons for your choice.

When I choose a method of transportation to go 40 miles, I have three common choices: my bike, my parents' car, or public transportation. When I choose among them, I think about how much it will cost how long it will take, and why I need to go from point A to point B.

My bike is a less expensive alternative. The only cost is my manual labor to pedal from my home to a place 40 miles away. This method, however, is extremely time-consuming. I imagine it would take me all day. Biking is excellent exercise. If my only goal is to burn calories and strengthen my muscles, I should go by bike.

Public transportation is another alternative that is inexpensive. The cost is minimal and shared by everyone on the bus or train. Where I live, you cannot depend on public transportation. It might take me all day to go 40 miles by public transportation if I include waiting time. However; using public transportation is good for the Earth. By sharing resources, we waste less.

Taking a private car is the most expensive, especially since I don't own a car and I must borrow one from my parents. They want me to pay for my own gas, which is a lot, and I must also pay for parking the car when I get to my destination. A car is the most dependable way to go if I need to get there fast. When convenience is your goal, you should pick a car.

When I consider these points, I must confess that I am spoiled. I prefer the convenience of the car over the exercise of a bike and the virtues of public transportation. I like to go and come when I want to without waiting, even if it costs me more.

**TOPIC 77**

The burning of oil for transport, especially in private cars, is wasteful and environmentally irresponsible. Taxation on petrol and diesel fuel should be increase to very high levels to discourage the use of private cars. To what extent would you support or reject this idea?

The increasing dependence of the public on the car as the main means of transportation has resulted in higher levels of air pollution and damage to the environment. One suggestion which has been put forward to lessen the severity of this problem is to increase taxes on petrol and diesel fuel.

If the government insisted on raising taxes, many people would have to consider alternative methods of transport, as they could no longer afford to use so much petrol. This would mean that emissions of toxic fumes from cars into the atmosphere would fall and so air pollution would be at a more acceptable level. With fewer cars on the roads, cities would have less traffic congestion, which has been a major problem in urban areas in recent years. Also, if people walked to work instead of traveling by car, they would become healthier and fitter.

However, there are others ways to discourage driven from using their vehicles so often. To lower congestion, a tax could be imposed on cars entering the center of cities and parking charges could be raised. In some countries, cars are only allowed into city centers on specific days or people are fined if they travel alone in their cars.

But inflicting such a tax on people would affect certain members of the public more than others. Those living in the country are dependent on their cars as public transportation to these areas is often inadequate and so without they own vehicles their ability to move around would be severity restricted. Small businesses would suffer if their transportation costs were increased and some would be forced to close, thus raising levels of unemployment.

In conclusion, I believe that imposing higher taxes on fuel would not be an effective way of reducing the usage of private cars and rather than forcing the public to pay extra charges, fines or taxes, the government should endeavor to upgrade the public transportation system with lower fares and a more frequent service in order to persuade the public to abandon their cars.

**TOPIC 78**

We know that cars cause pollution and other problems. Many city centers now have car free areas, and in some countries drivers have to pay a pollution tax. However, the car is still very popular as it is the cheapest and most comfortable way to travel.

Do you agree or disagree?

Many problems arise from the widespread use of private cars in most large cities. Everywhere we see the twin evils of private care use, cost and danger, and they affect both individuals and society.

The economic costs of cars are high for society: they include the continuing upkeep of road networks and the health care associated with car-crash injuries. But the damage and danger caused by cars are perhaps more severe. In the first place, car exhausts contribute considerably to atmospheric pollution. Cars also disturb the public's peace as motorway noise is audible up to 10 kilometers away. In addition, many people face respiratory problems due to pollution, and accidents result in many deaths every year.

However, despite these problems, cars are clearly still a popular choice in virtually all travel situations because cars are swift, comfortable and comparatively cheap. Drivers can choose their route and can stop wherever they want.

Unfortunately, the car is used so much because there are so few viable alternatives. These days rail networks are being replaced by motorways and air travel is expensive. For short journeys, people are forced to use their cars as public transport is so badly organized with a lack of government funding.

To sum up, despite the fact that the car damages the environment and in the wrong hands, is dangerous, most people would choose to travel by car mainly for the convenience and independence it offers to the driver.

**Comment: This is very good model essay.**

**CHAPTER 5****Travelling and tourism****TOPIC 79**

Tourism is a modern form of colonialism. It distorts local economies, causes environmental damage and ruins the places it exploits.

To what extent would you support or reject this idea?

Tourism, it is suggested, is like colonialism in that tourists damage the places they visit and distort the economy. There are a number of presumptions here, that colonialism was bad, that it and tourism distort the local economies and that this distortion is bad. All of these presumptions can be challenged.

Colonialism does not have to be all bad. The Roman colonisation of Britain, for example, brought peace, roads, proper sewerage systems and underfloor heating. It might be argued that these were and are rather good things, and when the Romans left so too did many of these benefits.

However, tourism, or colonialism does not necessarily distort local economies. Where the indigenous industry has dramatically declined, as with coal mining in South Wales, turning a mine into a tourist attraction can be a way of preserving the local economy and the local community by providing regular employment.

It should be noted that the changes tourists bring are not all bad. The money from tourists at Big Pit in South Wales, to continue the example from the previous paragraph, has been used to improve the local countryside not damage it. In many countries what we see as ugly modern hotels in beautiful locations, are beautiful hotels in beautiful locations to the local population. Modernity is not disliked everywhere, and the jobs and the wealth these things bring are worth far more than the local scenery to people who were previously economically impoverished.

In conclusion, there are obviously advantages and disadvantages to tourism but I believe that the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

**TOPIC 30**

People who travel to another country to live, work or study for a period of time often suffer badly from homesickness.

Why is this?

What are the best ways to reduce this problem?

I think most people who travel away from home for any length of time will feel homesick at the beginning because missing their own home and country is a natural reaction. However, I think it becomes less of a problem as people adapt to the new environment and start to enjoy new relationships and experiences. Today many young people study abroad and for them it is probably their first time away from family, friends and everything that is familiar. The country they have moved to may have a completely different culture and language, so they need to adjust to this and learn how to communicate in new ways. This can be very tiring, but until they can do so they will feel out of place and unable to form new relationships.

Professionals who have moved abroad for work may have left older parents behind, or even young children. For them, the separation can be worse because they feel so far from the people they feel responsible for.

I personally think that people should try and prepare themselves for study or work abroad. They need to learn the new language, and to try to be as adaptable and independent as they can. At the same time, however, they need to set up ways of communicating quickly and easily with people back home, by using email for instance, so that they know what is happening there and do not need to worry. If people are aware of the problems, they can do a lot to reduce their homesickness and make their stay abroad a positive, exciting experience.

Possible: Band 9 (IELTS)

**TOPIC 31**

You have the opportunity to visit a foreign country for two weeks. Which country would you like to visit? Use specific reasons and details to explain your choice.

If I could visit any foreign country, I would go to Iceland. I imagine it is unlike any place I have seen before. In the middle of the summer the sun never sets. I would like to see that and the interesting scenery and learn more about Iceland's history.

I would like to experience some days when the sun doesn't set. Of course, I would have to go to Iceland in June in order to have this experience. It's hard to imagine going to bed while the sun is still in the sky. It would feel strange, but I would like to try it.

I would like to see some of Iceland's beautiful scenery. I have seen it in photos, and I am sure it is much better in real life. I would like to look at volcanoes and walk on glaciers. I want to see the places where steam rises from the ground and go swimming in the natural hot springs.

I would like to learn more about the history of Iceland. I know that Vikings went there from Norway over 1,000 years ago. Why did they want to live in that strange, cold place? How did they begin their lives there? How were they able to grow food and survive? I am sure Iceland has museums that explain these things. I would like to visit them and learn everything I can.

Iceland is a unique place. It would be wonderful to have the opportunity to visit there, to see the wonderful sights, and learn about the history. Maybe some day I really will be able to go.

**TOPIC 32**

Imagine that you have received some land to use as you wish. How would you use this land? Use specific details to explain your answer.

I would like to use my land for something that everyone can enjoy. Therefore, I would build a campground on it. Right now we don't have any good places for



outdoor recreation in my town. A campground would be an inexpensive place for outdoor recreation and would provide activities that everybody would enjoy.

There aren't many opportunities for outdoor recreation in my town. We have only one small park and a playing field behind the high school. That really isn't enough space for our needs. In addition, the park is not well maintained so people don't like to use it. A well maintained campground would give our town a nice place to enjoy outdoor activities.

We have many opportunities for indoor recreation, but they are all expensive. We have a brand new movie theater, but the ticket prices go up every day. It is especially hard to pay for tickets if you have several children. We have a museum of local history, but that, too, is expensive. Young people like to go to the mall, but of course that just encourages more spending. A campground, on the other hand, is an inexpensive place to spend time, even for large families.

At a campground, everybody can find activities that they enjoy. People can play different kinds of games outdoors, they can go hiking or study nature, or just sit and relax. At night they can enjoy talking around a campfire. It is a nice place for families to enjoy some free time together.

A campground would provide an inexpensive and enjoyable place for families and friends to spend time together. It would be a great asset to our town. I think it would be a very good way to use land.

### TOPIC 33

**A foreign visitor has only one day to spend in your country. Where should this visitor go on that day? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.**

A foreign visitor with only one day to spend in my country should definitely spend that day in the capital. Spending time in the capital is the easiest way to see many aspects of our country in one place. In this city, the visitor can learn about our history, see examples of our culture, and buy our best products.

Our country's history is represented in several ways throughout the city. In the Government Palace, a visitor can learn about the history of our independence. In

our National Museum, a visitor can see exhibits that show all the different stages of our history, from ancient times to the present. In parks all around the city, a visitor can see monuments to famous historical people and events.

It is also possible to see different representations of our culture throughout the city. Our art museums and galleries show paintings and sculptures by our artists. Plays written by national playwrights are performed in the theaters. Folk ballet performances show examples of our traditional dances. Many restaurants in the capital serve our native dishes.

The best products of our country are sold in the capital city. The large department stores sell clothes, furniture, and household items manufactured in our country. The Central Market sells fruit and vegetables from the surrounding agricultural region. Tourist and craft shops sell native handicrafts made in the countryside.

The capital city is the best place to learn a lot about our country in one place. Of course, it is difficult to see all of the city's attractions in one day. With some planning, though, it is possible to see at least a few examples of our country's history, culture, and products in one day.

### TOPIC 34

**Many people visit museums when they travel to new places. Why do you think people visit museums? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

People visit museums for a number of reasons. They visit museums when traveling to new places because a museum tells them a lot about the culture of those places. They also visit museums to have fun. People also are usually interested in museums that feature unusual subjects. It's impossible to get bored in a museum.

When visiting someplace new, you can find out about the culture of that place in many ways. The easiest way to learn about a culture, though, is by visiting its museums. Museums will show you the history of the place you're visiting. They'll show you what art the locals think is important. If there aren't any museums, that tells you something, too.

Museums are fun. Even if you're not interested in art or history, there is always something to get your attention. Many museums now have what they call "hands-on" exhibits. These exhibits have activities such as pushing a button to hear more about what you're looking at, or creating your own work of art. Everyone, from child to adult, enjoys these hands-on activities in museums.

People also enjoy visiting museums about unusual subjects. For instance, in my hometown there's a museum devoted to the potato. This museum has art made out of potatoes. It also tells the history of the potato, and sells unusual items such as potato dolls. People enjoy visiting this museum because it is so unusual. There is no other place like it.

People everywhere like museums. They like learning about interesting and unusual things. No matter who you are or what you like, there is a museum that will amaze and interest you.

#### Topic 85

**Some people like to travel with a companion. Other people prefer to travel alone. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.**

Traveling alone is the only way to travel. If you take someone with you, you take your home with you. When you travel alone, you meet new people, have new experiences, and learn more about yourself.

When I travel with a friend, I spend all my time with that friend. We do everything together. When I travel alone, I spend my time looking for new friends. I meet other tourists or local people. We have coffee together or share a meal and we become friends. It's easier to meet new people when I travel alone.

When I travel with a friend, my routine is predictable. We follow the same schedule that we do at home. When I travel alone, I adapt myself to the customs of the place. I might take a nap in the afternoon and eat dinner late at night. I might go to a club and dance all night. I am more open to new experiences when I travel alone.

When I travel with a friend, we take care of each other. When I am alone, I have to take care of myself. If I encounter a difficult situation, I have to find my own solution. Maybe I don't speak the language and I have to figure out how to make myself understood. Maybe the food looks strange and I have to decide what to eat. When I travel alone, I learn about how I react in new or strange situations.

I think it is always important to do things on your own. You can find new friends, have new experiences, and learn a lot about yourself, too. Isn't that the point of travel?

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The best way to travel is in a group led by a tour guide. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

When I travel, I always prefer to go with a group led by a tour guide. The tour guide makes all the necessary arrangements for the trip. The tour guide knows the best places to visit. The tour guide is familiar with the local language and customs. When I travel with a tour guide, the only thing I have to do is relax and enjoy myself.

If I travel in a group with a tour guide, I don't have to worry about arranging the trip. I just look for a group that is going to a place I like, and I let the tour guide take care of the rest. The tour guide makes the hotel reservations and chooses the restaurants and plans the activities for each day. I don't have to worry about anything because the guide does everything for me.

If I travel in a group with a tour guide, I don't have to figure out which places to visit. The tour guide knows which are the best museums. The tour guide knows where the good beaches are and which stores have the best prices. If I had to figure this out myself, I might make the wrong choices. With a tour guide, I am sure of having the best possible experience on my trip.

If I travel in a group with a tour guide, I don't have to know the local language and customs. The tour guide knows the language and can speak for the group when necessary. The tour guide knows when the local holidays are, or how to dress

appropriately for each situation. I don't have to worry about confusions with the language or customs because the tour guide can help me.

When I go on vacation, I want to relax. I don't want to worry about making hotel reservations, or learning the museum schedules, or speaking the local language. A tour guide can take care of all these things for me, and I can have a good time.

### TOPIC 87

**If you could travel back in time to meet a famous person from history, what person would you like to meet? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.**

If I could meet a famous person from history, I would like to meet Leonardo da Vinci. There has probably been no other person like him in all of history. He was a talented artist and an imaginative inventor. He was a unique person and I would like to know what that felt like.

Da Vinci's artistic talents are well known. The Mona Lisa is, of course, his most famous painting. It is beautiful, and he painted and drew many other beautiful works of art as well like to draw and paint, too. Of course my talent will never approach da Vinci's, but it would be inspiring to meet him.

Da Vinci invented many things. For example, he made drawings of a flying machine. This was centuries before the first airplane was ever built. Perhaps his inventions never became reality in his life, but he still was able to imagine them. He created things in his mind that were well ahead of his time. I think this is amazing and inspiring.

Da Vinci was a smart and talented person. His ideas were well ahead of his time. There was no one else like him around. I wonder what that felt like. It must have been difficult at least some of the time. If I could meet him, I could ask him about this.

To tell the truth, I haven't read much about da Vinci. I would like to learn more about him, however, because of his unique talents and ideas. It would be an inspiring experience to meet him.

## CHAPTER 6

# Entertainment

### TOPIC 88

**Many people believe that the high levels of violence in films today are causing serious social problems.**

**What are these problems and how could they be reduced?**

The increasing amount of violence that is shown regularly in films has been a cause of concern for some time. Such films make violence appear entertaining, exciting and even something to be copied. However, it seems to be increasingly clear that this development is causing problems in our society.

First of all, those who enjoy such films eventually stop associating the violence with any real consequences. They therefore lose their sense of reality and no longer take violence seriously or have any sympathy with the victims. This is bad for both individuals and for our whole society. Another worrying trend is that in these films the heroes are shown as people to be admired, even though they are very violent characters. This leads impressionable people to believe that they can gain respect and admiration by copying this aggressive behaviour, and so the levels of violence increase, especially in major cities throughout the world.

What is needed to combat these problems is definite action. The government should regulate the film industry on the one hand, and provide better education on the other. Producers must be prevented from showing meaningless violence as 'fun' in their films. Instead, films could emphasise the tragic consequences of violent acts and this would educate people, especially young people, to realize that violence is real.

To conclude, I think that viewing violence as entertainment may indeed cause serious social problems and that the only way to improve this situation is by regulating the industry and educating the public about the real human suffering that such violence brings.

### THINK

**Music is played in every society and culture in the world today. Some people think that music brings only benefits to individuals and societies. Others, however, think that music can have a negative influence on both.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

Generally, music is considered to be one of the most popular and ancient modes of human expression. It features largely in all histories and all cultures and indeed has been one of the main ways of passing on cultural traditions to new generations. Because of this, many people view music as a positive influence for societies. They also believe that the influence on individuals is wholly beneficial as it is a long-established way of communicating and helping us to understand the whole range of human emotion and experience in a more spiritual language than words can represent.

However, there are different kinds of music and the qualities of classical music traditions are not necessarily part of the music many people experience today. In the modern world there is a huge music industry that sells piped music to supermarkets and advertisers. We are also constantly exposed to loud, modern music from people's CD players, iPods or car radios. So the view of music today as a kind of noise pollution produced by selfish people, is also a common and negative one.

But it is difficult to think of a world without music. Certainly there is bad music that may have negative influences, particularly on the young. But people's taste in music tends to change as they get older, and it would be difficult to find someone who had no positive musical associations at all.

In conclusion, I think that music can have both positive and negative influences on people and society, but it is an integral part of human expression that we cannot really separate from our lives.

### THINK

**Sports which depend on violence for their entertainment, such as boxing and wrestling, have no place in a civilized society and should be banned. To what extent would you support or reject this idea?**

Many sports, like rugby and football, involve violent contact between players and often lead to injury. Other sports, boxing and wrestling in particular, have the deliberate intention of hurting an opponent. Whether this is acceptable in modern society when at all other times we try to train people not to be aggressive and not to deliberately hurt other people is a debatable point.

The arguments against sports like boxing come from a minority of people who find violence, even in a controlled and institutionalised form, highly disturbing. Their line of reasoning appears to be that it is better for everyone if we live in a violence free society. In order for us, especially children, to learn to avoid such behaviour then it is preferable if we never see it and cannot copy it. If society actually sanctions brutality, as in boxing, it cannot be argued that violence is always unacceptable.

On the other hand, realists point out that cruelty is inherent in society and banning boxing will not alter this. On the contrary, by institutionalising and controlling violence in boxing clubs can help change this. Boys, who would otherwise be part of street gangs outside the law, can be taught to be part of a group and direct their energies at activities which are inside the law. In this environment they can be trained to be better members of society. Organised boxing matches follow elaborate rules and medical facilities are always on hand so, barring accident, no one should be seriously hurt. How much better this is than uncontrolled street fighting outside the law.

To sum up, it seems to me that there is little to be gained and much to be lost by banning sports such as boxing. Prohibiting boxing will not stop violence in society but it will drive organised fighting outside the law and into the hands of criminals. We would all lose if that occurred.

**TOPIC 91**

**Successful sports professionals can earn a great deal more than people in other important professions. Some people think this is fully justified while others think it is unfair.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

As a result of constant media attention, sports professionals in my country have become stars and celebrities, and those at the top are paid huge salaries. Just like movie stars, they live extravagant lifestyles with huge houses and cars.

Many people find their rewards unfair, especially when comparing these super salaries with those of top surgeons or research scientists, or even leading politicians who have the responsibility of governing the country. However, sports salaries are not determined by considering the contribution to society a person makes, or the level of responsibility he or she holds. Instead, they reflect the public popularity of sport in general and the level of public support that successful stars can generate. So the notion of 'fairness' is not the issue.

Those who feel that sports stars' salaries are justified might argue that the number of professionals with real talent are very few, and the money is a recognition of the skills and dedication a person needs to be successful. Competition is constant and a player is tested every time they perform in their relatively short career. The pressure from the media is intense and there is little privacy out of the spotlight. So all of these factors may justify the huge earnings.

Personally, I think that the amount of money such sports stars make is more justified than the huge earnings of movie stars, but at the same time, it indicates that our society places more value on sport than on more essential professions and achievements.

**TOPIC 92**

**Movies are popular all over the world. Explain why movies are so popular. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.**

Movies are popular because people are great watchers. We like to watch other people's lives. By going to the movies we can bring excitement into our lives, express our emotions, and imagine ourselves as someone else.

Our lives are not adventurous or glamorous like the movies. We don't fight the bad guys all day and then go home to a luxury apartment. We just go to school, do our homework, eat, talk to our friends, and sleep. We need a little excitement in our lives and we find excitement at the movies.

Humans are very emotional. We all like to cry and laugh. Sad movies give us a chance to cry about our sadness. Funny ones give us a chance to laugh about our joy. Sometimes it is easier to express our emotions in a dark movie theater.

Now I am a student, but I know some day I want to be a scientist or a politician or a famous model. When I go to the movies, I can see my role models. I can see what they wear and how they talk. I can imagine myself as they are, and maybe some day I will really be like them.

Even though my life is quiet, I can go to the movies and watch someone else's life. I can share their emotions and their everyday life. I wonder if they would like to share mine.

**TOPIC 93**

**Films can tell us a lot about the country where they were made. What have you learned about a country from watching its movies? Use specific examples and details to support your response.**

When I watch movies from other countries, I realize that people everywhere really are similar. We may have different languages and cultures, but we all want to get an education, need to make a living, and like to have fun.

Once I saw a movie made in China. It showed parents helping their children with their homework. My parents helped me the same way. Another time I saw a movie from Argentina. It showed schoolchildren playing a game during recess. My friends and I used to play the same game at school. Seeing these films showed me that education is a common goal in every country. Children go to school and their parents help them with their work and want them to do the best they can. Education is something we all have in common.

By watching foreign movies, I see the different ways people earn a living. In some countries, people choose their careers according to their interests and talents.

In other countries, their parents choose their careers for them. But in every country, finding a way to earn a living is a major concern, and working hard is respected. Earning a living is another common goal.

Movies often show how people have fun. People everywhere want to be entertained and want to spend time with family and friends. Different cultures may enjoy different types of activities, but all cultures enjoy some form of sports, music, and dancing. Everybody likes to have fun.

The movies I've seen make it clear to me that no matter what the cultural differences are between countries, people everywhere have the same basic needs and goals.

**Topic 9**  
**How do movies or television influence people's behavior? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.**

Television is a big influence in the lives of most of us. We spend hours every week watching television programs, so of course this will affect our behavior. Unfortunately, the effect of television is usually negative. Television makes people more violent, more inactive, and less imaginative.

Many programs and movies on television are violent. The more we see violence on television, the less sensitive we become to it. Eventually violence doesn't seem wrong. This is especially true because violence on television doesn't seem to have consequences. Actors can be killed and come back for another movie. Sometimes we confuse that with reality and we forget that killing someone is permanent.

Watching television makes us less active. The act of watching television requires almost no activity on the part of the watcher. We just turn it on and change the channels. In addition, all the time that we spend in front of the television is time that we are not spending moving around, playing a sport, or taking a walk.

When we watch television, we don't exercise our imagination. All the stories are told for us. We don't even have to imagine what a character or a place looks like because everything is shown to us. When we have television, we don't have to

invent a way to spend a few free moments. We just turn on the television and watch.

