In the modern world, it is possible to shop, work and communicate with people via the internet and live without any face-to-face contact with others.

Is it a positive or negative development?

With the Internet having a huge impact on our shopping, work, and communication, we can now live without any face-to-face interaction with other people. Whilst making modern life more convenient in some ways, this situation is a negative trend in the long run.

In this day and age, we can literally stay at home and have almost anything delivered to our homes as most consumer goods are widely available for online purchase. We also have more opportunities in terms of employment because many applications like Skype or Google Hangouts allow employees to work from home. Members of an organization nowadays rely on email and other online platforms to maintain effective communication and ensure their businesses operate smoothly. When it comes to personal relationships, we use Facebook to connect and stay in touch with friends and relatives. The Internet, without doubt, enhance our shopping experiences, makes our workplaces more streamlined and efficient, and facilitates our communication with others.

However, we are faced with a foreseeable and unfortunate consequence due to our reliance on such technology. We are losing direct interactions that are deemed extremely important in this technological era. Children hardly spend time talking to their parents because they are too engrossed in the media hype on Facebook. It is common to see both young and old people with their eyes glued to their phones instead of having conversations as they did before the advent of smart devices. This is leading us toward a society where people will turn to favoring virtual interactions and undervaluing real-life relationships.

The influence of the Internet on many aspects of our lives is remarkable. However, the benefits it offers do not justify the fact that it is inflicting severe damage on our relationships, which can only flourish on the basis of true communication.

(298 words)

Vocabulary

- face-to-face interaction
- almost anything delivered to our homes
- widely available for online purchase
- maintain effective communication
- ensure their businesses operate smoothly
- Stay in touch with somebody
- enhances our shopping experiences, makes our workplaces more streamlined and efficient

- undervaluing real-life relationships
- inflicting severe damage on our relationships

There are more workers to work from home and more students to study from home. This is because computer technology is more accessible and cheaper.

Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

In this day and age, with cheaper and more accessible computer technology, many people are opting to work and study from home. In my opinion, this is a positive development due to several reasons.

To begin with, there are a huge number of benefits for both workers and students choosing this method of work and study. Firstly, people do not need to spend time traveling to school or their workplace as they can now easily access the internet at home to complete their work. As a result, people can not only save time but also minimize the risks and costs of using transport on a daily basis to commute. On top of that, working from home gives people a chance to manage their work and leisure time more effectively. For instance, while people are required to sit in front of a computer and crunch numbers every day from nine to five, people who work from home can easily manage their schedule better to suit their needs in order to complete their work in a better state of mind.

In addition to the benefits that remote work and study brings to individuals; this trend also brings about positive outcomes for schools and businesses. In fact, schools and businesses could save a lot of money that would otherwise be allocated to the construction and maintenance of buildings and facilities. Instead, that money could be invested in enhancing other things, such as updating study programs, or other facilities that allow staff and students to work more effectively, and help to build up the reputation of those institutes as well.

In conclusion, I hold a firm belief that working and studying from home is an advantageous trend as it generates many merits for all sides involved. (291 words)

Vocabulary

- Accessible (adj)
- To minimize the risks and costs of using transport on a daily basis to commute
- To crunch numbers (v)
- A better state of mind
- The construction and maintenance of buildings and facilities
- To build up the reputation of something

Research shows that business meetings, discussions, and training are happening online nowadays.

Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Holding business meetings and training via the internet has gained enormous popularity in recent years. Although the drawbacks of this are varied, in my opinion, the benefits are greater.

On the one hand, conducting meetings and training sessions online may have some major disadvantages. The first drawback is the technical limitations that participants may have, which may reduce the effectiveness of discussions or meetings. For example, the elderly may find it hard to understand and make use of the latest programs and software, while other participants may lose track of the progress of a meeting due to a slow internet connection or platform malfunction. The second disadvantage is the lack of face-to-face interaction which is often considered as the key to a successful meeting or training session. While online attendants may be easily distracted by other interesting, yet non-productive online activities, the physical presence of hosts or trainers would no doubt provide a more engaging and active meeting or training session.

However, I am convinced that the advantages of virtual meetings are more significant. Compared to traditional face-to-face meetings, those held online consume much less time and money. In the past, attendants had to make long trips just to meet with other employees from other branches, however, with online meetings, all team members can join the conference from any place, without the need to travel. Another advantage of online communication is that members who join meetings and training can share and organize files and presentations easily and conveniently. The files can also be edited or revised by other members, facilitating collaboration within the whole team.