Television is a big influence in modern life and it can be a valuable educational tool. The other side of television, however, is that it has a strong negative effect on our behavior, encouraging us to accept violence and to be inactive and unimaginative.

**Topic 9**  
**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television has destroyed communication among friends and family. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinions.**

Some people believe that television has destroyed communication among friends and family. In my opinion, however, the opposite is true. Television can increase communication. News and other information we see on TV gives us things to discuss with our friends and family. TV also helps us understand each other better because we all have access to the same TV programs. Finally, TV can help us share our interests with other people.

Television programs give us things to think and talk about. These days it is always possible to hear up-to-the minute news every time we turn on the television. We hear about things happening all around the world that directly affect our lives. Everybody has opinions about these things and everybody wants to discuss their opinions with other people. So, TV news and information programs encourage us to discuss our ideas with our friends and family.

No matter what city you live in, you have access to the same TV programs as people in other parts of the country. When you go to a new city to work, study, or take a vacation, you will already have something in common with the people there. When you meet new people, you will probably be familiar with at least some of the same TV programs. This gives you something to talk about and a way to begin new friendships.

Most people use TV as a way to pursue their interests. People who play sports usually like to watch sports on TV. People who like to cook watch cooking shows. If your friends and family watch some of the same programs as you do, they can learn more about the things that interest you. This is an excellent form of communication that helps people understand each other better.

TV is a tool that gives us access to information, entertainment, and education. When we watch programs that interest us, we want to share this interest with other people. That is why I believe TV encourages communication among people.

**TOPIC 96**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Games are as important for children as they are for adults. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answers.**

Everyone likes to play games. Games are important at any age to keep your mind sharp, learn new things, and maintain social skills.

When you play games, you exercise your mind. This becomes more important as you grow older. By concentrating on the tactics of a game, memorizing moves, and following your opponent's strategies, you can keep your brain functioning and growing.

Playing games can teach you a lot. Games that ask questions, for example, show you what you don't know. You can learn about things like geography and history when you play certain games. It's a fun way to learn, and adults enjoy this as much as children do.

Games require the use of social skills. When you play games, you interact with other people. You have to be considerate of them and you have to play fairly. Playing games allows you to maintain personal contacts. This is important for people of all ages.

Regardless of your age, playing games can help you keep your mind alert, learn new things, and build friendships.

**TOPIC 97**

**Some young children spend a great amount of their time practicing sports. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Participating in sports is good for children. It helps them stay in good physical shape, it helps them learn teamwork, and helps them learn to develop excellence. However, too much of a good thing is never good, and children need to balance sports with other types of activities.

It is important to stay in shape, and participating in sports is a good way to do this. In sports, children get a chance to run and jump, to develop their muscles and lungs. This is especially important after spending most of the day sitting at a desk doing schoolwork. However, if children focus too much on sports, they might neglect their homework. They might also be too tired to pay attention in school.

Participating in sports helps children learn to work on a team. They have to pay attention and cooperate and do what is best for the team. This is an important skill that will help them throughout their lives. If children always play on a team, however, they don't have the chance to learn to do things alone. They don't learn to enjoy solitary activities such as reading or drawing, and they don't learn how to play with just one or two other children and no adult supervision. These activities also help develop important skills.

Learning to play sports helps children learn to develop excellence. They want to be really good in the sports they choose. Each one wants to be the best ball player or gymnast possible. While it is good to learn to work toward goals, it is also good to participate in other types of activities. Children need activities that are just for relaxation and enjoyment. They need activities that don't involve competition. If they focus too much on sports, they might not get a chance to do these other activities.

Playing sports is an important part of a child's development. Other activities, however, are equally important. Adults should encourage children to find a balance between different types of activities in their lives.

**TOPIC 10**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Watching television is bad for children. Use specific details and examples to support your answer.**

I think television is very bad for children. It is bad for their health, it is bad for their minds, and it is bad for their values. They should rarely be allowed to watch it.

When children watch a lot of television, they don't get a lot of physical exercise. They just sit and watch all day. Often, they eat snacks while they watch TV. The snacks are probably cookies and potato chips and other food that is bad for their health. Children need to get a lot of exercise. They need to play active games. They also need to eat healthful food. Television watching does not encourage any of this.

When children watch a lot of television, they are exposed to a lot of information and ideas. Some of this is educational, but a lot of it is not. Children don't always know the difference. There is a lot of violence, sex, and other things on TV that children shouldn't see. If children learn about adult topics from TV, they will have a distorted view of the world.

When children watch a lot of television, they are encouraged to be materialistic. Advertising teaches children that having a lot of things is important. It teaches children that they must always have the newest, biggest, or most expensive thing. In addition, the characters on TV shows drive new cars, have fashionable clothes, and live in big houses. This also encourages children to want things.

Television can educate and entertain, but it also gives a distorted view of the world. It generally does not encourage healthful, intelligent, or moral living. It should not be a big part of any child's life.

**TOPIC 11**

**People listen to music for different reasons and at different times. Why is music important to many people? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.**

Music has been a part of people's lives since the time Civilization began. I think music is important because it helps us express our emotions, it helps us feel connected to others, and also simply because it is a beautiful thing.

Music is an expression of emotion. Music can be sad or happy, calming or agitating, angry or contented. Music can represent any human emotion. When people play or listen to music, they feel their emotions. Often people listen to certain music because they want to feel a certain way. Music has a lot of emotional power.

Music helps people feel connected to each other. When people go to a concert, they are with other people who share their musical tastes. Together they feel the emotions that the music evokes. Also, music has always played an important part in ceremonies, from ancient times to the present. This is because of its ability to make people feel connected.

Finally, people enjoy music because of its beauty. Music is art, an expression of beauty. Whatever emotion it expresses, positive or negative, it is beautiful. Listening to good music can be like looking at a beautiful flower or a spectacular sunset. It can be as beautiful as anything nature gives us.

Music brings a lot to our lives in terms of emotions, connections, and beauty. No culture has ever been without it.

**TOPIC 12**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television, newspapers, magazines, and other media pay too much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public figures and celebrities. Use specific reasons and details to explain your opinion.**

I think the media pay too much attention to the private lives of famous people. They discover things that happened years ago and report them as if they still mattered. They publicize things about famous people's lives that are really private, personal matters. They put out information that could end up having a bad effect on a person's family and personal life. They do this just to entertain the public, but I don't find it entertaining at all.

The media like to dig up bad information about the past actions of famous people. They find out that a person took drugs when he was young, or that someone was a reckless driver and caused a bad accident. Then a person in her forties has to explain something that she did when she was fifteen. I don't understand how something that happened so long ago could have any interest or importance now.



The media says that the public has the right to know about the private actions of famous people. They say it is our right to know if someone had an extramarital affair or didn't pay back some money that he owed. I say these are personal matters. We respect the privacy of ordinary people and we should do the same for famous people.

The media seem to report these things without considering what might happen as a result. Reporting on a celebrity's personal affairs could have an effect on that person's family, especially the children. A celebrity's good name and credibility could be ruined before he or she can prove that the rumors are false. A person's entire career could be mined by something that is reported in the media.

Having details of one's personal life reported in public can have all sorts of negative consequences on a person's life. Ordinary people don't have to suffer this sort of attention, and I see no reason why celebrities should either.

#### TOPIC 101

**Why do you think some people are attracted to dangerous sports or other dangerous activities? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Dangerous sports are interesting for most people to watch or read about. Only certain kinds of people, however, are attracted to participating in these sports. Often they are people who love risks, who seek a feeling of power, or who need a way to deal with some personal problems.

Dangerous sports attract risk takers. People often take risks in their lives. They take risks with their money, with their jobs, and in love. But these are ordinary risks. Nothing compares with the risk of putting your own life in danger. Risking one's life in a dangerous sport has a special thrill that is very attractive to some people.

Dangerous sports attract people who want a feeling of power. It is a great accomplishment to climb a difficult mountain or to learn how to skydive. When people do these things and still end up alive, they feel like they have conquered the forces of nature. What a feeling of power that must give them!

Finally, I think dangerous sports attract some unhappy people. People who don't like their jobs or who have problems with their family may turn to dangerous sports as a way of dealing with their problems. Learning how to do something difficult and dangerous can make them feel worthwhile. It can give them something interesting to focus their attention on.

Dangerous sports can be attractive for several reasons. They can attract people who like thrill, power, or who need a way to forget their problems. In my opinion, however, dangerous sports are never worth the risk.

#### TOPIC 102

**Some movies are serious, designed to make the audience think. Other movies are designed primarily to amuse and entertain. Which type of movie do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Movies have the power to make you laugh, cry, or think about an issue that you might not otherwise think about. Although I sometimes watch movies that are serious, I prefer movies that amuse and entertain. When I see an amusing movie, it makes me relax, laugh, and keeps me in good spirits.

After a long day at school and work, I need a break and something to take my mind off the troubles of the day. I can do that with an entertaining movie. When I watch an amusing movie, I don't have to think. I just sit back and relax. After a movie, I feel ready to get back to work and study.

Amusing movies make me laugh. Laughing is important for the soul. Laughing not only makes me feel good, it connects me with other people. When I laugh with other people, we become friends.

When I watch an entertaining movie, I feel good. When I feel good, I can focus more on important things like my studies and work. Being in good spirits makes me feel better about myself and gives me a positive outlook on life.

While I can appreciate serious movies that make you think, I prefer to be amused and entertained after a long day of work. Such movies allow me to take a break from the rigors of daily life by helping me relax, making me laugh, and putting me in a good mood.

## Telecommunication Technology

**In the last 20 years there have been significant developments in the field of information technology (IT), for example the World Wide Web and communication by e-mail. However, future developments in IT are likely to have more negative effects than positive.**

**To what extent do you agree with this view?**

The last two decades have seen enormous changes in the way people's lives are affected by IT. Twenty years ago, few people had access to a computer whilst today most people use them at work, home or school and use of e-mail and the Internet is an everyday event.

These developments have brought many benefits to our lives. E-mail makes communication (particularly overseas) much easier and more immediate. This has numerous benefits for business, commerce, and education. The World Wide Web means that information on every conceivable subject is now available to us. Clearly, for many people this has made life much easier and more convenient.

However, not all the effects of the new technology have been beneficial. Many people feel that the widespread use of e-mail is destroying traditional forms of communication such as letter writing, telephone and face-to-face conversation. With ever increasing use of information technology these negative elements are likely to increase in the future.

The huge size of the Web means it is almost impossible to control and regulate. This has led to many concerns regarding children accessing unsuitable websites. Unfortunately, this kind of problem might even get worse in the future at least until more regulated systems are set up. Yet perhaps the biggest threat to IT in

years to come will be the computer virus – more sophisticated or more destructive strains are almost inevitable.

In conclusion, developments in IT have brought many benefits, yet I believe developments relating to new technology in the future are likely to produce many negative effects that will need to be addressed very carefully.

**Using a computer every day can have more negative than positive effects on young children.  
Do you agree disagree?**

I tend to agree that young children can be negatively affected by too much time spent on the computer every day. This is partly because sitting in front of a screen for too long can be damaging to both the eyes and the physical posture of a young child, regardless of what they are using the computer for.

However, the main concern is about the type of computer activities that attract children. These are often electronic games that tend to be very intense and rather violent. The player is usually the 'hero' of the game and too much exposure can encourage children to be self-centred and insensitive to others.

Even when children use a computer for other purposes, such as getting information or emailing friends, it is no substitute for human interaction. Spending time with other children and sharing non-virtual experiences is an important part of child's development that cannot be provided by a computer.

In spite of this, the obvious benefits of computer skills for young children cannot be denied. Their adult world will be changing constantly in terms of technology and the Internet is the key to all the knowledge and information available in the world today. Therefore it is important that children learn at an early age to use the equipment enthusiastically and with confidence as they will need these skills throughout their studies and working lives.

I think the main point is to make sure that young children do not overuse computers. Parents must ensure that their children learn to enjoy other kinds of activity and not simply sit at home, learning to live in a virtual world.

**TOPIC 105**

**E-mail has had a huge impact on professional and social communication, but this impact has been negative as well as positive. Do the disadvantages of using e-mail outweigh the advantages?**

It is certainly true that the use of e-mail has greatly changed the way we communicate with each other at work as well as socially. But it is also true that not all the effects of this innovation have been positive, although there are certainly some advantages.

A common criticism of e-mail in the workplace is that it causes extra work and stress. This is because employees receive more messages than they can answer every day and since e-mail writers expect a quick response, this further increases pressure on employees. Other objections to e-mail for both social and professional users include the way it encourages people to spend even longer at their computers and also the danger of incoming messages allowing viruses into your computer system.

In spite of these negative effects, however, e-mail has brought important benefits as well. One such advantage of using e-mail is that it is a fast and easy way to communicate with family, friends and work colleagues wherever they are in the world. It not only allows people to stay in touch with each other, but it also allows them to send all kinds of information (such as pictures, photos, diagrams, texts, etc.) very quickly, cheaply and with a very good quality of reproduction. This is a huge advantage earlier communication systems, and the low cost of e-mail means it is very widely used.

To sum up, while there are some obvious drawbacks to using e-mail, this fast and user-friendly technology has greatly improved our ability to communicate both professionally and socially. Therefore, I think e-mail has brought us many more benefits than disadvantages.

**TOPIC 106**

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

Computers are a relatively new invention. The first computers were built fifty years ago and it is only in the last thirty or so years that their influence has affected our everyday life. Personal computers were introduced as recently as the early eighties. In this short time they have made a tremendous impact on our lives. We are now so dependent on computers that it is hard to imagine what things would be like today without them. You have only got to go into a bank when their main computer is broken to appreciate the chaos that would occur if computers were suddenly removed world-wide.

In the future computers will be used to create bigger and even more sophisticated computers. The prospects for this are quite alarming. They will be so complex that no individual could hope to understand how they work. They will bring a lot of benefits but they will also increase the potential for unimaginable chaos. They will, for example, be able to fly planes and they will be able to co-ordinate the movements of several planes in the vicinity of an airport. Providing all the computers are working correctly nothing can go wrong. If one small program fails-disaster.

There is a certain inevitability that technology will progress and become increasingly complex. We should, however, ensure that we are still in a position where we are able to control technology. It will be all too easy to suddenly discover that technology is controlling us. By then it might be too late. I believe that it is very important to be suspicious of the benefits that computers will bring and to make sure that we never become totally dependent on a completely technological world.

**Parents should restrict the using television and computer of their children.**

**Do you agree or disagree?**

The invention of the television and computer has not only completely altered employment in the modern world, but has also affected entertainment too. However, it is generally believed that these means of communication can have a negative influence on people, particularly children and it has been suggested that parents should place restrictions on their use.

One reason to regulate children using the new technology concerns their health. Being in front of a screen can damage their eyesight and also, if they are sitting for long periods instead of playing in the fresh air, their general health can be endangered. Another point is that children need to learn to communicate with other people and not merely be occupied with solitary pastimes. Finally, this technology sometimes shows subjects that are not appropriate for children and could harm them emotionally or morally.

Yet television and computers also have many benefits for children. Firstly, they are a valuable source of learning about new subjects and the world in general. Also, without some knowledge of technology, no one in the younger generation will stand a chance of finding a decent job. Lastly, in cities, life has become increasingly dangerous and it is no longer safe to allow children to play freely in their neighborhoods so computers and televisions can provide a more secure means of entertainment within their own homes.

In my opinion, children should be permitted to watch TV or use a computer but with certain restrictions. They should not watch whatever they want, whenever they want, but their parents ought to limit the number of hours of viewing and use special devices to block certain websites which may be harmful.

**Some people think that Internet provide human with a lot of valuable information. Other think access to so much information creates problems. Which view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.**

The Internet provides us with a lot of valuable information. This is important because it keeps us informed about the world today, contributes to children's education, and even helps us shop better. It helps improve our lives in many ways.

When we want to know the latest news, we can just go to the Internet and get it right away. We don't have to wait for a news program on TV or the radio. We also don't have to listen to just one source of news. On the Internet we can get news from different newspapers and different countries. We can get information from different points of view. This greatly contributes to our understanding of current events.

When children information for their schoolwork, they can find it on the Internet. Most schoolchildren these days do their research online. They have access to more information than they could probably find in their school libraries, any time a child wants to know something or needs the answer to a question, he can probably find it online.

When we want to buy something, we can usually get the information we need for our purchase online. Of course you can order almost anything you want on the Internet, but this isn't the most important part. On the Internet it is easy to find information about the quality of different products and to compare prices. This really matters if you plan to buy something expensive.

The ability to get information from the Internet has improved our lives in many ways. We can learn more about the news, improve our children's education, and become more informed shoppers. The Internet is one of the most important tools we have in modern society.

**TOPIC 109**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Modern technology is creating a single world culture. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Modern technology is creating a single world culture. This is because it is now much easier to communicate with people who are far away. Satellite TV, modern transportation, and the Internet have all brought people closer together. People the world over share the same sources of information and this leads to the creation of a single world culture.

Because TV is broadcast by satellite, TV programs can be received anywhere in the world. Now people in every part of the world can have access to all the same TV programs. Everybody knows that TV is one of the biggest cultural influences there is. When people everywhere see the same news, educational, and entertainment programs, they move toward the development of a single world culture.

Because modern methods of transportation are fast, a trip to a faraway place becomes easy. People from all different places are together more now than they ever were before. They can see how people in other countries dress, eat, and spend their time. People have more exposure to customs from other countries and might start to adopt some of those customs. This also contributes to the development of a single world culture.

Because of the Internet, people have access to information and news from all over the world. They can communicate easily with people far away and share sources of information. This can do a lot toward international understanding but it can also have another result. When people share sources of information on the Internet, they come more and more under the same cultural influence. They move toward the creation of a single world culture.

Modern communications technology has brought people from all around the world closer together. People these days have more and more opportunities to share ideas and information. In this way they are coming more and more under the same cultural influence. A single world culture is being created.

**TOPIC 110**

**Some people think the Internet provides people with a lot of valuable information. Others think access to so much information creates problems. Which view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.**

The Internet provides us with a lot of valuable information. This is important because it keeps us informed about the world today, contributes to children's education, and even helps us shop better. It helps improve our lives in many ways.

When we want to know the latest news, we can just go to the Internet and get it right away. We don't have to wait for a news program on TV or the radio. We also don't have to listen to just one source of news. On the Internet we can get news from different newspapers and different countries. We can get information from different points of view. This greatly contributes to our understanding of current events.

When children need information for their schoolwork, they can find it on the Internet. Most schoolchildren these days do their research on-line. They have access to more information than they could probably find in their school libraries, and they can get the information more easily. In addition, any time a child wants to know something or needs the answer to a question, he can probably find it on-line.

When we want to buy something, we can usually get the information we need for our purchase on-line. Of course you can order almost anything you want on the Internet, but this isn't the most important part. On the Internet it is easy to find information about the quality of different products and to compare prices. This really matters if you plan to buy something expensive.

The ability to get information from the Internet has improved our lives in many ways. We can learn more about the news, improve our children's education, and become more informed shoppers. The Internet is one of the most important tools we have in modern society.

**OPEN 11**

**The 21<sup>st</sup> century has begun. What changes do you think this new century will bring? Use examples and details in your answers.**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century will bring many changes. Some of these changes have already begun. Some of the biggest changes of the new century will be in the areas of access to information, international relations, and family structure.

We have already entered the Information Age. The Internet has made information available to everyone. As time goes on, more and more people will use the Internet regularly. It will become a common part of everyday life. We will not have to go to libraries to do research, travel to hear an expert speak, or go to a store to buy a book. All the information we want will be available to us at home on our computers.

The face of international relations is changing. Countries will have to change the way they relate to one another because of the global economy. They will have to cooperate more. Already we have the European Economic Union. In the new century, countries will continue to form new alliances because of the global economy.

Family structure will also change. The traditional mother/father/children family will no longer be the only type. There will be more single parent families and more families with adopted children. There will also be more couples who have few children or none at all.

Whatever the changes may be, whether in the way we receive information, the way nations cooperate with one another, or the way families are defined, you can be sure that there will be more change. Change is a constant.

**OPEN 12**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? With the help of technology, students nowadays can learn more information and learn it more quickly. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Technology has greatly improved the way we get information. Students can now get more information, get it more quickly, and get it more conveniently.

An amazing amount of information is available through the Internet. It has made every major library and database available to students around the world. You can get information about events in the past as well as about events that unfold as you watch your computer monitor.

Information comes through the Internet instantly. You can type a few words in your search engine, and in a matter of seconds the engine will search the entire World Wide Web to find information on that topic. You don't have to spend hours going through card catalogues in the library and looking at the shelves.

It is certainly convenient to sit at home and do research on the Internet with your computer. Your computer is open 24 hours a day, unlike a library or office. You can do research in your pajamas while you eat breakfast. What could be more convenient?

Technology, especially the Internet, has changed the quantity and quality of the information we get. The speed and convenience of a computer helps students learn more and learn it more quickly.

**OPEN 13**

**Some people think that the automobile has improved modern life. Others think that the automobile has caused serious problems. What is your opinion? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

There is no question that the automobile has improved modern life. It has opened up job opportunities to people, it has allowed families to stay connected, and it has given people the chance to travel to new places. The automobile is one of the best modern inventions.

With an automobile, a person has more choices of places to work. He can work near his home or farther away. He can even take a job in another city without having to go there to live. Without an automobile, a person can work only near his home or near a bus stop. His choices are much more limited.

With an automobile, it is much easier for a person to visit his family. Families these days often become separated. When children grow up, they find jobs in other cities. If they have cars, it is easy for them to visit their parents and other relatives

whenever they want to. Without an automobile, they have to spend time and money taking a bus or train. It is not easy to visit their relatives as often.

With an automobile, a person can explore new places. He can just get in the car and drive wherever he wants to go, whenever he wants to. He has the opportunity to see new places and new people. He learns more about the world. Without an automobile, a person can go only where the bus, train, or plane takes him. It is not very convenient.

The automobile has greatly improved modern life. It has opened up new worlds and new opportunities to people. It has made many things possible. Where would we be without it?

#### TOPIC 114

Some people say that computers have made life easier and more convenient. Other people say that computers have made life more complex and stressful. What is your opinion? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Almost everything these days is done with the help of a computer. Computers make communication much more convenient. They make many tasks of daily life easier. They help many people do their jobs better. Overall, computers have made life easier and more convenient for everybody.

Through the Internet, computers make communication much more convenient. E-mail makes it possible to communicate with people instantly at any time of day. This is important for both our work and our personal lives. The Internet makes it possible to find out the latest news right away – even if it is news that happens someplace far away. The Internet makes it possible to get almost any kind of information from anyplace quickly, right in your own home or office.

Although we may not realize it, computers make many daily tasks easier. Checkout lines at stores move faster because a computer scans the prices. The bank manages your account more easily because of computers. The weatherman

reports the weather more accurately with the help of computers. A computer is involved in almost everything we do, or that is done for us.

Most people these days do their jobs with the help of a computer. Architects use computer programs to help them design buildings. Teachers use computers to write their lessons and get information for their classes. Pilots use computers to help them fly planes. With the help of computers, people can do complicated jobs more easily.

We are living in the computer age. We can now do more things and do them more easily than we could before. Our personal and professional lives have improved because of computers.

#### TOPIC 115

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Technology has made the world a better place to live. Use specific reasons and examples to support your statement.

Technology has made our lives better in many ways, but it has also made them more complicated. Technology is often expensive to buy and run, it can be difficult to use, and it often isn't easy to repair.

Technology isn't cheap. The more technology we depend on in our daily lives, the more money we have to spend. Everybody wants a modern TV, a digital camera, a DVD player, etc. Even though these things might be considered luxuries, people want them. In addition, some technology is more than a luxury. For example, teachers nowadays expect their students to have computers at home for their schoolwork. Parents have to buy the latest computers so their children can keep up with their classmates. This can be a real hardship for some families.

Technology isn't always easy to use. In fact, it is getting more and more complicated. The computers of today do many more things than the computers of even just five or ten years ago. That means a lot more things that computer users

have to learn how to do. Even a simple thing like using a VCR to record a movie takes some practice and learning.

Technology isn't easy to repair. If the average person has a problem with his computer or DVD player, he probably doesn't know how to fix it himself. He'll have to spend time and money taking it to a place to get fixed. In the past, a lot of people enjoyed doing routine maintenance work on their cars. Modern technology has made today's cars more complicated. It is harder to learn how to repair and maintain them.

People think modern technology has made our lives easier. In a way this is true, but in other ways it has made our lives much less convenient. Modern technology costs us money and time and can add complications to our lives.

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Telephone and e-mail have made communications between people less personal. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.**

Some people think that telephone and e-mail have made communication between people less personal, but I disagree. If anything, they have made communication more personal. This is because these types of communication are easy, informal, and inexpensive.

It is easy to communicate with someone by phone or e-mail. You just pick up the phone or turn on the computer, and that's it. E-mail is especially easy because you can send your message at any time. If the receiver isn't available when you send the message, it doesn't matter. The message will be there when she's ready to answer. Because this sort of communication is so easy, people communicate more frequently. This brings them closer together, so it becomes a more personal form of communication.

Communication by phone or by e-mail is informal. On the phone you converse with someone as informally as you do in person. When you write e-mail messages,

you usually use less formal styles of writing. Traditional letters, on the other hand, have formal conventions that the writer must follow. Even friendly letters have certain rules to follow. Communication that is informal is more personal than formal communication.

Telephones and e-mail are inexpensive to use. Nowadays even long distance phone calls are cheap, and local ones are free. E-mail costs nothing if you already own a computer. Letters are cheap, but seeing someone in person isn't always. Even if the person lives nearby, it still costs something for the bus or gasoline to go meet them somewhere, and it takes time, too. Since e-mail and telephone are cheap, people communicate more frequently and, therefore, more personally.

Some people think you have to meet face to face in order to have personal communication, but this isn't so. Telephones and e-mail make frequent communication convenient. They help maintain personal relationships.

**What discovery in the last 100 years has been most beneficial for people in your country? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.**

A discovery that has been beneficial to people in my country and everywhere is the use of electricity. Electricity has made the development of modern technology possible. Without electricity we wouldn't even have electric light. Almost everything about modern life depends on electricity.

Electricity has made modern communications technology possible. Telephones, television, and radio all depend on electricity. Because we have these things, we can communicate with friends and business associates instantly. We can hear the latest news almost as soon as it happens. We can follow the newest developments in music. Both our personal and professional lives are completely different now from what they were 100 years ago.

If we didn't have electricity, we wouldn't have computers. We use computers in almost every aspect of our lives. We use them to get information in school. We use



them to make our jobs easier. Computers help people fly airplanes and design buildings. We couldn't do many of the things we do today without computers. And we wouldn't use computers without electricity.

Because of electricity, it is easier to light up buildings and streets at night. This seems so simple that sometimes we forget it. Before electricity, people used candles. It was hard to read at night, to go anywhere, or to do any work. Now we can live our lives as fully at night as we do during the day. We can work or play at any hour we choose. It really is an amazing thing.

Electricity has made many things possible in modern life. We wouldn't have any modern technology without it. It is the most important discovery of the modern world.

**Topic 18**

**Some people think that governments should spend as much money as possible on developing or buying computer technology. Other people disagree and think that this money should be spent on more basic needs. Which one of these opinions do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.**

Developing computer technology is important for the development of the country as a whole. However, we have some basic needs and issues in our country that are even more important than technology. Our children need to get a good education. Our transportation system needs to be improved. We need to develop new sources of energy. We need to work on these issues before we put a lot of money into computers.

Our children need to get a good education. We need to make sure that every child in the country has the opportunity to learn to read and write. In addition, they all need to learn skills for the modern world. They need to learn how to use computers. It costs money to buy computers for schools and train teachers to use

them. If children don't learn basic computer skills in school, who will be able to use modern computer technology?

We need to improve our transportation system. In big cities, the roads are very crowded and it is hard to get around. It takes a long time for people just to get to work every day. We need to spend money developing a good public transportation system. We need to get cars off the road and have more buses and trains. Computer technology helps people at work. If it is difficult for people just to get to work, computer technology won't help them much.

We need to develop new sources of energy. Our current methods of generating energy cause a lot of pollution. We need to develop the use of solar energy and other nonpolluting energy technology. Energy research and development costs a lot of money, but it is necessary. If we don't have clean, cheap sources of energy, what will we use to run our computers?

Computer technology is important. However, we can't take advantage of it if we don't solve some problems first. We need well-educated children, good public transportation, and clean sources of energy before we can spend money on computers.

## TOPIC 119

Currently there is a trend towards the use of alternative forms of medicine. However, at best these methods are ineffective, and at worst they may be dangerous.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Alternative medicine is not new. It is accepted that it pre-dates conventional medicine and it is still used by many people all over the world. I am unconvinced that it is dangerous, and feel that both alternative and conventional medicine can be useful.

The conventional medical community is often dismissive of alternatives, as there is little scientific evidence to support the claims of their supporters. However, it is widely accepted that they can be effective. Furthermore, people often try such treatment because of recommendations from friends, and therefore come to the therapist with a very positive attitude, which may be part of the reason for the cure. Moreover, these therapies are usually only useful for long-term, chronic conditions. Acute medical problems, such as accidental injury, often require more conventional methods.

On the other hand, despite the lack of scientific proof, there is a lot of anecdotal evidence to suggest that these therapies work. In addition, far from being dangerous, they often have few or no side effects, so the worst outcome would be no change. One of the strongest arguments for the effectiveness of alternative therapies in the West is that, whilst conventional medicine is available without charge, many people are prepared to pay considerable sums for alternatives. If they were totally unhelpful, it would be surprising if this continued. Finally, looking at a problem from a different perspective must be beneficial.

I strongly believe that conventional medicine and alternative therapies can and should coexist. They have different strengths, and can both be used effectively to target particular medical problems. The best situation would be for alternative therapies to be used to support and complement conventional medicine.

## TOPIC 120

"Prevention is better than cure"

Out of a country's health budget, a large proportion should be *diverted* from treatment to spending on health education and preventative measures.

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

Of course it goes without saying that prevention is better than cure. That is why in recent years there has been growing body of opinion in favor of putting more resources into health education and preventative measures. The argument is that ignorance, of examples, basic hygiene or the dangers of an unhealthy diet or lifestyle needs to be combated by special nationwide publicity campaigns as well as longer term education.

Obviously, there is a strong human argument for catching any medical condition as early as possible. There is also an economic argument for doing so. Statistics demonstrate the cost effectiveness of treating a condition in the early stages, rather than delaying until more expensive and prolonged treatment is necessary. Then there are social or economic costs, perhaps in term of loss of earnings for the family concerned or unemployed benefit paid by the state.

So far so good, but the difficulties start when we try to define what the proportion of the budget should be particularly if the funds will be diverted from treatment. Decisions on exactly how much of the total budget should be spent in this way are not a matter for the non-specialist, but should be made on the basis of an acceptable health service model.

This is the point at which real problems occur.

How do we accurately measure which health education campaign are effective in both medical and financial terms? A very rigorous process of evaluation is called for, so that we can make informed decisions.

**Comment:** *This is very good model essay.*

**Possible:** Band 9 score (IELTS)

**TOPIC 121**

**Most developed countries spend a large proportion of their health budgets on expensive medical technology and procedures. This money should be spent instead on health education to keep people well. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**

Almost daily there are reports of new advances in medicine. In the developed world certainly, the prognosis for many medical problems is more optimistic today than ten years ago and continues to improve. But these developments in health care are very expensive, and, it is questionable whether countries can afford to continue to increase spending on health. Many believe that it would be better to spend more preventing people from becoming unwell in the first place, and reduce the amount spent on curing ill health.

As many modern diseases are a consequence of our lifestyles, one way of making savings to the health budget would be to educate people about how to prevent expensive health problems such as diabetes or heart disease. Most medical doctors today do not have the time to (nor are they paid to) teach patients how to make these changes to their lifestyle through diet or exercise.

It is understandable that when people are sick they want the best medical treatment possible, with access to the latest diagnostic equipment, expensive MRI scanners, for example. If the problem is life threatening then we demand complex operations such as open-heart surgery or organ transplants. Such procedures usually require intensive nursing care and lengthy periods of hospitalisation, which are costly.

Thus it can be seen that this is not a straight forward issue and depends to some extent on one's situation. While the 'health dollar' is limited, however, it would seem rational to direct more resources towards the prevention of ill health. In this way fewer people would become ill from these preventable lifestyle diseases. In the long term this should save the country money and increase the well-being of the population.

**Comment:** *This is very good model essay.*

**Possible:** Band 9 score (IELTS).

**TOPIC 122**

**Write an essay expressing your point of view on the following topic:**  
**People's access to good health care should not depend on social factors such as their level of income or social status.**

All people should have access to adequate health care. It is difficult to argue against this proposition. In theory most people would agree with it. But in practice it is more difficult to find countries where it is actually true.

Health care systems, such as in the United States, where a large proportion of the population cannot afford health insurance, are most undesirable in social terms. People are not cared for properly if they suffer a serious accident or become seriously ill. Yet in the same country the very best in medical services are available to those with the capacity to pay. Are we at the point where we accept that the life of a rich person is worth more than that of a poor person?

Governments have a responsibility to provide basic health services to all the population. However, governments always have limited resources, and they have a responsibility to use these in an efficient and effective manner. For example, it is difficult to justify governments spending money on expensive medical procedures such as cancer research, if this diverts resources away from the primary objective of equal access to health care for all. The argument then turns on what kind of health care system should be supported by governments.

Preventive health care is one area where government needs to take the lead. Money spent on preventing disease at a later time. Public health programs to eradicate diseases such as typhoid and smallpox are a good example where the benefits flow on to all people, regardless of income or social status. More recently, government sponsored fluoridation programs have played a major part in reducing the incidence of tooth decay, with significant improvements in general health and enormous savings in dental bills for ordinary people.

**Comment:** *This is very good model essay.*

**Possible:** Band score (IELTS).

**Topic 123**

**People do many different things to stay healthy. What do you do for good health? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Our health is the only thing we really have in the world. You can take away our money, our house, or our clothes, and we can survive. Take away our health and we will die. That is why I eat healthfully, exercise regularly, and keep up my social life.

Eating healthfully is important to maintain health. I try to avoid foods high in fat such as french fries or cookies. I also rarely eat meat. I eat a lot of fruits and vegetables because they are full of vitamins. I try to cook foods properly so that they don't lose their nutrients.

Exercise is another part of staying healthy. I either walk or ride my bike everyday. A few days a week I work out at the gym, and on weekends I usually play tennis with my friends. I enjoy exercise so it is fun and easy for me to do it. It helps keep me strong and it is good for my heart, too.

Friends are an important part of one's health. Friends help keep you happy and help you deal with stress. Studies have shown that emotional health is related to physical health. Spending time with my friends helps keep me emotionally healthy.

By eating healthfully, exercising regularly, and spending time with my friends I can keep both my mind and body healthy. Fortunately, I like to do all these things so I am a very healthy person.

**Topic 124**

**Should parents be obliged to immunize their children against common childhood diseases? Or do individuals have the right to choose not to immunize their children?**

Some people argue that the state does not have the right to make parents immunize their children. However, I feel the question is not whether they should immunize but whether, as members of society, they have the right not to.

Preventative medicine has proved to be the most effective way of reducing the incidence of fatal childhood diseases. As a result of the widespread practice of immunizing young children in our society, many lives have been saved and the diseases have been reduced to almost zero.

In previous centuries children died from ordinary illnesses such as influenza and tuberculosis and because few people had immunity, the diseases spread easily. Diseases such as dysentery were the result of poor hygiene but these have long been eradicated since the arrival of good sanitation and clean water. Nobody would suggest that we should reverse this good practice now because dysentery has been wiped out.

Serious diseases such as polio and smallpox have also been eradicated through national immunization programs. In consequence, children not immunized are far less at risk in this disease-free society than they would otherwise be. Parents choosing not to immunize are relying on the fact that the diseases have already been eradicated. If the number of parents choosing not to immunize increased, there would be a similar increase in the risk of the diseases returning.

Immunization is not an issue like seatbelts which affects only the individual. A decision not to immunize will have widespread repercussions for the whole of society and for this reason, I do not believe that individuals have the right to stand aside. In my opinion immunization should be obligatory.

**Comment: *This is very good model essay.***

**Possible: Band 9 score (IELTS).**

## Culture and tradition

### TOPIC 125

**When a country develops its technology, the traditional skills and ways of life die out. It is pointless to try and keep them alive.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**

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

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

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

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

### TOPIC 126

**Schools and parents often require their pupils to wear school uniforms. The pupils, however, usually dislike this. There are acceptable arguments both for and against the wearing of school uniforms.**

**Explain some of the arguments both for and against the wearing of school uniforms and state what is your opinion on the subject.**

Schools have been with us for many hundreds of years but the school uniform debate is a more recent phenomenon. It probably dates from the development of universal education towards the end of the last century. State school without uniforms was contrasted noticeably with the uniformed public schools. Uniforms must have been adopted initially where ambitious state schools ought to demonstrate, through colored caps, and blazers, that they were as good as the elite public schools.

By the middle of this century, school uniforms became universal in British school and there were many good reasons why they were retained. They gave a sense of intensity to the school. The school is a small society in its own right and one of the tasks of school was to fit their pupils for society in its own right and one of the tasks of school was to fit their pupils for society. A uniform is a clear outward manifestation of belonging. There were other benefits too. Where pupils were drawn from a wide cross-section of society a uniform could disguise these differences and paper over divisions within a school. It was a form of social equalization as well as control. At a time when truancy was more closely monitored, a uniform made pupils out of school at the wrong time much easier to identify:

What ever the advantages of uniforms, they also had their drawbacks. They were often expensive and something that was intended to be socially integrative could be divisive. They were often unattractive and old-fashioned and could be impractical. During the 1960's it was also felt that uniforms did not fit with the then fashionable ideas on education. This was a time of individuality and self-expression and it began to be thought that education should enable pupils to express and fulfil their own individuality. Wearing a uniform created the opposite effect.

To my mind school uniforms should be retained in all circumstances.

They can be modernized and changed according to circumstances but a uniform fulfils one critical aspect of education. It signals to pupils that it is their job to fit into society and not the other way around. If pupils learn nothing else at school then their time will not have been totally wasted.

### Topic 12

**The twentieth century saw great change. In your opinion, what is one change that should be remembered about the twentieth century? Use specific reasons and details to explain your choice.**

There were many important changes, both technological and cultural, during the twentieth century. In my opinion, the most important of these is the advances that were made in medical science. The development of vaccines and antibiotics, increased access to health care, and improvements in surgical techniques are all things that improved, and saved, the lives of people all around the world.

Vaccines and antibiotics have saved the lives of many people. Fifty years ago, many people became crippled or died from polio. Now the polio vaccine is available everywhere. In the past, people could die from even simple infections. Now penicillin and other antibiotics make it easy to cure infections.

Increased access to health care has also improved the lives of millions of people. In the past, many people lived far from hospitals or clinics. Now hospitals, clinics, and health centers have been built in many parts of the world. More people have the opportunity to visit a doctor or nurse before they become very sick. They can be treated more easily. They are sick less and this leads to a better quality of life.

Improved surgical techniques make it easier to treat many medical problems. Microscopic and laser surgery techniques are more efficient than older methods. It is easier for the doctor to perform them, and easier for the patient to recover. Surgery patients can return to their normal life more quickly now than they could in the past.

Everybody needs good health in order to have a good quality of life. Advances in medical science have improved the lives of people all around the world. They are improvements that are important to everyone.

### Topic 13

**Holidays honor people or events. If you could create a new holiday, what person or event would it honor and how would you want people to celebrate it? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.**

October 24 is United Nations Day. This day is noted on calendars, but it is not generally observed as a holiday around the world. I want the entire world to celebrate the birth of the United Nations because of its attempts to promote peace and provide basic needs to people everywhere. United Nations Day should be a day to learn about the UN and about our neighbors around the world.

The most important mission of the UN is to promote peace. The sooner we can stop war, the sooner we can all have better lives. We need to appreciate and support the UN's efforts to create a more peaceful world.

The UN has done a lot of work to provide basic needs to people around the world, it has health programs and education programs. It provides assistance to refugees. The UN has done a lot to improve the lives of people everywhere. This work should be honored.

On United Nations Day, people should spend time learning about the work of the UN. School, universities, and community organizations can have workshops and fairs that provide information about the UN. The celebration should also have music from different countries. Learning about other countries is a first step toward world peace.

The United Nations has done a lot of work to promote world peace and provide basic human need. This work is important to all of us. It needs to be recognized, supported, and celebrated.

### Topic 14

**Describe New Year celebrations in your country.**

Every country has its own customs and traditions. They are manifested clearly in anniversaries, ceremonies and especially on New Year's Days.

In VietNam every year towards the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month, everybody begins to chip the apricot trees off their leave the water melons are seen to be sold

everywhere then one is ready to welcome New Year with all his merriment and joy. They all have their houses whitewashed and decorated, but new clothes for their children and get everything ready for Tet.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month those who worship Buddha offer ceremony to the Kitchen God to send him off to Heaven.

The nearer New Year comes the more excited and enthusiastic people are. This is the unique occasion for everybody in the family to gather together to welcome New Year after a hard and long Year's work.

At 12 o'clock sharp on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month the New Year actually replaces the Old One. All houses are well-lighted. At that very moment, everybody, well-dressed, rushes out into the streets to visit temples, pagodas or to go to churches. They all pray for a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

#### TOPIC 130

**Describe a custom from your country that you would like people in other countries to adopt. Explain your choice using specific reasons and examples.**

In my country, many people in the towns still follow an old custom that people in the cities no longer practice. This is the custom of taking a big break at noon. In the towns, all stores and businesses close from noon until 2:00 P.M. This not only gives people a needed rest in the middle of the day, it also allows them time with their families and contributes to a slower pace of life.

In the towns, all workers get a good rest in the middle of the day. They go home, enjoy a nice meal, take a nap, and then they return to work for the rest of the afternoon. They have energy and enthusiasm for the rest of the day's work. Their afternoons can be as productive as their mornings. Without this rest, they might be tired all afternoon and not get much work done.

In the towns, most families eat their noon meal together. They have time to enjoy their food, talk about their morning activities with each other, and just be together. It is good for families to have this time together. Parents hear about their children's activities. Husbands and wives learn about each other's daily concerns.

Without this opportunity, families might not be together until evening. They are usually tired then and just want to rest.

In the towns, there is a slower pace of life. Nobody can go any business at lunchtime. They have to wait until the afternoon. Because of this, people don't expect things to be done in a hurry. They have more patience. If something doesn't get done today, it doesn't matter. This is a much healthier way to live.

A big rest at noon contributes to a better quality of life. In the towns, people don't worry about getting a lot of work done fast. They are more interested in spending time with their families and enjoying their lives. I think that in the long run this actually improves work. In any case, it is a better way to live. I think everyone everywhere should follow the custom of taking a big break at noon.

#### TOPIC 131

**When people move to another country, some of them decide to follow the customs of the new country. Others prefer to keep their own customs. Compare these two choices. Which one do you prefer? Support your answer with specific details.**

When you move to another country, you have to change some of your customs of daily living. For example, you will have to make some changes in your language, your food, and your work habits. It is also important, however, to maintain some of your old customs because they are part of your identity.

The most important thing to do in a new country is learn the language. Daily life will be very difficult without it. You will need the language to find things in stores, to understand TV programs, to go to school, and for many other things. You don't have to stop speaking your own language, though. You can continue to speak it with family and friends. You need your language to maintain your connection with your own country and origins.

It is a good idea to learn to eat the food in a new country. It will make your life easier. You can't always find stores and restaurants that sell your country's food. Eating the new country's food also helps you get to know something about the country and the people. If you shop and eat only in places that sell your country's

food, you will get to know only people from your country. You should also eat your country's food sometimes. You will probably prefer it on holidays, for example. It is also a good thing to share with new friends from your new country.

When you get a job, it is important to learn your new country's work habits. If the custom in the country is to arrive at work on time, you must do it. If the custom is to be friendly with clients, invite them to restaurants, and so on, then you must do that. You will not be successful in your job if you don't adapt to the work habits. You might also have some useful customs from your own culture. Maybe you have more efficient methods of organizing work. Share your ideas with your coworkers. They might appreciate it.

If you want to be successful in a new country, you have to adapt to its customs. You also need to maintain some of your own customs because they are part of who you are. The important thing is to find a good balance between the two.

**Would you prefer to live in a traditional house or in a more modern apartment building? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.**

A modern apartment building is the best kind of place to live. Everything in it is new, everything works, and it is much easier to maintain than a traditional house.

In a modern apartment building everything is new and in good condition. There aren't holes in the walls or in the roof. The floors are clean and the paint is fresh. The kitchen appliances are modern and convenient. The lighting fixtures are modern so they give good light, and the electrical outlets are all in the right place. It is a comfortable way to live.

Since everything in a modern apartment is new, you can be sure it all works. You can rely on the heating system to keep you warm in the winter. You know the air conditioning will work all summer, even on the hottest days. You don't have to frantically call a repair company because your dishwasher breaks down on the day you plan a big party. You can count on all the modern systems and appliances to work whenever you need them.

A modern apartment is much easier to maintain than a traditional house. A house has grass that needs to be cut and a basement that needs to be cleaned and a furnace that needs to be maintained. In an apartment, you have none of these worries. You just have to do your housecleaning. Even that is easier, because an apartment is usually smaller than a house.

It is much easier and more comfortable to live in a modern apartment. I don't know why anybody would want to live in traditional house.

**Some people enjoy change and they look forward to new experiences. Others like their lives to stay the same, and they do not change their usual habits. Compare these two approaches to life. Which approach do you prefer? Why?**

It is true that some people prefer things to stay the same while others prefer change. My preference is to establish a routine and follow it, although this has not always been true of me. My circumstances have changed since I was young.

When I was younger, I enjoyed change. During school vacations I was free from responsibility. I would travel, go away with friends at a moment's notice, and make decisions from day to day. In this way, I could have lots of new experiences, meet new and interesting people, and learn a lot about life.

These days, I enjoy following a routine. It makes my life easier because I am the mother of two small children. Their lives are happier if don't upset their schedules too much. For example, we give the children a bath every night at 8:00, put them in their pajamas, read them stories, and put them to bed by 9:00. It is not always convenient to do this, but everyone in the family is happier when we follow our routine. In addition, our friends know when we are free, which makes visiting easier.

In conclusion, my preferences have changed with the circumstances of my life. Now, my family's needs force me to have a routine. The stability of a household routine is better for me now, even though I preferred the excitement and adventure of change when I was young. I think the people you spend your time with often dictate your lifestyle.



**TOPIC 134**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People behave differently when they wear different clothes. Do you agree that different clothes influence the way people behave? Use specific examples to support your answer.**

People behave differently depending on what they are wearing. The reason is not because they have changed, but because people's reactions to them have changed. Strangers react to your appearance because it is all they know about you. A friend may be influenced by your dress also, if it is inappropriate for a situation. In addition, appearance is almost always important work.

Strangers can judge you only by the clothes you wear. Once I was wearing an old army coat. I went into a fancy shop to buy some chocolates. The woman saw my coat and was very suspicious of me. Because of the woman's negative reaction to me, I acted more politely than usual. The woman reacted to my clothes and that made me behave differently.

With friends clothes are less important because friends know more about you. However, friends can also react to you because of your clothes. Imagine you arrive at a friend's party. Everyone is wearing formal clothes and you are wearing casual clothes. You might have a good reason for this mistake, but your friend will still be disappointed. You will probably feel uncomfortable all evening because you disappointed your friend and because you are dressed differently from everyone else.

Certain clothes are appropriate for certain jobs. For example, business clothes are appropriate for some jobs; uniforms are appropriate for others. If you are not dressed appropriately for your job, clients and coworkers take you less seriously. You might begin to take yourself less seriously also, and your work could suffer. On the other hand, if you are wearing the right clothes, people will have confidence that you are the right person for the job, and you will feel this way, too.

Clothes don't change you into a different person, but they can make you behave differently. If you are dressed inappropriately for a situation, people will react to you in a different way. This reaction can, in turn, change your behavior. If you want good reactions from people, make sure to dress appropriately for every situation.

**TOPIC 135**

**Holidays honor people or events. If you could create a new holiday, what person or event would it honor and how would you want people to celebrate it? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.**

October 24 is United Nations Day. This day is noted on calendars, but it is not generally observed as a holiday around the world. I want the entire world to celebrate the birth of the United Nations because of its attempts to promote peace and provide basic needs to people everywhere. United Nations Day should be a day to learn about the UN and about our neighbors around the world.

The most important mission of the UN is to promote peace. The sooner we can stop war, the sooner we can all have better lives. We need to appreciate and support the UN's efforts to create a more peaceful world.

The UN has done a lot of work to provide basic needs to people around the world. It has health programs and education programs. It provides assistance to refugees. The UN has done a lot to improve the lives of people everywhere. This work should be honored.

On United Nations Day, people should spend time learning about the work of the UN. Schools, universities, and community organizations can have workshops and fairs that provide information about the UN. The celebration should also include celebrating different cultures around the world. There could be food, games, and music from different countries. Learning about other countries is a first step toward world peace.

The United Nations has done a lot of work to promote world peace and provide basic human needs. This work is important to all of us. It needs to be recognized, supported, and celebrated.

**TOPIC 136**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Dancing plays an important role in a culture. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

I agree that dancing plays an important role in a culture. It keeps us connected with our traditions, it brings people together, and it helps people release energy.

Folk dances keep us connected with our traditions. Folk dances were developed hundreds of years ago. People used to dance together to celebrate important events, such as harvests or weddings. When we dance folk dances now, we are connected to our ancestors. We do the same dances they did and remember the things that were important to them.

Dancing brings people together. When we dance at an event such as a birthday or graduation party, we celebrate a happy occasion together. We might go out dancing with our friends on weekends. Then we celebrate being together and enjoying life. Dancing is a way of enjoying good times together.

When we dance we release energy. We work hard all week at school or at our jobs. At the end of the week, we feel stress. We need a change of activity and a way to relax. Dancing is a good way to do this. When we dance, we can release all our extra energy, and any frustrations or anger we might feel. We relax and have fun. Then we can feel ready start a new week of work and school.

Dancing keeps us connected to our traditions and to each other. It helps, us release energy so we can perform our responsibilities at work and school. These are important roles that dancing plays in our culture.

OPEN 17

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A zoo has no useful purpose. Use specific reasons and examples to explain your answer.**

Many people believe that zoos are unnecessary, harmful and even cruel. If properly managed, however; I feel that zoos have a lot of value. They are educational, contribute to scientific research, and generate interest in environmental concerns.

Zoos can be wonderfully educational places. They provide opportunities to see animals up close. Zoo visitors can learn how animals eat, how they bathe, how they play and fight. They can learn about the different kinds of environments animals live in. They can discover new kinds of animals that they hadn't heard of before. A zoo is the best place to learn about animal life.

Zoos provide scientists with many opportunities for research. Research is safer and easier to conduct at a zoo than in the wild. Researchers have better access to animals and can set up controlled experiments. They are also in a safer situation.

Zoos can get people interested in environmental concerns. When people have the opportunity to see animals up close at a zoo, they become more interested in them. When they learn about how animals live, they can understand how animals become endangered. They are more likely to be concerned about protecting animals and their environments.

Zoos should provide animals with safe, clean, and comfortable homes. It is expensive to run a zoo properly, but it is worth it for the educational and research opportunities they provide.

**TOPIC 138**

Many people keep dogs and cats as companions. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of pet ownership for the animals involved and for the community as a whole.

Dogs and cats can be wonderful companions but there are also a number of problems associated with pet ownership, both for the animals and for the community.

In the best situations pets are fed, cared for and loved as part of a family. It is easy to see how much attention is given to pets, by the range of products available in the pet section of supermarkets. In return, cats and dogs contribute to the well being of the community in many ways. Dogs are useful for protection and serve as guides for the disabled. People with pets are not only happier and healthier, but may even live longer. Thus the animals benefit individuals and the community as well.

There are, however, also negative aspects for the pets and for the community. The freedoms of both dogs and cats are increasingly restricted. In Australia there is community pressure to force owners to keep cats inside at night to protect native birds and animals. Dogs can no longer run free in parks and at the beach but must be kept on leashes. These restrictions have been imposed by the community to protect the public. In addition pet owners are required to clean up after their dogs. Parks and beaches often provide plastic bags for this purpose. The community also has to pick up the costs of dogs and cats that have been abandoned by irresponsible owners.

So the relationship between pets and the community is a complex one. More and more the community is intervening to force pet owners to restrict the activities and freedom of their pets. Still, responsible owners, prepared to give adequate time and attention to their cats and dogs, can give them a good and happy life.

**TOPIC 139**

Too much attention is paid to and too much money is spent on keeping pets, while people throughout the world are starving. Discuss the arguments for and against keeping pets. To what extent do you agree?

Other people feel that keeping animals at home as pets is beneficial. They can help children and adults relate to animals and nature more. If children bond with animals early in life, they are more likely to treat them better when they become adults. My father, for example, was an only child, but in his early years he grew up with dogs, cats and birds as his companions. When he became an adult, he became a trainer for guide dogs for the blind. So having animals around can be beneficial to both humans and animals.

Moreover, pets can act as companions for people who would otherwise be living alone, and not just the elderly. There are at least two additional benefits here. Dogs need lots of exercise, which is beneficial for the health of the owner. Also, while out walking there is the opportunity to meet people, thus decreasing isolation and loneliness.

I do agree with the arguments put forward by the first group of people to a certain extent. However, I personally agree more with the second group of people. The world might be a better place if more away from direct contact with nature and see animals as a source of food or enjoyment, pets can provide a link between humans and nature.

**TOPIC 140**

What is the most important animal in your country? Why is this animal important? Use reasons and specific details to explain your answer.

The most important animal in my country is the dog. Almost everybody in my country has, or has had, a dog in his or her life. Dogs provide us with companionship, assistance, and protection. Most people like having dogs around.

The biggest reason people have dogs is for companionship. Dogs are companions for people who live alone. They are also good company for people who like to walk or go hunting. They are playmates of children. Dogs make good companions because they like being with people.

Dogs also provide some very important assistance. Seeing eye dogs help blind people live independent lives. Sheep dogs and other types of herding dogs help farmers guard their animals. Police dogs are trained to find illegal drugs. Dogs intelligence and desire to please people make them ideal for all kinds of work.

Dogs protect people from danger. Dogs have been able to find lost children. Dogs have alerted people to fires and other dangers. And we cannot forget guard dogs, which protect people and their property from burglars.

Dogs provide companionship to many people. They also assist and protect people. Most people in my country love dogs and appreciate the ways in which they can help us. This is why I think the dog is the most important animal in my country.

**Many people have a close relationship with their pets. These people treat their birds, cats or other animals as members of their family. In your opinion, are such relationships good? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

Pets are important because they provide us with companionship and even with love. It is not good, however, to have too close a relationship with a pet, or to treat is like a human being. Devoting too much attention to pets can prevent you from focusing on other activities and on relationships with people. It can also be a waste of money.

Sometimes people who love their pets don't want to become involved in other activities. If you invite such a friend out for coffee, for example, the friend might say, "I don't have time. I have to walk the dog." Sometimes people don't want to take a weekend trip because they don't want to leave their pets alone. They put

their pet's interests before their own. Then they live life for their pets and not for themselves.

Loving a pet too much can interfere with good relationships with people. Sometimes people neglect their spouses and children in favor of their pets. A person who lives alone might devote all his attention to his pet. He might lose interest in making friends and being with people. A relationship with a pet is less complicated than a relationship with a person. Sometimes it seems easier to choose pets over people.

People spent thousands of dollars on their pets, but this money could have other uses. It seems strange to buy special food for a pet or take it to the doctor, when some people don't have these things. Children all around the world grow up without enough food, or never get medical care. It would be better to give a pet simple things and send the extra money to charity.

Pets give us a lot and they deserve our care and attention. It is never a good idea to go to extremes, however. It is important to balance your pet's needs with your own.

## TOPIC 142

Research indicates that the characteristics we are born with have much more influence on our personality and development than any experiences we may have in our life.

Which do you consider to be the major influence?

Today the way we consider human psychology and mental development is heavily influenced by the genetic sciences. We now understand the importance of inherited characteristics more than ever before. Yet we are still unable to decide whether an individual's personality and development are more influenced by genetic factors (nature) or by the environment (nurture).

Research, relating to identical twins, has highlighted how significant inherited characteristics can be for an individual's life. But whether these characteristics are able to develop within the personality of an individual surely depends on whether the circumstances allow such a development. It seems that the experiences we have in life are so unpredictable and so powerful, that they can boost or over-ride other influences, and there seems to be plenty of research findings to confirm this.

My own view is that there is no one major influence in a person's life. Instead, the traits we inherit from our parents and the situations and experiences that we encounter in life are constantly interacting. It is the interaction of the two that shapes a person's personality and dictates how that personality develops. If this were not true, then we would be able to predict the behaviour and character of a person from the moment they were born.

In conclusion, I do not think that either nature or nurture is the major influence on a person, but that both have powerful effects. How these factors interact is still unknown today and they remain largely unpredictable in a person's life.

## TOPIC 143

Nowadays we are producing more and more rubbish.

Why do you think this is happening?

What can governments do to help reduce the amount of rubbish produced?

I think it is true that in almost every country today each household and family produces a large amount of waste every week. Most of this rubbish comes from the packaging from the things we buy, such as processed food. But even if we buy fresh food without packaging, we still produce rubbish from the plastic bags used everywhere to carry shopping home.

The reason why we have so much packaging is that we consume so much more on a daily basis than families did in the past. Convenience is also very important in modern life, so we buy packaged or canned food that can be transported from long distances and stored until we need it, first in the supermarket, and then at home.

However, I think the amount of waste produced is also a result of our tendency to use something once and throw it away. We forget that even the cheapest plastic bag has used up valuable resources and energy to produce. We also forget that it is a source of pollution and difficult to dispose of.

I think, therefore, that governments need to raise this awareness in the general public. Children can be educated about environmental issues at school, but adults need to take action. Governments can encourage such action by putting taxes on packaging, such as plastic bags, by providing recycling services and by fining households and shops that do not attempt to recycle their waste.

With the political will, such measures could really reduce the amount of rubbish we produce. Certainly nobody wants to see our resources used up and our planet poisoned by waste.

**TOPIC 144**

Some governments say how many children a family can have in their country. They may control the number of children someone has through taxes.

It is sometimes necessary and right for a government to control the population in this way.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer.

It is certainly very understandable that some governments should start looking at ways of limiting their populations to a sustainable figure. In the past, populations were partly regulated by frequent war and widespread disease, but in recent years the effects of those factors have been diminished. Countries can be faced with a population that is growing much faster than the nation's food resources or employment opportunities and whose members can be condemned to poverty by the need to feed extra mouths. They identify population control as a means to raising living standards.

But how should it be achieved? Clearly, this whole area is a very delicate personal and cultural issue. Many people feel that this is not a matter for the state. They feel this is one area of life where they have the right to make decisions for themselves. For that reason, it would seem that the best approach would be to work by persuasion rather than compulsion. This could be done by a process of education that points out the way a smaller family can mean an improved quality of life for the family members, as well as less strain on the country's, perhaps very limited, resources.

This is the preferred way. Of course, if this does not succeed within a reasonable time scale, it may be necessary to consider other measures, such as tax incentives or child-benefit payments for small families only. These are midway between persuasion and compulsion.

So, yes, it is sometimes necessary, but governments should try very hard to persuade first. They should also remember that this is a very delicate area indeed, and that social engineering can create as many problems as it solves.

**TOPIC 145**

The position of women in society has changed markedly in the last twenty years. Many of the problems young people now experience, such as juvenile delinquency, arise from the fact that many married women now work and are not at home to care for their children.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

It is certainly true that the position of women in society has undergone a dramatic change in the past twenty years but I do not feel that this is a direct cause of the indisputable increase in juvenile-related problems during this period.

It is now accepted that young women should find work on leaving school; indeed to rely totally on their parents' financial support is no longer an option in many families. Likewise, once they get married, the majority of women continue working since the financial pressures of setting up a house and establishing a reasonable standard of living often require two incomes.

Twenty years ago it was common for women to give up work once they had children and devote their time to caring for their children. This is no longer the general rule and the provision of professionally-run child care facilities and day nurseries have removed much of the responsibility for child rearing that used to fall to mothers. However, these facilities come at a cost and often require two salaries coming into a family to be afforded.

I do not believe that the increase in the number of working mothers has resulted in children being brought up less well than previously. Indeed it could be argued that by giving mothers the opportunity to work and earn extra money children can be better provided for than previously. There is more money for luxuries and holidays and a more secure family life is possible. Of course there are limits as to the amount of time that ideally should be spent away from home and the ideal scenario would be for one of the parents (often the wife) to have a part-time job and thus be available for their children before and after school. It is important to establish the correct balance between family life and working life.

**TOPIC 146**

**Without capital punishment (the death penalty) our lives are less secure and crimes of violence increase. Capital punishment is essential to control violence in society.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**

Before talking about the essential role of death penalty, you have to think about the meaning, and the purpose, of any kind of punishment. If you consider that the purpose is to prevent the guilty from being nasty again, you can be seduced by an argumentation in favour of the suppression of capital punishment. But you have to think about another aspect of the problem: a punishment is also useful to impress people, to make them fear the law. In fact, let's take the example of a young misfit, which has grown in a violent atmosphere, influenced by older delinquents, etc ... He lives in the streets, he's got no aim but to survive. This is the kind of person who could possibly kill someone for money, or even for fun ... Why would he fear prison? Life would be easier for him there. In addition, in many cases, when you behave normally, you can benefit from penalty reductions. This young misfit needs to be impressed, he needs to know that the law is a frontier. When you cross it, you can lose your life. That is why capital punishment helps keeping a distance between robbery and murder. If you abolish it, you suppress the difference between these two types of crime, which are completely different.

But there is also a limit to define: even if death penalty is unavoidable, it would be a crime to apply it to inadequate cases. If there is no premeditation or past facts which can justify such a punishment, it is far too strict to apply death penalty. That is why the lawmakers have to establish precisely the context in which capital punishment can be pronounced. That is the price to pay to limit violence without using excessive violence ...

**TOPIC 147**

**Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems. Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals tackle these problems.**

Many countries of the world are currently experiencing problems caused by rapidly growing populations in urban areas, and both governments and individuals have a duty to find ways to overcome these problems.

Overpopulation can lead to overcrowding and poor quality housing in many large cities. Poorly heated or damp housing could cause significant health problems, resulting in illness, such as bronchitis or pneumonia. Another serious consequence of overcrowding is a rising crime rate as poor living conditions may lead young people in particular to take desperate measures and turn to crime or drugs.

In terms of solutions, I believe the government should be largely responsible. Firstly, it is vital that the state provides essential housing and healthcare for all its citizens. Secondly, setting up community projects to help foster more community spirit and help keep young people off the street is a good idea. For example, youth clubs or evening classes for teenagers would keep them occupied. Finally, more effective policing of inner city areas would also be beneficial.

Naturally, individuals should also act responsibly to address these problems. If the measures described above are put into place by the government, then it will encourage people to have more pride in their own community and improve the situation.

Therefore, it is clear that the problems caused by overpopulation in urban areas are very serious. Yet if governments and individuals share a collective responsibility, then it may well become possible to offer some solutions.

**TOPIC 148**

**In recent years, many countries have become extremely concerned about the increase in crimes committed by young people. Tough measures and strict punishments are necessary to stop youths from re-offending.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**

One of the most serious problems existing in society today is the rising crime rate among young people. The number of offences committed by teenagers, which is usually higher in urban areas, includes crimes such as joy-riding, vandalism, theft and mugging. However, I am not convinced that, simply giving heavy punishments is the best approach. Tackling crime among young people, who may be as young as

eight, should involve a combination of new strategies, improved social facilities and better education.

In recent months, new measures to address this issue have included getting young offenders to meet their victims. As a result, youths see the harm or damage they have caused which may put them off re-offending. Another method, the electronic tagging of young offenders, which has been piloted in England and Wales, also has benefits. It means that movements and behaviour are monitored. Consequently, it is more difficult for them to commit crimes.

A different approach, which many feel is a better solution, would be to provide better social facilities such as youth clubs or local sports facilities. If young people have activities to occupy them, they are less likely to offend.

Finally, I strongly believe that education is more important than tough measures. There fore, parents, teachers, social workers and police officers all have a responsibility to raise awareness of the serious consequences of crime.

To sum up, I would recommend a number of strategies to lower crime rates among young people. Indeed, I feel that there is not always one simple solution but different approaches depending on each particular situation.

#### Topic 49

Many governments are now trying to prevent global warming and the effect it has on our environment. They are trying to reduce the things which contribute to global warming such as pollution from cars and destruction of the rain forests.

Describe what you think the problem is and the actions you think your government should take to solve it.

It is now accepted by most people and governments that the world is experiencing climatic changes and that now and in the future we can expect temperatures to rise. Even when the causes of these changes are known, often very little is done to reverse their effects.

Global warming is the result of industrialisation and our modern way of life. All the things which make modern life easier and more enjoyable seem to cause pollution. The factories we work in, the cars and aircraft we travel in, the air conditioning and central heating we use in the home, all create carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases. At the same time these processes and activities seem to destroy aspects of the ecosystem which might counter this process and keep the system in balance. Thus we destroy and burn or build over the forests and agricultural land which might reabsorb the carbon dioxide.

Dealing with the problem is not a straight forward matter. It is not easy for any government or any person to turn back the clock on the industrial revolution. The prospect of returning to poverty, hard manual labour, disease and early death - the situation which existed before the industrial revolution and which still exists in many non-industrialised countries - is not attractive. Somehow, the governments of the world must coordinate policies which make it possible and attractive for us to use energy efficient means of travel such as walking or the bicycle. We need far more research into truly sustainable sources of energy such as wind and wave power rather than using fossil fuels which release so much carbon dioxide.

In conclusion, as we are aware of the causes of global warming, we must continue to find solutions to the problem otherwise the earth may never recover from its harmful effects.

#### Topic 50

It has been claimed that workers over 50 are not responsive to rapidly changing ideas in the modern workplace and that for this reason younger workers are to be preferred.

To what extent would you support or reject this idea?

The essay title proposes that younger people are to be preferred as employees because they are more able to accept changes in the workplace compared to a more mature workforce.



One argument in favour of younger employees is that older workers are more often set in their way and are believed to be resistant to change. There may be an element of truth in this but there are many intelligent and flexible older workers as well as narrow-minded and younger ones set in their ways. Attitude to change is a matter of personality type rather than age. Nonetheless, there are physical changes which progress with age that may make some jobs better suited to a younger element. For example, it seems to be accepted by psychologists that memory diminishes with age. In some modern, hi-tech industries like computer programming, where there is a premium on the regular memorising of large amounts of new information, it would seem younger workers have an advantage.

However, older workers do have many other positive qualities which they can bring to their company working environment. Generally speaking they have more working experience than youngsters and this can benefit the firm whilst planning longterm policies. Their maturity and managerial skills can be viewed as a way of training the younger workers to be leaders themselves.

In conclusion, therefore, it would seem that the proposal in the title has to be rejected since in most work situations a mixture of the best qualities of young and old is to be preferred in order to foster the most productive environment.

### Topic 151

**Happiness is considered very important in life.**

**Why is it difficult to define?**

**What factors are important in achieving happiness?**

Happiness is very difficult to define, because it means so many different things to different people. While some people link happiness to wealth and material success, others think it lies in emotions and loving personal relationships. Yet others think that spiritual paths, rather than either the material world or relationships with people, are the only way to true happiness.

Because people interpret happiness for themselves in so many different ways, it is difficult to give any definition that is true for everyone. However, if there are different kinds of happiness for different individuals then the first step in achieving it would be to have a degree of self-knowledge. A person needs to know who he or she is before being able to know what it is that makes him or her happy.

Of course, factors such as loving relationships, good health, the skills to earn a living and a peaceful environment all contribute to our happiness too. But this does not mean that people without these conditions cannot be happy.

Overall, I think an ability to keep clear perspectives in life is a more essential factor in achieving happiness. By that I mean an ability to have a clear sense of what is important in our lives (the welfare of our families, the quality of our relationships, making other people happy, etc.) and what is not (a problem at work, getting annoyed about trivial things, etc.).

Like self-awareness, this is also very difficult to achieve, but I think these are the two factors that may be the most important for achieving happiness.

## CHAPTER 12

# Letters

12.1

You and your family are living in rented accommodation in an English-speaking country. You are not satisfied with the condition of some of the furniture.

Write a letter to the landlord. In your letter,

- introduce yourself
- explain what is wrong with the furniture
- say what action you would like the landlord to take

Write at least 150 words.

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear .....,

Dear Mr Smith,

I am your tenant from Flat 3 on Riverside Street. We met each other when I signed the rental agreement in your office.

I have lived here for 6 months now and I am writing to complain about some of the furniture. As you may remember, the dining table is in very poor condition and has uneven legs. It also does not match the dining chairs as these are too low to be comfortable for a table of that height. When I first pointed this out to you, you agreed to provide a brand new dining set. However, you have not done so and I would really like to resolve this matter as soon as possible.

If it is more convenient for you, perhaps you could simply replace the table by finding one of a suitable height for chairs. This would solve the problems without too much cost, so I hope you agree to this proposed solution.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

M.M. Egil

12.2

You borrowed some books from your school or college library. Unfortunately you have to go away to visit a sick relative and cannot return the books in time.

Write a letter to the library. Explain what has happened and tell them what you want to do about it.

Dear sir or Madam

I am writing this letter to explain why I have been unable to return the three books I have out on three-day loan, which are now overdue. After taking the books out on 16<sup>th</sup> March, I had an urgent phone call from my elderly aunt's neighbour to say that my aunt had had a fall and had been taken into hospital. I am her only surviving relative in this country, so I felt I had to go and see her immediately. I travelled down to Surrey the following morning, thinking I would stay for only two or three days. Unfortunately, my aunt's condition has only improved very slowly, so I have had to stay here longer than expected. However, the hospital says that if all goes well, she should be able to go home in two or three days' time, in which case I will be back at the beginning of next week.

Bearing in mind the circumstances, I trust you will kindly waive any fines that may have accumulated.

Yours sincerely,

12.3

You travelled by plane last week and your suitcase was lost.

You have still heard nothing from the airline company.

Write to the airline and explain what happened. Describe your suitcase and tell them what was in it. Find out what they are going to do about it.

Dear Sirs,

I was one of the passengers who took the flight from Narita (Tokyo) to Heathrow (London) on 5 August. Unfortunately, my suitcase did not come out after the flight.

Although I have explained this Mr. McDonald who was in charge at the Luggage Claim Office I have not heard from him as of now.

My suit case is grey Samsonite whose size is 70 x 95 cm. There are 3 steckers on one side and 1 heart shaped stecker on the other side. My initials "AR" are also written on both sides.

There are a few books and a copy of my thesis in that suitcase, which I need for the conference on 19 August.

So I would deeply appreciate it if you could give me a prompt reply at your most convenient. My flight number, luggage claim number and address are written below.

Flight No: NH 201

Luggage Claim No: 00026

Address: 64 Silver Street

London. NW165AL

Yours Faithfully,

**TOPIC 155**

**You have decided to join a club which puts pen friends from around the world in touch with each other. Write a letter giving details about yourself and about the sort of person you would like to correspond with. They will use this information to put you in touch with a suitable person. Write a letter to the club providing this information.**

Dear Sir/Madam

I read the advertisement for your organisation in the Greek Chronicle and I would like you to send me some information on how I can become a member. I am enclosing some details about myself and the kind of person I would like to write to.

I am 28 years old and I live on Kythnos, an island in the Aegean Sea. I graduated from Athens University with a degree in agriculture and since then I have been

working as a researcher into more efficient methods of the fish farming industry here. My general interests include nature conservation, swimming and sailing and when I am in Athens, I enjoy going to the cinema and art galleries.

I would very much like to correspond with someone whose interests are similar to mine and who is English speaking as I want to have practice in the language. Although age is not very important to me, if possible, I would prefer to write to someone who is between 20 and 35.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Stavros Stephanopoulos

**TOPIC 160**

**One month ago you travelled to Japan by plane. You arrived four hours late because of a mechanical problem, and your luggage was lost. Your luggage has still not been returned to you. Write a letter to the airline. Explain what happened and tell them what you want them to do about this situation.**

Dear Sir or Madam

I flew with your company to Japan on the 18<sup>th</sup> of last month, on flight DW314 leaving Heathrow at 2.15am. I want to inform you about what happened on that day, and to express my dissatisfaction at the way your company has dealt with the matter since then.

Firstly, our arrival in Japan was delayed for four hours because of a mechanical problem and we were not informed of this at check-in. Then, to make matters worse, on arrival I discovered my luggage had been lost. Nobody has been able to explain how this happened. Not only that, but my suitcases have still not been returned to me a month later, and you have not told me of any efforts you have been making to locate them.

I find this situation totally unacceptable. I would like you to inform me of what progress, if any, you have made in tracking down my luggage. If you cannot assure me that you are about to deliver my suitcases to my house, I shall expect you to compensate me fully for the contents of my luggage and the time and inconvenience this matter has caused me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Nigel Coughlin

09/09/97

You are due to start a new job next week but you will not be able to because you have some problems.

Write a letter to your new employer. In your letter.

- explain your situation
- describe your problems
- tell him/her when you think you can start.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with regard to the article in your newspaper dated 9<sup>th</sup> September. My house is situated within 15 minutes walk of the airport. Please allow me to point out the problems which have caused serious damage on the residential area. I am fully sure that the problems must be aggravated if the plan is carried out to expand the airport and increase the number of flights.

First of all, the low-flying aeroplanes are utterly distracting. They make such a big noise that I cannot concentrate on housework at all. What is worse, I am woken up by the late hour flights at midnight; I was diagnosed as insomnia the other day. I should call this situation noise pollution.

Secondly, I am afraid that the expansion of the airport may reduce the plot of land for the playground which is under construction near the airport at the moment. To sum up, I strongly disagree with the plan. I would appreciate if you could possibly write the article about the problems and disagreement as I said above.

Yours faithfully,

09/09/97

You have had a bank account for a few years. Recently you received a letter from the bank stating that your account is \$240 overdrawn and that you will be charged \$70 which will be taken directly from your account. You know that this information is incorrect.

Write a letter to the bank. Explain what has happened and say what you would like them to do about it.

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reply to a letter I received from you a few days ago. In your letter you state that I am \$240 overdrawn and that you will be charging me \$70.

I would like to point out that the reason I am overdrawn is because of a mistake made by your bank. If you look through your records you will see that I wrote several weeks ago explaining the situation. For the last twelve months, I have been paying \$300 a month for a car I bought last summer. The monthly payments were taken directly from my bank account. However, two months ago I sold the car and I wrote to you instructing you to stop paying the monthly instalments. I received a letter from you acknowledging my request, but, for some reason, nothing was done about it. Another \$300 instalment has been paid this month and this is the reason why I am overdrawn.

I would like you to contact the garage where I bought the car explaining your error. I would also like you to ask them to return the money.

Yours faithfully,

P Stoft

**TOPIC 159**

**Your neighbours have recently written to you to complain about the noise from your houseflat.**

**Write a letter to your neighbours. In your letter.**

- explain the reasons for the noise
- apologise
- describe what action you will take

Dear James,

I was very shocked to get your letter saying that the noise from my flat has been spoiling your evenings and causing you some distress. I am really, really sorry about that. I had no idea that you would be able to hear so much, so I hope you will accept my apologies.

As you may have guessed, I am trying to refit my kitchen in the evenings when I get home from work. Unfortunately it is all taking longer than expected and I have been having problems with getting things to fit properly. This has meant a lot of banging and hammering.

As the kitchen is still not finished, I have decided to call in a professional builder who will finish the work in the next day or two. He'll work only during daytime hours, so you won't be disturbed in the evenings again, I promise.

Sorry to have caused these problems,

Bill.

**TOPIC 160**

**You wrote to the Harvey School of English last month asking for a brochure and for details of how to arrange accommodation. You have received nothing. You have telephoned but only spoken to the caretaker.**

**Write a letter to the school owners. Explain the situation and tell them what you want to happen.**

Dear Sir/Madam

I wrote to your school last month asking for a brochure and for details of how to arrange accommodation. I have now been waiting for five weeks for a reply but I have received nothing yet. On Tuesday of last week I telephoned your school at 10 o'clock in the morning but I was only able to speak to the caretaker.

I would be very grateful if you would send me your brochure with an application form so I can apply to take an intensive English language summer course in July or August. I would also be grateful for information about the living accommodation you arrange and an application form for this too. I would like to stay with a family to improve my English. As I am vegetarian and a smoker, I would need a family which could accommodate these habits.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours faithfully

Beatrice Ligorio

**TOPIC 161**

**You have bought a packet of breakfast cereal at Gibbon's Supermarket. When you opened it at home it had clearly gone bad.**

**Write a letter of complaint to the manager of the supermarket and explain what you want to happen.**

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to complain about the quality of some Crunchy Flakes breakfast cereal I bought at the Highgate branch of your supermarket on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

When we opened the box the following morning in order to have our breakfast, we found the cereal was no longer crunchy but was soggy and covered in blue-green mould. It was clearly inedible. On closer inspection we found that the sell by date on the side of the packet was 5<sup>th</sup> April 1994. The packet must have been on your shelves for seven years.

I would like to know why your store is selling goods which are clearly dangerous to the public. I would like a replacement packet of cereal, as well as £50 in compensation for the inconvenience and distress you have caused my family. This is not the kind of behaviour I would expect from a supermarket which has such a good reputation in the community.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Gunter Mueller

**A letter to a former school friend who has moved to another town.**

Dear Sarah,

I'm sorry it has taken me so long to reply to your last letter, but I have been very busy lately.

Your new school sounds very good, and I hope you will make some friends soon. We all miss you very much in Lass 3. It just isn't the same without your smiling face in the seat next to mine. Even Miss Brown must be missing you, because last week she asked me how you were.

We're doing a class project on Conservation this term, and groups of us have to go and interview office managers to find out whether they are collecting paper for recycling. I'm in a group with some very boring people – I wish you were still here. Last week we went to an Advertising Agency and the manager wasn't very helpful. Tomorrow we are going to my father's office, so that should be easier.

Are you still having to share a room with your sister, or are there more rooms in your new house? I hope you've put that photograph I gave you in a good place. You mustn't forget what I look like or you won't recognise me when I come to visit you!

Please write soon and tell me all your news.

Love from

Alison

**A letter to a company asking for help with a school project.**

Dear Sir,

My class at school is doing a project on Air Transport, and my group has to make a map of the world showing the main air routes.

If you have maps showing the routes flown by your airline, I would be very grateful if you could send me some. I understand that your airline magazine has such maps in the back section, but unfortunately I have been unable to get hold of one.

Information on proposed routes for the future and past routes which have been abandoned would also most interesting, especially if you could inform us as to the reasons for the changes.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I hope you will be able to provide us with the information requested.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Lim

**Letter to a penfriend about his forthcoming visit.**

Dear Peter,

I am so pleased that you are coming to visit me after all our years of writing to each other. It will be wonderful to finally meet you!

You asked me for some advice as to what you should bring in the way of clothes. Well, it's very hot here, especially at this time of the year, so lots of cool cotton T-shirts and shorts would be a very good idea. Swimming trunks are most important of all as I promise you we will spend a lot of time in the pool or at the beach trying to keep cool. We have some good beaches here, on the east coast, and we may even take the ferry out to Kusu island, which is very quiet and peaceful during the week.

My father has promised to take us to Sentosa, a small island just a cable car ride away, where there are many exciting things to do. There is an Underwater World, where you can actually walk in a transparent tunnel and see all kinds of fish swimming around and above you. There are even sharks! A new attraction, called Asia World, has recently opened and I am looking forward to visiting it for the first time. It will teach you about the different cultures in South-East Asia, so we hope to send you back to England with some education as well as a sun tan!

Looking forward to seeing you next month.

Your friend,

Vincent

**TOPIC 165**

**Letter to a friend about a recent experience.**

Dear Janet,

A wonderful thing happened last Sunday. The great opera singer, Luciano Pavarotti, came to Singapore and performed at the Indoor Stadium. I didn't know that I even liked opera, so I wasn't all that excited when my mother told me that she had bought tickets. How wrong I was.

The stadium was completely full, so there must have been about eight thousand people there. It took us quite a while to find a parking space, but we managed to get into our seats about ten minutes before the concert started. We could even see the Prime Minister and Mr. Lee Kuan Yew from where we were sitting.

Everyone sat very quietly while the orchestra played but you could tell that they were all waiting for only one thing – to see the great man himself. And he certainly is great! Apparently he has to go on a very strict diet now or he will be unable to continue performing. He had a huge white handkerchief hanging from his left hand and mopped his brow frequently as he sang. His voice was unlike anything that I have ever heard before. It reached out to every corner of the stadium and made you forget everything but the pure and beautiful sound of its music. We all wanted him to go on singing forever, but, although there were a few encores, the end came far too quickly.

I wish you had been able to witness this great event. I shall never forget it – and now I know that I love opera!

With love from

Susan

**TOPIC 166**

**Write a letter to your friend who has recently met with a family disaster. Your letter must be a comforting and consoling one.**

20, Main Road,  
Batu Pahat.  
12.9.2004

My dear Menon

I should have written much earlier to you to express my condolence on the loss of your dear father, but somehow I felt that letters of condolence were of no use when your grief was yet so fresh and raw.

Today I venture to write, though I am in doubt of whether I can offer you any solace at all. The sad event brought back to my mind how I had been affected when my own father passed away and how my friends and relatives made efforts to relieve my pain, but no consolation had any effect upon me. So I can very well realise what a melancholy experience, as the loss of one's father must mean.

I am at a loss of not being able to get any more words to write to you in your great affliction. All that I can advise is that you should pray for the peace and salvation of his departed soul and keep your mind fixed on God with the consoling thought that He in His infinite mercy has carried him away to a sphere far happier than this miserable world.

Hoping that you will do your best to overcome your grief and sorrow since what cannot be cured has to be endured patiently by all men.

With kind regards and loves.

Yours sincerely,

A.K. MENON

**OPTION B**

Write a letter to a newspaper protesting against street noise.

212, India Street,  
Penang.  
8.6.2004

The Editor,  
"Straits Echo",  
Penang.

Sir,

I am forced by circumstances to bring to the notice of the authorities through the columns of your paper, that Penang has of late become a very noisy city. It is the duty of all concerned to put down this nuisance as far as possible.

What with the hooting of the horns of cars and buses, the thundering sound of rolling wheels, what with shouts of children playing in the street, the loud howls of street hawkers, what with the deafening noise of the loud speakers used during meetings, life in Penang has become next to impossible.

And when the months of December and January comes one cannot sleep in the small hours of the morning. It is then that a vast army of hawkers is let loose on poor suffering humanity, with their howls and loud blaring instruments. What shall we say of the lion dancer that comes occasionally?

There must be some way of minimising these nuisance, if not altogether abolishing them. And I am enlisting the sympathy of your popular paper, because you can sympathise with us in such matters, and with your wide experience of social conditions in other countries you must be able to suggest some remedy.

Yours truly,

James Wong

**OPTION B**

Write a letter to thank someone for returning a lost wallet.

Dear Mr. Chan,

I am writing to thank you most sincerely for the return of the wallet which I lost at Sentosa last weekend. There were personal items inside this wallet and it would have caused me much distress and difficulty if they had not been found.

It is particularly satisfying to realise that there are still some honest people in this world, especially when they are willing to go to all the trouble of tracing someone as careless as myself. I promise you that I will take far greater care of my wallet in the future.

I hope that you will allow me to compensate you for the cost and inconvenience that you have had to bear on my behalf. I enclose an amount which should cover this and thank you once again for your kindness and trouble.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Tay

**OPTION B**

Write a letter to a friend inviting him to visit you during the holiday.

12, Jalan Pantai,  
71000 Port Dickson.  
12th October 2006.

Dear Mary

How are things getting on with you? I am fine here.

Since your family moved to Ipoh, things are not the same here. I really enjoyed the things we did together.



Anyhow, the holidays are about to begin. Would you like to come over to my house for a short stay? We could spend some time on the beach again, swimming, catching crabs etc. My parents say that they will be glad to see you.

Do let me know whether you can make it or not. I look forward to your reply.

Your friend,

Jack

**TOPIC 170**

**Write a letter to the manager of a bus station to complain about the facilities.**

Dear Sir,

I use your bus station every day on my way to school, and am concerned about the poor facilities that are provided by your company. Something must be done to improve the following:

1. The toilets are usually still locked when I arrive at the bus station at 7.30 am. This is very inconvenient to passengers, especially if they are travelling with young children.
2. There are very few seats on which passengers may rest while they are waiting for their bus to arrive. This is very hard on the elderly and on mothers carrying babies or heavy shopping.
3. The light inside the bus station is insufficient and so the possibility of crime is increased. There are often some very unsavoury characters hanging around that area.

I hope that action will soon be taken to solve these problems and to make the bus station a more pleasant and safer place for the hundreds of people who use it every day.

Yours faithfully

Catherine Smith

**TOPIC 171**

**Write a letter to inform a friend of your holiday plans.**

Dear Wendy,

Thank you for letting me borrow your book about Australia. It was very useful in helping us to plan our holiday, we have decided to start off in Sydney, where we will be staying at a big hotel with views of the Opera House! We plan to spend three days there and hope that will be long enough for us to see all the sights. We may even be able to see a play or concert at the Opera House itself!

From Sydney we are flying to Melbourne, to visit my brother and his family. He lives in a suburb called East Brighton, and his house is only a ten minute walk away from the beach. I hope to be able to try surfing on those big Australian waves. My nephews have promised to show me around and have even arranged for me to accompany them to school one day. It will be interesting to see what an Australian school is really like.

Only three weeks more to wait until we go! I am so excited that I can hardly sleep. I promise to send you a few picture postcards of the places I visit.

With love,

Jane

**TOPIC 172**

**Write a letter to apologise for a misunderstanding.**

Dear Fiona,

I am so sorry about what happened on Tuesday night, and wish to explain why I never turned up at Mario's restaurant.

After our telephone conversation at the weekend I carefully wrote down the time and place of our meeting - 8.30 at Marino's. As you know, Marino's is on the opposite side of town from Mario's, so that chances of us meeting by accident were remote.

I arrived at Marino's at 8.25 and waited in the bar for half an hour. I then tried to call you but all I got was your answerphone. I didn't leave a message because I was quite sure that you had been delayed and would turn up eventually.

On my way back from the telephone I bumped into an old schoolfriend who was in town on a business trip. Since we were both alone it seemed to make sense for us to sit together – at least until you turned up.

So that is why Darek saw me in Marino's with a woman when I was supposed to be in Mario's with you. It was just a silly misunderstanding, that's all!

With all my love,

Paul

**Write a letter to a neighbour complaining about noise.**

Dear Mr. Fong,

I am sorry to have to write and complain to you about the noise coming from your house, but I am afraid that I can no longer ignore this great inconvenience.

The major problem is your dog. It seems to have a particularly sensitive nature and gets upset at the sound of the telephone, the television and the radio. Once the barking starts there seems to be no effort made to quieten the dog. Only last week, when the introductory music of the nice o'clock news started it off, the news was over by the time your dog stopped barking, and that was half an hour!

The reason why we know which particular things upset your dog is that we, too, can hear them. We know that you telephoned your sister in Australia yesterday, and that you listen to the radio while you dress in the morning.

Please, Mr. Fong, let us stop this sharing of lives! I do not wish to argue about this and hope, therefore that we may solve this problem together, perhaps over a cup of coffee tomorrow evening?

With best wishes,

John Lee

**Write a letter inviting somebody to stay at your home**

Dear David,

It is such a long time since I last heard from you. I do hope that everything is all right with you and your family.

I was wondering what your plans were for the coming vacation. We will be on holiday from school for six weeks and that is rather a long time to spend at home on your own. Would it be possible for you to come and stay here with us for a couple of weeks. There are so many interesting things to do here when you have someone to do them with, and my mother would be very grateful if you were here to stop me getting bored.

My brother has said that you could borrow his old bicycle, so we would have no trouble getting around. We could go swimming and bowling and even ice-skating, as well as to all the famous places like Haw Par Villa and Sentosa. The Omnitheatre at the Science Centre has a new show on and I would love to see it with you.

Please say you will come. The first two weeks of the holiday would be best, as we are probably going to visit my grandmother after that.

Hope to see you soon.

Your friend,

Tim

**Write a letter to a cousin, congratulating him on passing his exams**

Dear Chris,

I have just received a letter from my mother, telling me about your recent success in the A-level examinations. Well done! You certainly deserve this success because I know you have always studied hard, particularly in the last few years.

I arrived at Marino's at 8.25 and waited in the bar for half an hour. I then tried to call you but all I got was your answerphone. I didn't leave a message because I was quite sure that you had been delayed and would turn up eventually.

On my way back from the telephone I bumped into an old schoolfriend who was in town on a business trip. Since we were both alone it seemed to make sense for us to sit together – at least until you turned up.

So that is why Darek saw me in Marino's with a woman when I was supposed to be in Mario's with you. It was just a silly misunderstanding, that's all!

With all my love,

Paul



**Write a letter to a neighbour complaining about noise.**

Dear Mr. Fong,

I am sorry to have to write and complain to you about the noise coming from your house, but I am afraid that I can no longer ignore this great inconvenience.

The major problem is your dog. It seems to have a particularly sensitive nature and gets upset at the sound of the telephone, the television and the radio. Once the barking starts there seems to be no effort made to quieten the dog. Only last week, when the introductory music of the nine o'clock news started it off, the news was over by the time your dog stopped barking, and that was half an hour!

The reason why we know which particular things upset your dog is that we, too, can hear them. We know that you telephoned your sister in Australia yesterday, and that you listen to the radio while you dress in the morning.

Please, Mr. Fong, let us stop this sharing of lives! I do not wish to argue about this and hope, therefore that we may solve this problem together, perhaps over a cup of coffee tomorrow evening?

With best wishes,

John Lee



**Write a letter inviting somebody to stay at your home**

Dear David,

It is such a long time since I last heard from you. I do hope that everything is all right with you and your family.

I was wondering what your plans were for the coming vacation. We will be on holiday from school for six weeks and that is rather a long time to spend at home on your own. Would it be possible for you to come and stay here with us for a couple of weeks. There are so many interesting things to do here when you have someone to do them with, and my mother would be very grateful if you were here to stop me getting bored.

My brother has said that you could borrow his old bicycle, so we would have no trouble getting around. We could go swimming and bowling and even ice-skating, as well as to all the famous places like Haw Par Villa and Sentosa. The Omnitheatre at the Science Centre has a new show on and I would love to see it with you.

Please say you will come. The first two weeks of the holiday would be best, as we are probably going to visit my grandmother after that.

Hope to see you soon.

Your friend,

Tim



**Write a letter to a cousin, congratulating him on passing his exams**

Dear Chris,

I have just received a letter from my mother, telling me about your recent success in the A-level examinations. Well done! You certainly deserve this success because I know you have always studied hard, particularly in the last few years.

Did your friends do equally well? I hope so, because I know what a strain it can put on friendships when one of you does not do as well as the others. My best friend at school failed his examination first time round and didn't want to have any more to do with me until he had retaken them and finally passed. I suppose his pride suffered too much. He's now here at the university and all is well again!

Have you decided what you will do next? My mother mentioned that you were thinking of applying to go to England, to study Chemistry. I wish every success in whatever you choose to do, and if you need any advice from an older and wiser relative, don't hesitate to get in touch!

Love from

Andy

OPIC 176

Your friend sent you a present for a birthday, write a letter to him, thanking him for the gift.

8, Maju Avenue,  
Singapore 1955.  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2006

My dear friend,

Thank you so much for the book you have sent me. It was good of you to remember my birthday, and to send me such an interesting novel to read. I have often heard of people talking about Jane Austen's "Northanger Abbey", and wanted to read it. Now I have it for my very own and have put it on my shelf with my other books and feel very proud of possessing it. I am glad you did not send me an ordinary school book, most of which are very dry.

As soon as I got the book, I set to work reading it and it was so exciting that I could not go to bed until I had finished it. I can't read English very fast, yet, and parts of it I found hard to understand, especially the language the various 'refined' characters' talk. But it was so interesting that I did not want to part with it for long.

It is a fine social novel, and I was almost visualising the Pump Room, Edgar's Building and Putney Street. My sympathies went with Miss Morland and I am fascinated by the talk and conduct of Mr. John Thorpe. I could also picture the life of middle class English families in Jane Austen's day.

I thank you again for the wonderful gift.

I remain,

Your affectionately,

DANG ANH QUAN

Write a letter to your friend expressing your apology in not being able to keep an appointment.

166, Middle Road,  
Singapore 0718.  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Ahmad,

I am writing this letter to express to you my heartfelt apology in my inability to keep the appointment we have made. I promised to meet you at the junction of Selegie Road and Middle Road at 10 a.m. to day and from there both of us were to proceed to Johore Bahru to meet Mr. Tan.

I am very sorry for breaking the appointment and I am sure when I explain to you, you will understand my position at that time.

Approximately about 9 o'clock when I was getting ready to leave home to meet you, I received a trunk call from my mother who is recuperating in my aunt's house at Batu Pahat telling me to proceed immediately to accompany my mother back home. I had no alternative but to proceed to my aunt's house for she had sent her chauffeur-driven car to fetch me.

I can assure you that this would be my first and last occasion of breaking any appointment with you.

Yours sincerely,

A. THOMAS

**Write to your friend explaining what you would like to do. Tell him/her what type of work or studies you have been doing for the past few years and ask for assistance in contacting an appropriate institution.**

Dear Anita,

Sorry I haven't written for ages. I've been so busy over the last year and I never seem to have a minute to myself.

I'd like to study electrical engineering at a university in Australia next year and I hope you can give me some advice. I think I would prefer Melbourne because I know a few people from my visit last year.

This year I'm doing maths and physics at school and I hope to do well in my exams. However, I really don't know which university to apply to, so could you send me some information about different colleges? Also, can you find out what qualifications I need? For instance, as an overseas student, do I have to take an English test?

I hope you don't mind doing this for me. It is much better to get this information from someone who lives in the country, so I hope to hear from you soon.

Many thanks,

Rosanna

ROSANNA

**You are a student living in a rent house, and your next month's rent is due on Saturday, however, you cannot pay in due course. Write a letter to the landlord explaining this, and additionally state some problems.**

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you because I am unable to pay next month's rent which is due on Saturday. Unfortunately, the other day I lost my wallet, and there was a large amount of money inside.

I have, therefore, had to write to my parents to ask them to send me some money urgently. As soon as it arrives, I will immediately notify you and arrange to pay by cash or cheque. I hope that this does not cause you too much inconvenience.

There are also some problems with the flat that I wish to bring to your attention. First, the cold tap in the bathroom will not turn off properly, and the water is dripping constantly. This will need to be fixed quickly because it is wasting water. Second, one of the back rings on the top of the oven does not work at all.

I'm sorry that I cannot pay the rent on time, and trust that you will understand.

Yours sincerely,

David Soong

DAVID SOONG

**You took a two-day course, you are asked to write a letter to the course organiser. Describe the details about the course and give suggestions on how to improve the course. Write a letter to the course organiser and describe the details about the course and give suggestions.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a student who attended the training course entitled 'The Challenges and Opportunities after China's Entry into WTO' in the auditorium of your research institute last Thursday and Friday.

I am writing to you to express my dissatisfaction with your organisation and the poor facilities of the training course.

We were present at the auditorium at 8 o'clock on Thursday morning according to the schedule. But the lecturer did not arrive until 8:40am, which was a nuisance for the whole audience to wait. This is not the end of the story. When the lecturer started the speech, something was wrong with the microphone. You see, there are nearly 300 audiences in the hall. The people at the back of the auditorium could not hear a single word. What is worse is that the staff here did not take any remedial measures to fix the sound system in time.

I sincerely hope that this kind of situation will not reoccur, for it not only wastes us a lot of time, but also influences your reputation.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Bush

MARY BUSH

**TOPIC 182**

You are a student who seek accommodation for a group of students and have to write a letter to the Manager of Student Hotel Services. Describe your situation and specify your demand for the accommodation.

Write a letter to the manager and describe the details about your requirements.

Dear Manager of the Student Hostel Services,

I am writing to seek accommodation in the Snowy Mountains for a group of students from Perth.

We expect to be in the Snowy Mountains between June 1 and June 12. There are fourteen people in our group – five men and seven women, and a married couple. The five men will accept dormitory accommodation, and the women are happy to share rooms, but the married couple would like a double room. We hope to keep our expenses as low as possible.

Please tell me about recreational services in the area. The group will bring their own boots for bushwalking, but we are hoping to hire equipments for other sports, like skiing. Some of our group will want to hire geological picks and other equipments, if possible. We also need to know about the access to caves and other interesting geological features in the area.

I am looking forward to receiving information about the Student Hostel Services and other facilities.

Yours faithfully,

Amanda Chan

AMANDACHAN

**TOPIC 182**

You are studying at a university in the north of England. Your passport has been stolen. Here is the form filled in for the police:

Lost Passport Details	Police Reference Number: CX241
Passport number <u>A4847009X</u>	
Date of issue <u>28/2/1992</u>	Date of expiry <u>27/2/2002</u>
Place lost <u>Leeds bus station</u>	Date and time lost <u>9 October 10:20am</u>

Write to your embassy in London, giving details of who you are, what happened and asking what you should do to get a new passport.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to report the theft of my passport. I am currently studying economics at Leeds University, and I came to Britain in September last year. My course here ends in September next year.

I lost my passport at Leeds bus station on 9 October. I was about to catch the 10:30 morning bus to London, and I was having a cup of coffee at the snack bar in the bus station while I waited. The passport was in my overnight bag, which I carried on my shoulder.

This must have been snatched while I was drinking the coffee, although I did not notice it had gone until I left the snack bar at 10:20am.

I have reported the theft to the police. Their reference number for the case is CX241, at Leeds Central Police Station. My passport number is A4847009X, the date of issue is 28/2/1992 and the date of expiry is 27/2/2002.

I would be grateful if you could inform me what I have to do to obtain another passport. Do I need to provide photographs and, if so, how many? Please let me know the cost of a new passport and the currency in which I should pay for it.

Yours faithfully,

Mehmet Akbar

MEHMET AKBAR

**TOPIC 103**

**You live in a room in college which you share with another student. You find it very difficult to work there because your roommate always has friends visiting. He/She has parties in the room and sometimes borrows your things without asking you.**

**Write a letter to the Accommodation Officer at the college and ask for a new room next term.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you that I wish to move into a new room next term. I would prefer a single room, as I find the present sharing arrangement inconvenient.

I must explain that the reason for my dissatisfaction is my roommate's inconsiderate behaviour. For one thing, his friends are constantly visiting him. For

another, he regularly holds noisy parties. In addition, he sometimes borrows my things without asking me. In these circumstances, I find it difficult to concentrate on my studies, and I am falling behind in my assignments.

I am sure you will agree that the only solution for me is to move into a room of my own, where I will be free from such distractions.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could find a single room for me, preferably not in the same building but as near to the college campus as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Johnson

JANE JOHNSON

**TOPIC 124**

**You are a commuter. One morning on your way to work you suddenly felt dizzy and lost consciousness. One gentleman on the same bus sent you to a hospital.  
Write a letter to the company where the gentleman works to extend your gratitude.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Smith, the accountant of your company.

I am a commuter and every day I take Bus 183 to the workplace. Last Wednesday morning, when the bus almost reached the stop where I was to get off, unexpectedly I felt dizzy and then lost my consciousness and fell to the ground. When I was awakened, I found myself in the City Hospital attended by my wife. The physician told me it was Mr. Smith who had sent me to the hospital and informed my husband of my misfortune. Mr. Smith happened to be on the same bus, but I have never met him before.

My husband and I were very much grateful to Mr. Smith for his kindness. Please forward my heartfelt thanks to him. We feel very much proud of your company for having such a helpful employee. If Mr. Smith was late for work that day, I'd like to compensate you for the loss thus incurred.

I do hope that your company would reward Mr. Smith for his selfless and noble deeds.

Yours faithfully,

Cathy Lau

CATHY LAU

**TOPIC 185**

**As an Asia-wide traveller, you have quite many opinions on travelling.  
Write a letter to a travel agency and make some suggestions.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As someone who has travelled throughout Asia on business and holiday, I would like to give my opinion on its environmental impact. Having visited Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, I understand that tourism can bring money to developing countries. However, this money often goes into the pockets of foreign investors, and only rarely benefits local people. Multinational hotel chains also have little regard for the surrounding wildlife when they build new resorts. This can cause many problems.

In view of these facts, we, as tourists, can directly affect these countries in a positive way if we are thoughtful. When we visit these countries we can visit restaurants, bars and even hotels that are owned by local people. In addition, we can refuse to give luxury resorts our patronage and therefore prevent them from becoming even larger.

Most importantly, we should check that any tours or excursions we take have minimal effect on the natural surroundings. Finally, we can even attempt to change the behaviour of other tourists by sharing our opinions.

If we follow these simple steps we can be sure that our pleasure is not causing any harm to people or places that we visit.

Yours faithfully,

Truth Chan

TRUTH CHAN

**TOPIC 186**

**You are a university student.  
Write a letter apply for scholarship.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inquire about the scholarship that was advertised in the June 7th New York Times. I would like to know more details about it.

I wonder what your requirements are to be qualified for this scholarship, and to whom it is usually granted. However, I believe I am the very one that you are looking for. I am from China and I have worked with AT&T Telecommunication Corporation for two years and I am applying for entrance to your esteemed institution in pursuit of a Master's degree. I am one of three students who have earned A's on my entrance examinations. I can spare more energy and time on my study without worrying much about maintenance and tuition fees if I am granted the scholarship. Isn't that the goal you pursue in issuing this scholarship?

I am eagerly looking forward to your reply. And your kind help would be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Yang

PETER YANG



**TOPIC 127**

Write a letter to a roommate apologizing for not saying good-bye to him/her when you left school the last day of semester. Explain the reason why you were not able to say good-bye to him/her and invite him/her to visit you.

Dear Jenny,

How time flies! I was very busy on my last day of staying on campus before spring vacation. I am sorry that I didn't have time to say good-bye to you.

That day, I spent the whole morning with my tutor in her office. We were discussing a project which we will conduct next semester. I also have to collect some materials for it during the vacation. How poor I am! That afternoon, I went to the library to return some academic magazines I had borrowed. Then I went downtown to buy some gifts for my parents and I took the evening train to return to my home town.

What are you going to do during the vacation? How about coming here? I know you haven't visited here before. It is a peaceful and beautiful village surrounded by hills and rivers and I'll show you around when you come here.

Having made your decision, please kindly let me know and I will meet you at the train station.

Best regards,

David Zhang

DAVID ZHANG

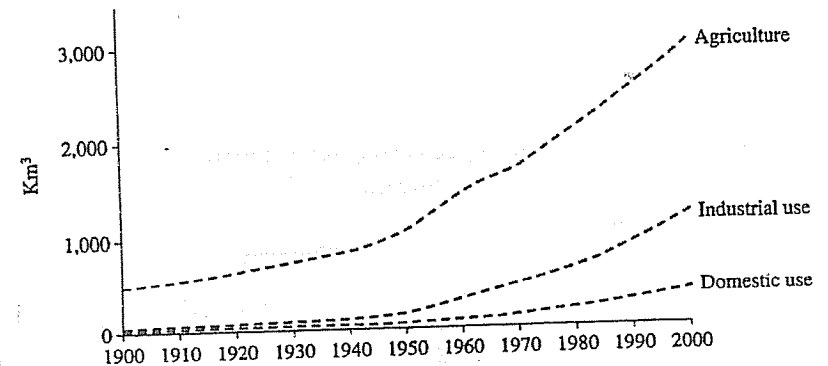
**CHAPTER 13****Reports****TOPIC 128**

The graph and table below give information about water use worldwide and water consumption in two different countries.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Global water use by sector



Water consumption in Brazil and Congo in 2000

Country	Population	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Water consumption per person
Brazil	176 million	26,500 km <sup>2</sup>	359 m <sup>3</sup>
Democratic Reppublic of Congo	5.2 million	100 km <sup>2</sup>	8 m <sup>3</sup>

The graph shows how the amount of water used worldwide changed between 1900 and 2000.

Throughout the century, the largest quantity of water used for agricultural purposes, and this increased dramatically from about 500 km<sup>3</sup> to around 3,000 km<sup>3</sup> in the year 2000. Water used in the industrial and domestic sectors also increased, but consumption was minimal until mid-century. From 1950 onwards, industrial use grew steadily to just over 1,000 km<sup>3</sup>, while domestic use rose more slowly to only 300 km<sup>3</sup>, both far below the levels of consumption by agriculture.

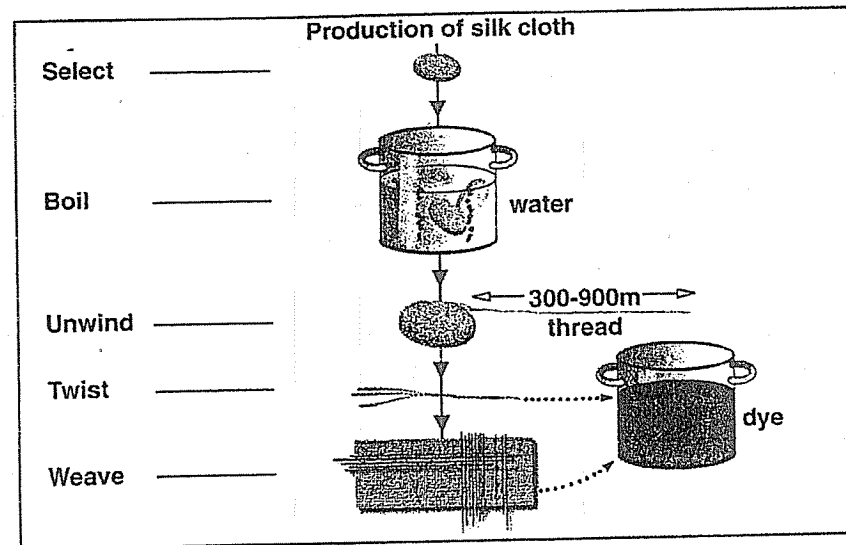
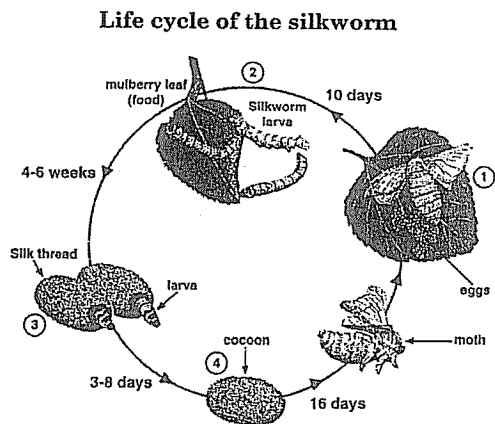
The table illustrates the differences in agricultural consumption in some areas of the world by contrasting the amount of irrigated land in Brazil (26,500 km<sup>2</sup>) with that in the D.R.C. (100 km<sup>2</sup>). This means that a huge amount of water is used in agriculture in Brazil, and this is reflected in the figures for water consumption per person: 359 m<sup>3</sup> compared with only 8 m<sup>3</sup> in the Congo. With a population of 176 million, the figures for Brazil indicate how high agricultural water consumption can be in some countries.

**Topic 189**

The diagrams below show the life cycle of the silkworm and the stages in the production of silk cloth.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



The first diagram shows that there are four main stages in the life of the silkworm. First of all, eggs are produced by the moth and it takes ten days for each egg to become a silkworm larva that feeds on mulberry leaves. This stage lasts for up to six weeks until the larva produces a cocoon of silk thread around itself. After a period of about three weeks, the adult moths eventually emerge from these cocoons and the life cycle begins again.

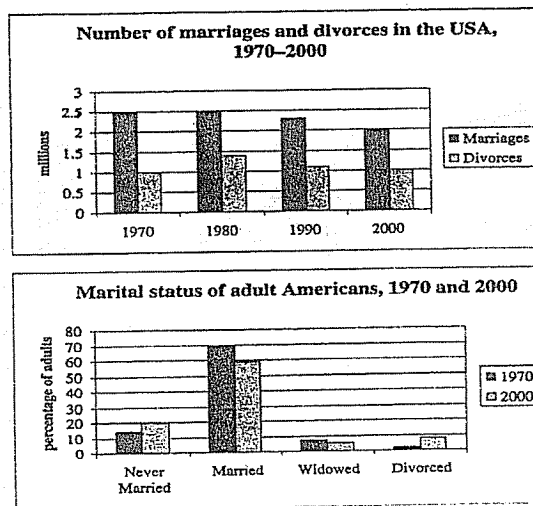
The cocoons are the raw material used for the production of silk cloth. Once selected, they are boiled in water and the threads can be separated in the unwinding stage. Each thread is between 300 and 900 metres long, which means they can be twisted together, dyed and then used to produce cloth in the weaving stage.

Overall, the diagrams show that the cocoon stage of the silkworm can be used to produce silk cloth through a very simple process.

The charts below give information about USA marriage and divorce rates between 1970 and 2000, and the marital status of adult Americans in two of the years.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



We are given two charts which show us a few sets of data about the marital status of the Americans between 1970 and 2000.

The first chart compares the number of marriages and divorces in the United States of America between 1970 and 2000. We can see that data is given for each decade; the number of people who are getting married decreased slightly since 1980, as well as the divorces one. Nevertheless, divorces increased between 1970 and 1980.

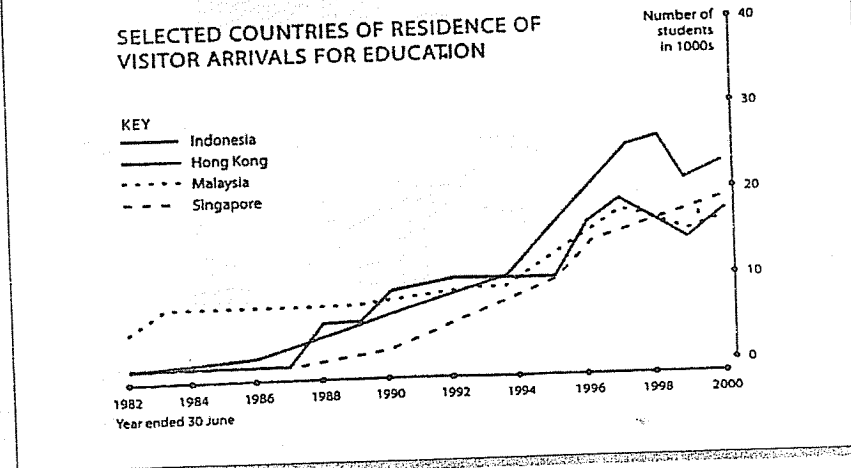
The second chart is more precise about the different marital status of the Americans between 1970 and 2000. The number of divorced people has risen more than the double during this two years, and the data for the never married people has also increased significantly. However, less and less people are married, as the first chart showed us; the widowed American number is also decreasing.

As a conclusion, we can say that the marital status background of the Americans has maybe known the greatest change it had ever seen.

The graph below shows four countries of residence of overseas students in Australia.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



The linegraph illustrates students who came from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong in Australia between 1982 and 2000.

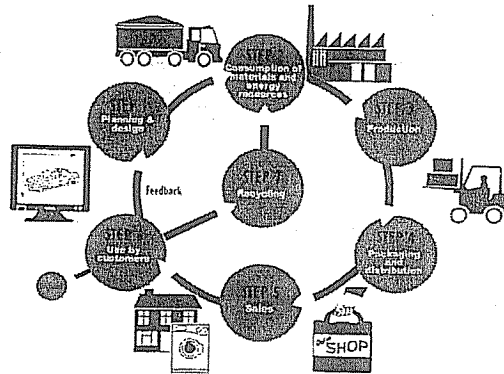
The number of students coming from Malaysia in 1982 to in 1993 increased steadily from about 5,000 students to just under 10,000 students whereas that of the other countries increased sharply between about 2,000 students and about 10,000 students. The number of the over sea students in 1993 to in 2000 fluctuate significantly between about 10,000 students and just under 20,000 students with the exception of students coming from Indonesia. There was a dramatically increase in the number of over sea students from Indonesia in 1993 to in 1998, peaking at 26,000 students. There was a slightly drop in the number of students from Indonesia in 1998 to in 2000 from 26,000 students to about 23,000 students.

There was a consirable notice in the number of the over sea students with 5-time increase between 1982 to 2000, except students from Malasia.

The diagram below shows the environmental issues raised by a product over its life cycle.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



The diagram illustrates the environmental issues by a product over its lifetime.

According to the diagram, first step for the life cycle of a product is product planning and design which is the most significant step for customers as an appearance. Secondly, suppliers have to prepare all of the materials which they need to use for the product. It would appear that most of the people are more likely to concern about the materials that are used during the production because of the quality.

After the process of procurement of the materials is reached, life cycle is followed by production step. As long as a product is ready to sell, initial step carries on with packaging, printing and physical distribution. In addition to this step, there are variety of ways how to make the product more impressive and demanding in the competitive market. That's why, perhaps the most important process is sales, however good quality of materials was used. While suppliers are trying to sell any kind of product, they should persuade customers for either its quality or function as a whole.

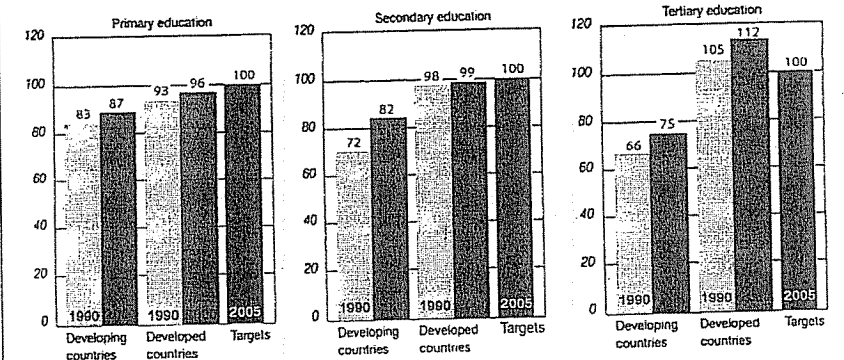
In the case of sales, a large proportion of people use varieties of technics how to effect customers in the market even with exaggeration. From customers point of view, they invariably focus on what they need. So, another essential point for suppliers is to meet customer's needs.

Consequently, products are started to be used by customers whether they're satisfied or not. Unless they are satisfied, it's more likely for the product to be given back to the service.

The charts below show the number of girls per 100 boys in all levels of education. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting on the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words

Gender differences in school enrolment



The graphs give information about the number of female students per 100 male students in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

In general, more boys than girls were studying at school both in 1990 and 2000 in all the countries, except in tertiary education in developed countries, and the number of girls per boys was bigger in 2000 than in 1990 in the two country groups and in all the educational stages.

Turning to the detail, there were more boys than girls in primary and secondary education. As can be seen, developing countries saw a bigger discrepancy between the numbers of male and female students that developed countries, with the numbers of girls per 100 boys at 83 in 1990 and 87 in 2000 in primary education, and, 72 in 1990 and 82 in 2000 in secondary education. However, in developed countries, the balance of the two was much closer to the ideal, particularly in secondary in secondary education, with 98 girls per 100 boys in 1990 and 99 in 2000.

Regarding tertiary education, the balance was even worse than in any other levels of education in developing countries with 66 girls per 100 boys in 1990 and 75 in 2000. On the hand, in developed countries, the number of girls overtook that of boys at 105 per 100 boys in 1990 and 112 in 2000.

**GPIC 18**

The table below shows causes of injuries in Australia for teenagers and the general population.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, making comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Teenagers and the total population for certain injuries				
	Males aged 13 - 19	Females aged 13 - 19	Total aged 13 - 19	Total population
Cause	rate(a)	rate(a)	rate(a)	rate(a)
Total transport accidents	779	323	557	305
Car occupant	232	186	210	124
Motorcyclist	230	20	127	59
Pedal cyclist	210	24	120	45
Pedestrian	46	26	36	30
Falls	720	193	463	843
Complications of medical care	340	349	344	1431
Assault	281	80	183	119
Accidental poisoning	68	95	82	85
Exposure to heat, smoke, fire	54	17	36	42
All cases (b)	3688	1765	2750	3712

(a) Cases per 100,000 of this group.

(b) All cases, includes causes not listed. Some cases can involve more than one cause.

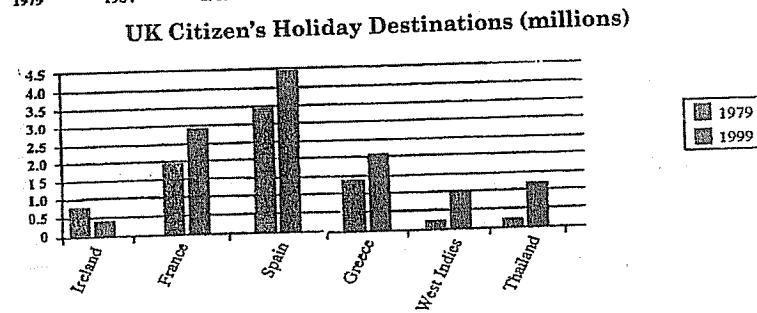
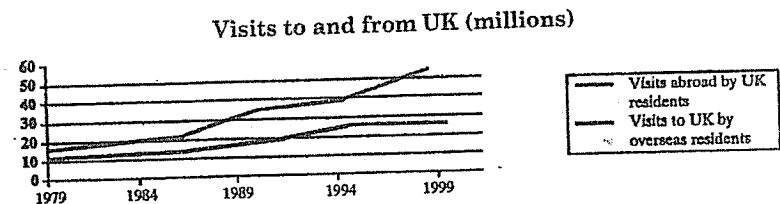
The data shows causes which bring people to hospital for teenagers and people of all ages.

The categories can be divided into two groups which are the causes involved with vehicles and the others. The former saw a clear pattern between the genders and ages. Teenagers were more likely to be hospitalized by accidents related to vehicles than adults and more boys than girls were involved in these causes. The most common cause in this group was total transport accidents with 779 cases of boys, 323 of girls, 557 of total teenagers and 305 of total population per 100,000 cases respectively. Pedestrian was the least common cause of hospitalisation in this group with under 50 cases per 100,000 for all the presented age and sex groups.

**GPIC 19**

The graphs below show the number of visits to and from the UK between 1979 and 1999, and some destinations of UK citizens traveling abroad. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.



This report describes the changes in the figures of visits to and from the United Kingdom in two decades, from 1979 to 1999 and the variations in holiday destinations of the UK citizens.

According to the histogram, the visits to and from the UK from 1979 until approximately 1986 showed parallel slight rises. From then, until the early

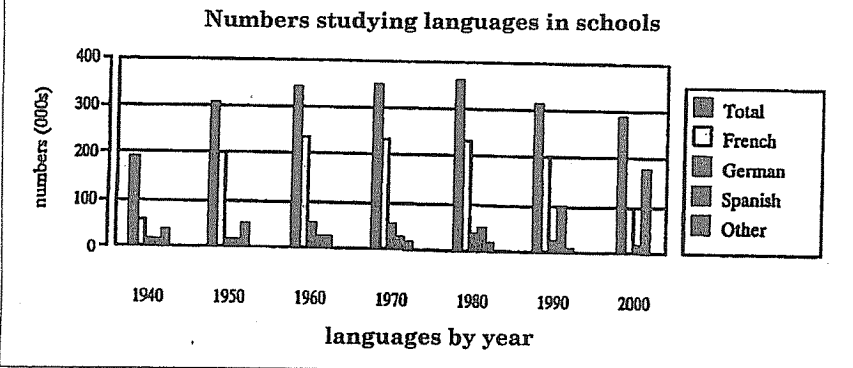
nineties, there has been a small rise in visits to the UK from overseas residents, while there was a noticeable increase in visits broad by residents of the UK. The two figures followed again a parallel upward route until the middle of the 1990s. Then, the visits to the UK reached a plateau, but the visits abroad from UK residents showed a more noticeable increase.

As far as the bar chart is concerned, it is rather obvious that during these twenty years Spain not only was and still is the most popular destination, but has also shown the biggest increase, compared to the other countries. France and Greece are the next most popular destinations with a similar raise. It is worth mentioning that even though they all accept approximately 1 million more UK visitors than they did in 1979, the balance between them is steady. On the other hand, West Indies and Thailand have soared and have at least trebled their popularity in these two decades. On the contrary, Ireland, a popular destination in 1979 has shown a steep decline, by more than a half of UK visitors.

**Topic 196**

The graph below shows the number of students learning foreign languages in certain British schools between 1940 and 2000. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.



The graph shows the number of students studying languages in selected British schools from 1940 to 2000.

In 1940, the total number of students learning foreign languages was just under 200,000, but in 1950 there was a significant increase to 300,000. There was a gradual rise until the 1980s with a peak of 360,000 in 1980 followed by a steady decline to just under 300,000 by 2000.

The most popular language from 1940 to 1990 was French. Its popularity rose rapidly from around 50,000 students in 1940, to a plateau of around 250,000 between 1960 and 1980. The number decreased slightly until 1990, to 200,000 students, then declined rapidly to half this number in 2000.

Very small numbers of students learnt Spanish before 1990. From 1940 - 1980 there were around 15 - 50 thousand studying the language but in 1990 the number rose to 100,000 and by 2000 it was the second most popular language after French when the figure almost doubled to around 180,000 students.

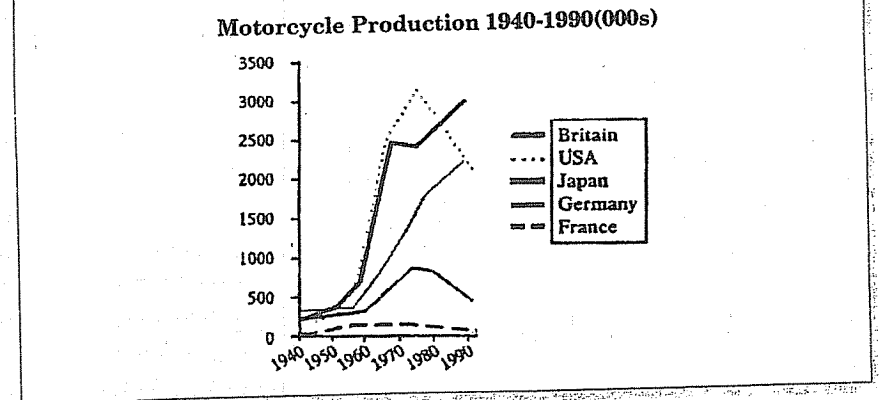
German was never as popular as French or Spanish, reaching a peak of 50,000 learners during the 1960s and 1970s but declined to around 20,000 in 2000.

In the region of 35,000 students learnt other languages in 1940. This number rose to 50,000 in 1950 but following this, there was a steady fall in interest and in 2000 no learners of other languages were recorded.

**Topic 197**

The graph shows figures for motorcycle production in five countries during the period 1940-1990. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.



Motorcycle production spanning the half a century from 1940-1990 in Britain, the USA, Japan, Germany and France is detailed in this report:

As can be seen in the graph, until the early 1950s, all five countries constructed 250,000 or fewer motorbikes annually but then production rose in all nations from the middle years of the decade.

The most dramatic expansion was seen in the USA where production shot up to over three million machines by the mid 1970s but following that saw a steady decline to around two million by 1990. Japan and Germany also experienced rapid rises in their motorbike manufacture from 1940, reaching three and two and a quarter million machines respectively by 1990. Britain and France, however, made far fewer machines than the other three nations although Britain did experience a similar boom in production until the mid 1970s when, after hitting a peak of just under one million machines, the numbers of motorbikes constructed fell steadily to half a million by 1990. In France, on the other hand, production was minimal as the numbers of machines assembled rose only slightly from 1940, reaching a plateau of around 200,000 bikes from 1960 to 1980. After this there was a slight but steady decrease until 1990 when very few machines were being produced.

**TOPIC 198**

The following table shows the sources of generated electricity for five European countries. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.

Country	Thermal	Hydro	Nuclear	Geothermal and Other	Total
France	38.1	61.6	374.3	2.6	476.6
Germany	335.8	17.2	161.8	9.9	524.7
Norway	0.7	108.7	0.0	0.3	109.6
Spain	89.4	34.3	52.5	2.3	178.5
United Kingdom	226.5	4.1	89.3	6.0	325.9

(Table in billion kilowatt-hours)

This report describes the sources from which five European countries produce electricity.

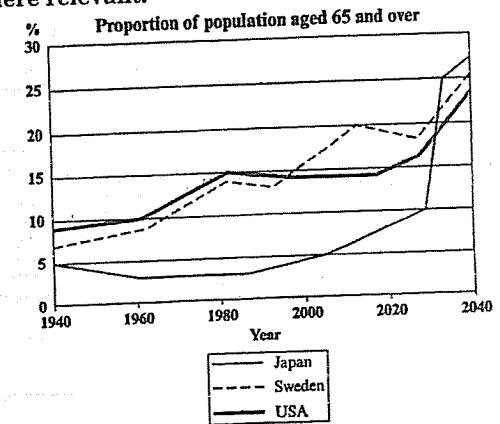
According to the table, thermal power is widely used for the production of electricity in Germany and the United Kingdom. In both countries it represents more than fifty per cent of the total electricity generated. The situation is approximately the same in Spain. France, on the other hand, produces less than ten per cent of its electricity in that way, but that is a lot compared to Norway's almost nil thermally produced electricity.

It's worth mentioning that Norway generates virtually all the electric power it needs using hydropower. As can be seen from the diagram France and Spain also use hydro electricity, whereas Germany and the UK make little use of this source. Nuclear plants are the main source of electricity for France; at the same time Germany, Spain and the UK produce by nuclear power about the same percentage of electricity compared to their total amounts. Norway seems to say 'no' to nuclear power. Geothermal and other alternative sources of generated electricity are used at a percentage of no more than two per cent in all cases.

**TOPIC 199**

The graph below shows the proportion of the population aged 65 and over between 1940 and 2040 in three different countries. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



The graph shows the increase in the ageing population in Japan, Sweden and the USA. It indicates that the percentage of elderly people in all three countries is expected to increase to almost 25% of the respective populations by the year 2040.

In 1940 the proportion of people aged 65 or more stood at only 5% in Japan, approximately 7% in Sweden and 9% in the US. However, while the figures for the Western countries grew to about 15% in around 1990, the figure for Japan dipped to only 2.5% for much of this period, before rising to almost 5% again at the present time.

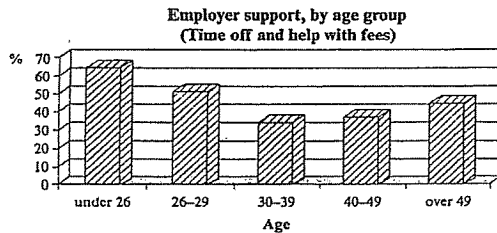
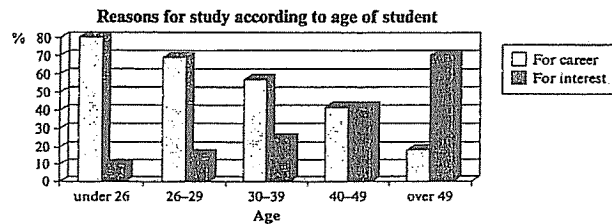
In spite of some fluctuation in the expected percentages, the proportion of older people will probably continue to increase in the next two decades in the three countries. A more dramatic rise is predicted between 2030 and 2040 in Japan, by which time it is thought that the proportion of elderly people will be similar in the three countries.

**TOPIC 200**

The charts below show the main reasons for study among students of different age groups and the amount of support they received from employers.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



The first graph shows that there is a gradual decrease in study for career reasons with age. Nearly 80% of students under 26 years, study for their career. This percentage gradually declines by 10-20% every decade. Only 40% of 40-49yr olds and 18% of over 49yr olds are studying for career reasons in late adulthood.

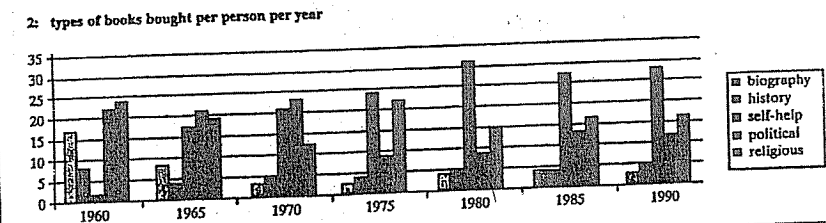
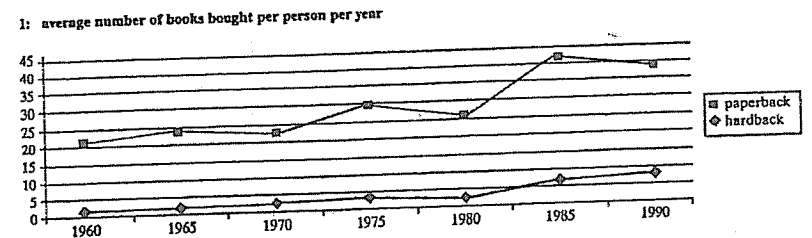
Conversely, the first graph also shows that study stemming from interest increases with age. There are only 10% of under 16yr olds studying out of interest. The percentage increases slowly till the beginning of the fourth decade, and increases dramatically in late adulthood. Nearly same number of 40-49yr olds study for career and interest. However 70% of over 49yr olds study for interest in comparison to 18% studying for career reasons in that age group.

The second graph shows that employer support is maximum (approximately 60%) for the under 26yr students. It drops rapidly to 32% up to the third decade of life, and then increases in late adulthood up to about 44%. It is unclear whether employer support is only for career-focused study, but the highest level is for those students who mainly study for career purposes.

**TOPIC 201**

The following graph gives information about book-buying over 30 years in New York. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.



This report describes the sales of hardback and paperback books bought in New York from 1960 to 1990 and the types of books which are preferred.

According to the graph, the numbers of both kinds of books have risen with paperback sales being the greater. 20 paperbacks per person were bought in 1960



but by 1985 this figure had more than doubled to 43 books. Concerning hardbacks, the average number bought in 1960 was only two but sales increased steadily until 1985 when those purchased had increased steadily until 1985 when those purchased had increased fourfold to eight per person per year.

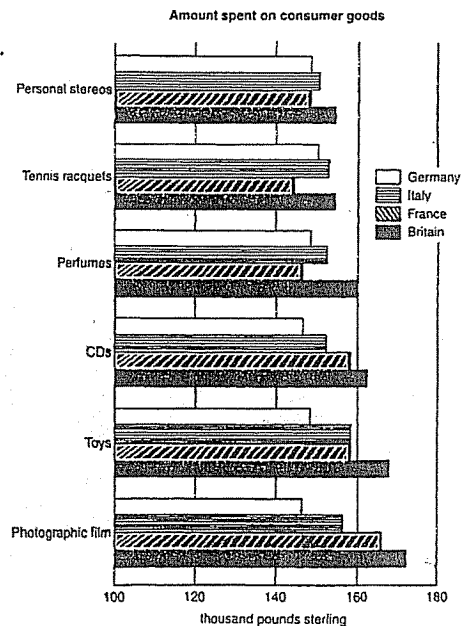
As can be seen in the histogram, books on self-help were the most popular in 1990 at 28 per person and these have experienced a dramatic increase in popularity since 1960 when only 2 per person were purchased. The most well liked books in 1960 were about religion and politics but they have gradually fallen from 24 and 22 to 16 and 12 respectively in 1990, with only religious books showing a sudden surge in popularity in 1975 when 22 books were sold. The least popular books have always been those on biography and history, peaking in 1960 at 17 and 8 but from 1970 onwards neither book has sold more than 5 copies per person per year.

**TOPIC 202**

The chart below shows the amount spent on six consumer goods in four European countries.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.

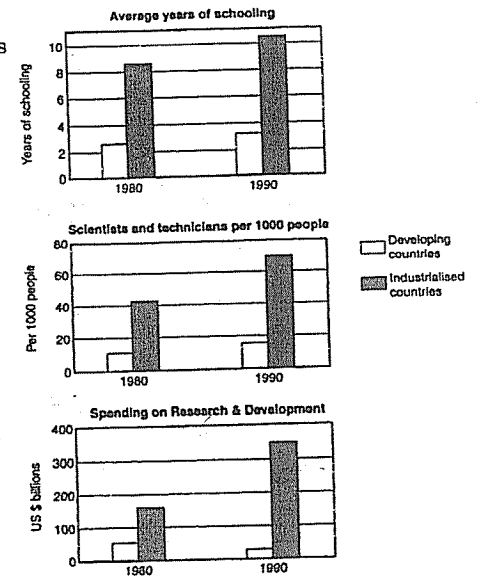


**TOPIC 203**

The chart below show the levels of participation in education and science in developing and industrialized countries in 1980 and 1990.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words





The data shows the differences between developing and industrialized countries participation in education and science.

In terms of the number of years of schooling received, we see that the length of time people spend at school in industrialized countries was much greater at 8.5 years in 1980, compared to 2.5 years in developing countries. The gap was increased further in 1990 when the figures rose to 10.5 years and 3.5 years respectively.

We can see a similar pattern in the second graph, which shows that the number of people working as scientists and technicians in industrialized countries increased from 55 to 85 per 1,000 people between 1980 and 1990, while the number in developing countries went from 12 to 20.

Finally, the figures for spending on research and development show that industrialized countries more than doubled their spending, from \$200bn to \$420bn, whereas developing countries actually decreased theirs, from \$75bn down to \$25bn.

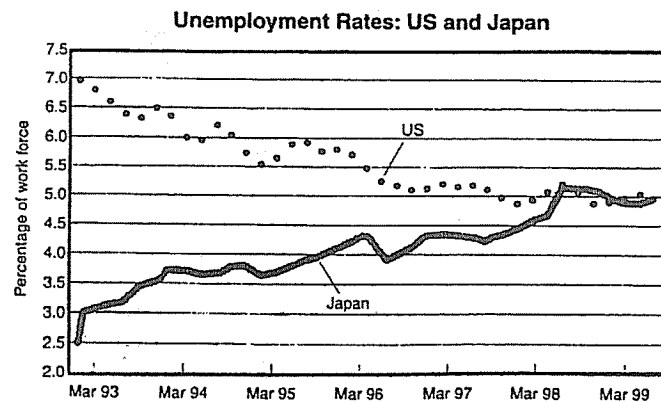
Overall we can see that not only are there very large differences between the two economies but that these gaps are widening.

**TOPIC 201**

The graph below shows the unemployment rates in the US and Japan between March 1993 and March 1999.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.



According to the results of the labour-force research published recently, the following conclusions can be drawn from it:

In March, 1993, United States had seven percent of their workforce which might not seem disastrous until compared with Japan, where 2.5% were unemployed. However, the unemployment rate in United States began declining slowly since March 1993, and reached 5% mark in the middle of 1996. Japan turned out to be the less lucky, as their unemployment rate doubled in three years. From then on, the percentage of unemployed workforce in United States remained roughly the same – about 5% until March 99, although there were minor falls and rises in the unemployment rate.

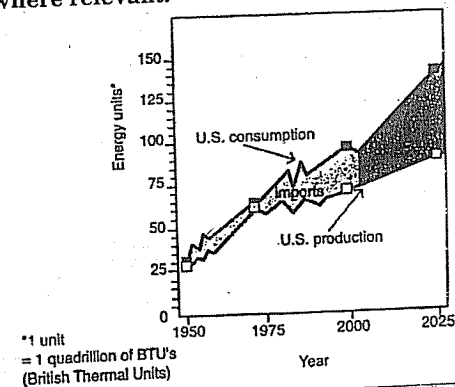
As for Japan, the percentage of unemployed fell rapidly by 0.5 – 0.6% after March 1996, but from summer 1996 and onwards it grew steadily and without any falls to reach 5.0% boundary in March 1999.

The major conclusion that I've drawn using the graph, is that number of unemployed in USA decreased by about 2.0% in the course of six years, while in Japan it actually increased by 2.5% percent. As a result, in March 99, both Japan and US had about 5% of their work force unemployed.

**TOPIC 205**

The graph below compares figures for the production and consumption of energy in the US from 1950 to 2000. It also predicts figures for 2025. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



The graph shows changes in the gap between US energy consumption and production since 1950. It also estimates trends up to 2025.

Between 1950 and 1970 both production and consumption increased from just over 30 units to about 65, and although consumption was consistently higher, the difference was marginal during this period.

However, production grew only gradually over the next 30 years to reach 70 units in 2000. In contrast, growth in consumption was steeper and more fluctuating, reaching 95 units by 2000. Energy imports needed to bridge this gap therefore increased from very little in 1970 to a substantial 25 units in 2000.

Projections up to 2025 indicate that this trend is likely to continue, with the gap between production and consumption widening. By 2025 it is expected that consumption will reach 140 units, while production will reach only 90, so more than 30% of energy consumed (50 units) will have to be imported.

Overall, the graph indicates that energy production in the US is not keeping up with consumption, so imports will continue to increase.

**Q16-201**

The table below shows the results of a survey to find out what members of a city sports club think about the club's activities, facilities and opening hours.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make any comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Range of activities	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied
Female members	35%	35%	30%
Male members	55%	40%	5%
Club facilities			
Female members	64%	22%	14%
Male members	63%	27%	10%
Opening hours			
Female members	72%	25%	3%
Male members	44%	19%	37%

The table compares the opinions of male and female club members about the services provided by a city sports club.

We can see from the responses that the male members are generally happy or satisfied with the range of activities at the club, with only 5% dissatisfied. In contrast, however, only about two-thirds of female members were positive about the activity range and almost a third were dissatisfied.

The genders were more in agreement about the club facilities. Only 14% of women and 10% of men were unhappy with these, and the majority (64 and 63% respectively) were very positive.

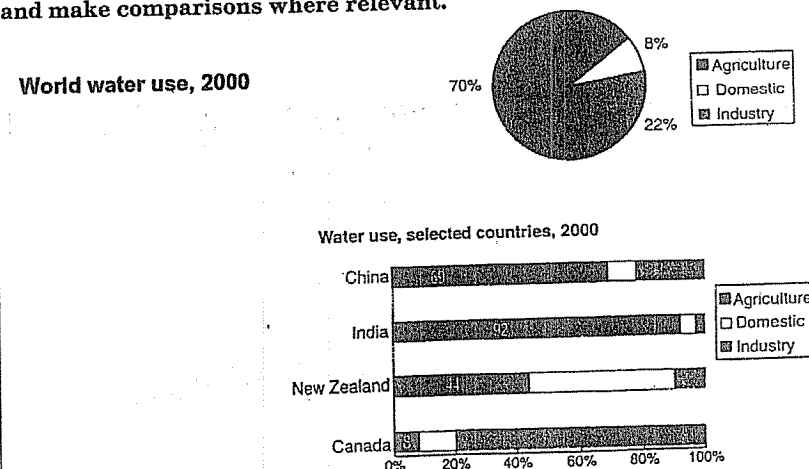
Finally, the female respondents were much happier with the club opening hours than their male counterparts. Almost three-quarters of them were very satisfied with these and only 3% were unhappy, whereas nearly 40% of the men expressed their dissatisfaction.

Overall, the table indicates that female members are most unhappy with the range of activities, while male members feel that opening hours are the least satisfactory aspect of the club.

**Q16-207**

The charts below give information about the way in which water was used in different countries in 2000.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



The two diagrams give figures for water use in different parts of the world in 2000. The first indicates that almost three-quarters of world consumption (70%) was for agriculture, while 22% was used for industry and a mere 8% for domestic purposes.

This pattern is almost identical to that for China in 2000, whereas India used even more water (92%) for agriculture and only 8% for industrial and domestic sectors. In contrast, New Zealand used almost equal proportions for agriculture and household use, 44% and 46% respectively, and a slightly higher 10% was consumed by industry.

The pattern in Canada is almost the reverse of the world average, with a mere 80% by industry. Only 12% was used by the domestic sector, which was almost a quarter of the NZ industrial consumption.

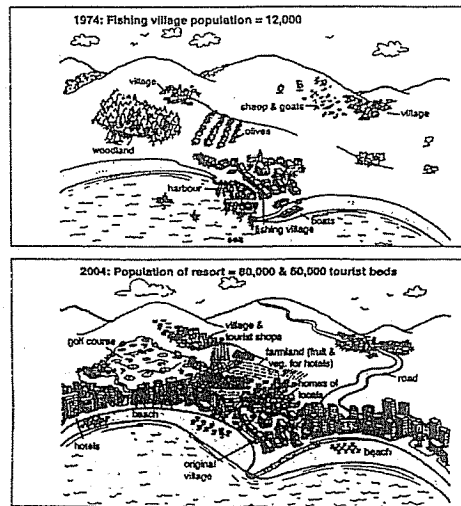
Overall, the data show that water use in the two developing countries is closer to the world patterns of consumption.

**TOPIC 208**

The diagrams below show the development of a small fishing village and its surrounding area into a large European tourist resort.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



The two plans illustrate how a small coastal village in Europe grew into a large tourist centre between 1974 and 2004.

The figures show that over these thirty years, the local population increased dramatically from only 12,000 to 80,000, swelling to a possible 130,000 during the tourist season.

During this period large numbers of high-rise hotels were built along the coastline on both sides of the original village. The harbour and coastal woodlands were replaced by a sandy beach and a golf course for the tourists.

The original village and those further inland on the hillsides were developed with more homes for locals and more shops for the tourist trade. A main road leading from the hills to the coast was built to cope with the increased traffic to the village.

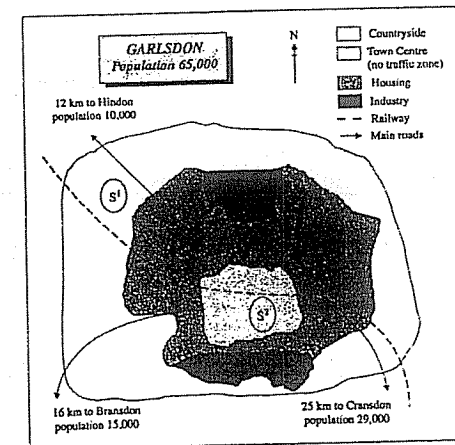
In conclusion, not only the original village, but also the whole surrounding area had been transformed into a well-populated tourist resort by 2004.

**TOPIC 209**

The map below is of the town of Garlsdon. A new supermarket (S) is planned for the town. The map shows two possible sites for the supermarket.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



The map shows two proposed locations for a new supermarket for the town of Garlsdon.

The first potential location (S1) is outside the town itself, and is sited just off the main road to the town of Hindon, lying 12 kms to the north-west. This site is in the countryside and so would be able to accommodate a lot of car parking. This would make it accessible to shoppers from both Hindon and Garlsdon who could travel by car. As it is also close to the railway line linking the two towns to Cransdon (25 km to the south-east), a potentially large number of shoppers would also be able to travel by train.

In contrast, the suggested location, S2, is right in the town centre, which would be good for local residents. Theoretically the store could be accessed by road or rail from the surrounding towns, including Bransdon, but as the central area is a no-traffic zone, cars would be unable to park and access would be difficult.

Overall, neither site is appropriate for all the towns, but for customers in Cransdon, Hindon and Garlsdon, the out-of-town site (S1) would probably offer more advantages.

The table below gives information about the underground railway systems in six cities.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

City	Date opened	Length of route (in kilometres)	Passenger per year (in millions)
London	1863	394	775
Paris	1900	199	1191
Tokyo	1927	155	1927
Washington DC	1976	126	144
Kyoto	1981	11	45
Los Angeles	2001	28	50

The table shows the details regarding the underground railway systems in six cities.

London has the oldest underground railway systems among the six cities. It was opened in the year 1863, and it is already 140 years old. Paris is the second oldest, in which it was opened in the year 1900. This was then followed by the opening of the railway systems in Tokyo, Washington DC and Kyoto. Los Angeles has the newest underground railway system, and was only opened in the year 2001. In terms of the size of the railway system, London, for certain, has the largest underground railway system. It has 394 kilometres of route in total, which is nearly twice as large as the system in Paris. Kyoto, in contrast, has the smallest system. It only has 11 kilometres of route, which is more than 30 times less than that of London.

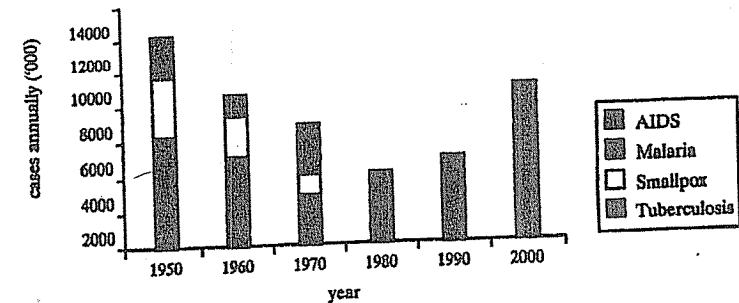
Interestingly, Tokyo, which only has 155 kilometres of route, serves the greatest number of passenger per year, at 1927 millions passengers. The system in Paris has the second greatest number of passengers, at 1191 millions passengers per year. The smallest underground railway system, Kyoto, serves the smallest number of passengers per years as predicted.

In conclusion, the underground railway system in different cities vary a lot in the size of the system, the number of passengers served per year and in the age of the system.

The graph below gives information about the progress of certain diseases during childhood between 1950 and 2000 in a developing country.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.



The graph shows figures for the number of cases of certain diseases in childhood over a period of 50 years from 1950 to 2000. It seems that overall these diseases decreased substantially until about 1980 but then started to increase again.

However, certain diseases have shown different trends. Firstly, malaria appears to have remained fairly constant over the period with between 2 and 3 million cases apart from 1960 when there were only one million instances of the disease in childhood. Also, the figures for some diseases have fallen significantly. Although there were 3 million recorded cases of childhood smallpox in 1950, the disease appears to have been completely eradicated by 1980. In 1950 the number of occurrences of tuberculosis peaked at 6 million and subsequently decreased dramatically until they reached an all time low of 500,000 in 1980. Since then there has been a gradual increase with one million cases in 2000. Finally, the figures for AIDS, which were first recorded in 1980, have shot up from approximately 500,000 and topped 9 million in 2000.

**TOPIC 212**

The following table shows preferences for academic subjects studied at degree level in different countries. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.

**Subjects studied at university**

	Australia	UK	France
Medicine	10%	Media Studies	15%
History	8%	Literature	12%
Sports science	8%	Sports science	12%
Law	5%	Law	10%
Engineering	3%	Medicine	4%
Languages	2%	Languages	1%
Literature	1%	Engineering	1%
		Sports science	0%

This report describes the enrolments for a number of different subjects in universities in the UK, Australia and France.

As can be seen in the table, medicine is the most popular subject studied in Australia with 10% of the total students compared to France and the UK with 6%

**TOPIC 213**

The table below shows the total appearances in court or 10 to 18 year old children distinguished by age and sex in New South Wales, Australia between July 1994 and June 1995.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.

Age	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Boys	25	90	238	602	1286	2060	2915	3495	1203
Girls	4	3	38	135	300	530	586	596	163

This report describes the number of court appearances for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18, in New South Wales, Australia in 1994 and 1995.

As can be seen from the table, at the age of 10 the court appearances for boys are relatively few numbering a mere 25. Until the age of 17 the figures increase steadily every year when they reach a peak at 3495. At 18, the first year of adulthood, there is a dramatic fall in the total male court attendances to 1203 cases.

The trend for girls is similar in as much as the fewest court cases is 4 at the age of 11 and the figures rise steadily until the age of 15 at 530. Between 16 and 17 the figures remained stable at 586 and 596 respectively. At 18, as in the case with the male statistics, the numbers drop significantly to 163.

Although the general trend is similar for both sexes, the court appearances for boys are between three and seven times more frequent than those for girls.

The table below shows the consumer durables (telephone, refrigerator, etc.) owned in Britain from 1972 to 1983.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.

Consumer durables	1972	1974	1976	1978	1980	1981	1982	1983
Percentage of households with:								
Central heating	37	43	48	52	55	59	60	64
television	83	95	96	96	97	97	97	98
video								18
vacuum cleaner	87	89	92	92	93	94	95	
refrigerator	73	81	86	91	92	93	94	94
washing machine	66	68	71	75	77	78	79	80
dishwasher				3	3	4	4	5
telephone	42	50	64	60	67	75	76	77

The chart shows that the percentage of British households with a range of consumer durables steadily increased between 1972 and 1983. The greatest increase was in telephone ownership, rising from 42% in 1972 to 77% in 1983. Next came central heating ownership, rising from 37% of households in 1972 to 64% in 1983. The percentage of households with a refrigerator rose 21% over the same period and of those with a washing machine by 14%. Households with vacuum-cleaners, televisions and dishwashers increased by 8%, 5% and 2% respectively. In 1983, the year of their introduction, 18% of households had a video recorder.

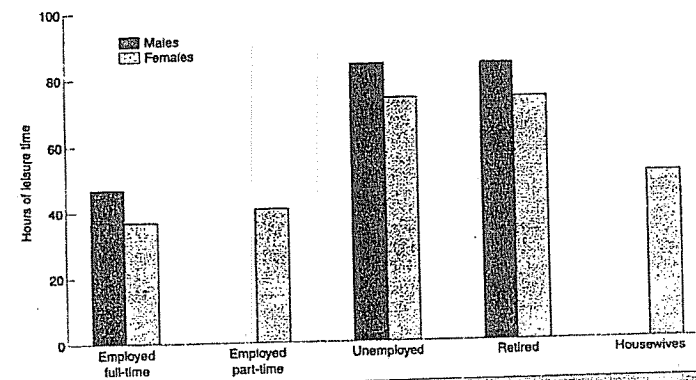
The significant social changes reflected in the statistics are that over the period the proportion of British houses with central heating rose from one to two thirds, and of those with a phone from under a half to over three-quarters. Together with the big increases in the ownership of washing machines and refrigerators, they are evidence of both rising living standards and trend to lifestyles based on comfort and convenience.

The chart below shows the amount of leisure time enjoyed by men and women of different employment status.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.

Leisure time in a typical week: by sex and employment status, 1998-99



The chart shows the number of hours of leisure enjoyed by men and women in a typical week in 1998-9, according to gender and employment status.

Among those employed full-time, men on average had fifty hours of leisure, whereas women had approximately thirty-seven hours. There were no figures given for male part-time workers, but female part-timers had only forty hours of leisure time, only slightly more than women in full-time employment, perhaps reflecting their work in the home.

In the unemployed and retired categories, leisure time showed an increase for both sexes, as might have been expected. Here too, men enjoyed more leisure time-over eighty hours, compared with seventy hours for women, perhaps once again reflecting the fact that women spend more time working in the home than men.

Lastly, housewives enjoyed approximately fifty-four hours of leisure, on average. There were no figures given for househusbands! Overall, the chart demonstrates that in the categories for which statistics on male leisure time were available, men enjoyed at least ten hours of extra leisure time.



Topic 10

The first chart below shows the results of a survey which sampled a cross-section of 100,000 people asking if they travelled abroad and why they travelled for the period 1994 - 98. The second chart shows their destinations over the same period.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Holiday	15,246	14,898	17,896	19,703	20,700
Business	3,155	3,188	3,249	3,639	3,957
Visits to friends and relatives	2,689	2,628	2,774	3,051	3,181
Other reasons	982	896	1,030	1,054	990
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,072</b>	<b>21,610</b>	<b>24,949</b>	<b>27,447</b>	<b>28,828</b>

	Western Europe	North America	Other areas	Total
1994	19,371	919	1,782	22,072
1995	18,944	914	1,752	21,610
1996	21,877	1,167	1,905	24,949
1997	23,661	1,559	2,227	27,447
1998	24,519	1,823	2,486	28,828

According to statistical information, the main reason for traveling abroad is holidays, business, and visits to friends and relatives. Indeed, there is a steady increase in the number of holiday makers; while in 1996 there were about 17,896 of the sample in 1998 there were 20,700 of them. Moreover, with the introduction of more countries within the EC market, travelling for business has also increased. Although there is not a big decrement 3,957 traveled abroad for business during 1998 compared with 3,249 in 1996. Finally, traveling abroad for visiting friends and relatives shows a steady increase over the period 1994 - 1998. While there were about 2,628 travelers in 1995 in 1998 the number increased to 3,181 in 1998. Consequently, there is a steady increase in three main reasons for travelling abroad; Holidays, business, or to visit relatives and friends.

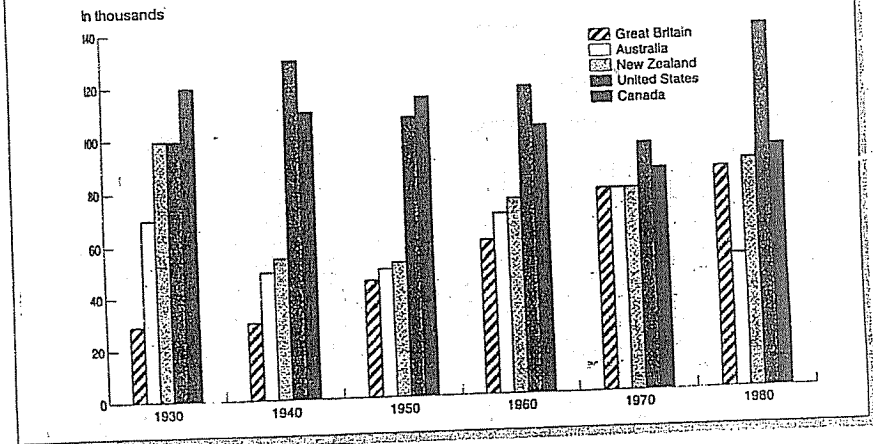
In addition, there is also an increased change in the destinations which people tend to prefer for travelling. The area which appear to be more popular among travellers is Western Europe. Indeed, while in 1994 only 19,371 of the sample preferred to spend their holiday (or other reasons) in that main region, there was an increase to 24,519 in 1998. North America and other areas appeared also favourable. In 1996, there were 1,167 going to North America and 1,905 to other areas. These numbers increased to 1,823 and 2,486 accordingly. Statistical figures prove that Western Europe seems to be the most favourable place for holiday makers while North America and other areas follow behind.

Topic 10

The table below shows the figures for imprisonment in five countries between 1930 and 1980.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information shown below.

You should write at least 150 words.



The table shows that the figures for imprisonment in the five countries mentioned indicate no overall pattern of increase or decrease. In fact there is considerable fluctuation from country to country.

In Great Britain the numbers in prison have increased steadily from 30,000 in 1930 to 80,000 in 1980. On the other hand in Australia, and particularly in New

Zealand, the numbers fell markedly from 1930 to 1940. Since then they have increased gradually, apart from in 1980 when the numbers in prison in New Zealand fell by about 30,000 from the 1970 total. Canada is the only country in which the numbers in prison have decreased over the period 1930 to 1980, although there have been fluctuations in this trend. The figures for the United States indicate the greatest number of prisoners compared to the other four countries but population size needs to be taken into account in this analysis. The prison population in the United States increased rapidly from 1970 to 1980 and this must be a worrying trend.

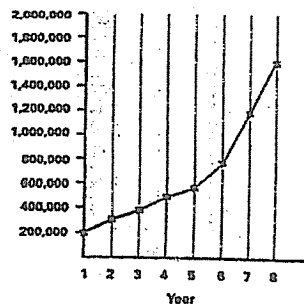
**TOPIC 218**

The graphs below show the number of drivers in Britain who have been caught driving too fast by speed cameras placed on roads, and the number of people killed in road accidents, over an eight year period since the introduction of speed cameras. The tables show the results of a survey on people's opinions on speed cameras.

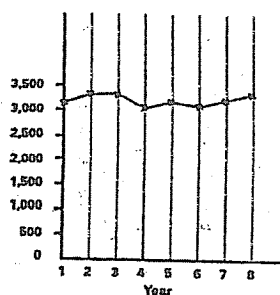
Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information below.

Write at least 150 words.

**SPEED CAMERA FINES**



**ROAD ACCIDENT FATALITIES**



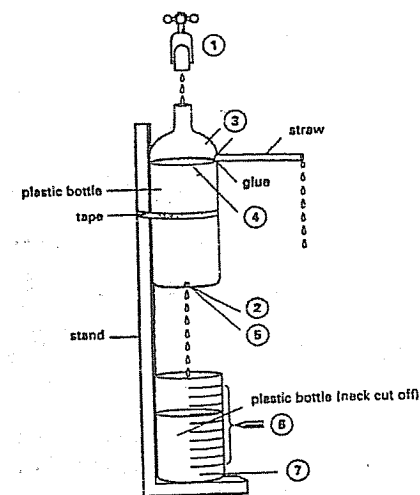
The first graph shows that 200,000 drivers were caught speeding in the first year of speed cameras. After that, the number rose steadily until the fifth year, when it began to rise dramatically. Between the fifth and eighth years, it rose from about 450,000 to over 1.5 million. However, the number of road accident fatalities over

**TOPIC 219**

The diagram below shows the process for making a water clock. Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information below.

Write at least 150 words.

**HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN WATER CLOCK**



1. tap
2. cover hole with finger
3. fill top bottle to overflow
4. level constant
5. finger away from hole
6. levels per minute
7. empty and repeat process for timing things

To build a water clock, you must first get a stand and attach a bottle at the top of it with some tape. This bottle must have a hole in the bottom of it and a hole at the side, into which you give a straw. Then you get another bottle, cut the neck off it and place it beneath the first bottle.

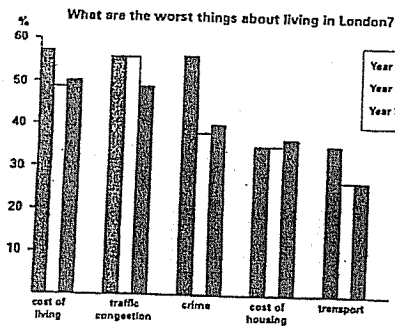
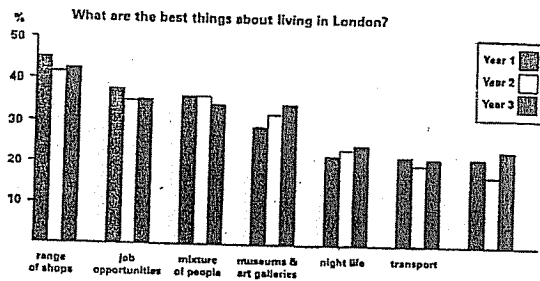
You begin the process by turning the tap on and covering the hole at the bottom of the first bottle with your finger. Water drips from the tap into that bottle until it is full and water overflows through the straw. This keeps a constant level of water in the bottle. Then you take your finger away from the hole, so that water drips through it and into the second bottle. As it drips into the second bottle, you mark with a pen on the second bottle what the level of water is after one minute, after two minutes, and so on. When the second bottle is full and you have made marks for each minute, you empty the second bottle. You can then repeat the process to time things, for example because you know how many minutes it takes for all of the water to pass from the top bottle to the bottom bottle.

Topic 220

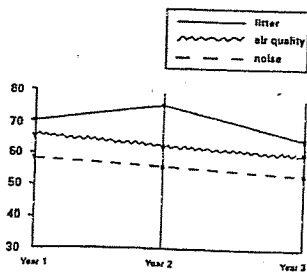
The bar charts and line graph below show the results of a survey conducted over a three-year period to discover what people who live in London think of the city.

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information below.

Write at least 150 words.



Are these things a major problem in London?  
(% of people answering 'Yes')



The first chart shows that the most popular aspects of living in London were the range of shops, the job opportunities and the mixture of people, followed by museums and art galleries, nightlife, transport and parks. The percentage of people naming these things hardly changed at all over the three years of the survey, although the number of people naming shops and job opportunities fell slightly, and the number of people naming museums and art galleries, nightlife and parks went up slightly.

The second chart shows that the cost of living and traffic congestion were seen as the worst aspects of life in London, followed by crime, the cost of housing and transport. However, the percentage of people choosing these aspects fell over the three years in all cases apart from housing. It is interesting to notice that transport was seen as both one of the best and one of the worst things about living in London.

With regard to major problems, the percentage of people who felt that air quality, noise and litter were major problems fell over the three years, although it rose slightly in the second year for air quality. The overall view given by the charts is that people felt that there were improvements with regard to most things they disliked about living in London over the three years.