In conclusion, it seems that the merits of virtual meetings and pieces of training are more significant than the downsides. (282 words)

vocabulary

- To gain enormous popularity in
- The technical limitations
- To make use of something
- Slow internet connection and platform malfunction
- The lack of face-to-face interaction
- To be the key to something
- To be distracted by something
- To facilitate something

Maintaining public libraries is a waste of money since computer technology can replace their functions.

Do you agree or disagree?

It is often argued that maintaining public libraries is no longer necessary in today's world because the development of computer technology has allowed us to access a great deal of information on the internet more efficiently. While I accept that there are clear benefits of online libraries over public libraries, I believe that it is still worth spending money on maintaining public libraries.

There are two main advantages of online sources of information. Firstly, online sources can store a huge amount of information that is greater than any physical library. This allows researchers to easily get the information they need without having to travel to a local library. Furthermore, people can look for information on the Internet whenever they want, while most libraries can only be visited for several hours per day. This is therefore particularly beneficial to those who have a hectic schedule and cannot visit these places during operating hours.

However, the preservation of local libraries is still necessary because of their distinguishing features which cannot be substituted by online sources. Libraries, in some countries, are still one of the most popular means of accessing information among senior citizens, regardless of the availability of online information. In fact, most elderly people these days are technophobes and therefore physical libraries are their preferred option. Furthermore, public libraries can be considered a more reliable source of information, compared with online sources. Indeed, there is an abundance of inaccurate and unreliable information on the Internet, while libraries have proved to be a more reliable information source, with the information being carefully categorized by library staff members.

In conclusion, despite the benefits of computer technology in providing information, in my opinion, there are good grounds for rejecting the view that spending money on maintaining public libraries is unnecessary. (296 words)

vocabulary

- To store a huge amount of information
- A hectic schedule
- Means of accessing information
- Senior citizens
- The availability of something
- Technophobes
- A reliable source of information
- An abundance of inaccurate and unreliable information on the Internet

Many parents complain that computer games have no value to their children's studies. On the contrary, those online games have produced a lot of negative effects on their mental and physical development.

Do you agree or disagree?

Playing computer games as a hobby is enjoying an upsurge in popularity among young teenagers worldwide. It appears to be a favorite pastime of kids that transcends both cultural barriers and national boundaries. However, in my opinion, these games have little value to them and produce a lot of harmful effects on their physical and mental development.

To begin with, one of the most obvious disadvantages is that these games are highly addictive, compelling children to sit in front of the computer for many straight hours. As a result, they have little time for sports activities and many of them start developing health problems. According to a recent survey, the obesity rate among adolescents aged between 15 and 19 is soaring in industrialized nations as well as in less developed countries, and one of the contributing factors is the lack of physical exercises. Also, intense radiation produced by an operating computer not only causes failing eyesight but also poses untold hidden health hazards in those young children.

In a similar way, indulgence in computer games is detrimental to their mentality in various aspects. For one thing, an increasing amount of time spent playing games means less and less time is devoted to their studies. No wonder that teenagers having this undesirable habit are finding it difficult to meet the deadlines of their school assignments. For another, being accustomed to the fast-changing images that are inherent in every computer game, they can hardly concentrate on any serious subjects, and their attention span is found to be increasingly short. Moreover, teenagers are exposed to sexual and violent scenes featured in many computer games.

In summary, from both physiological and psychological points of view, computer games are indeed valueless and may exert negative impacts on the development of young children. Therefore, it is high time that parents and schools should be alert to the problem, and restrict children's access to those computer games. (323 words)

The main purpose of public libraries is to provide books, and they shouldn't waste their limited resources and space on providing expensive hi-tech media such as computer software, videos, and DVDs.

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

In a traditional sense, libraries are places with a large collection of books. However, the digital age has given today's libraries new means of storing and retrieving information on media other than the printed pages. CD-ROMs, videos, and DVDs are widely used in public libraries, and they serve both the libraries and the readers.

Opponents of a high-tech library would argue that multimedia facilities are expensive. This may be true to some extent because a DVD player is often more expensive than a bookshelf. However, with immense storage capacity, these new high-tech media can actually save the most valuable resource – space. A computer disc 12cm in diameter can store a whole Encyclopedia Britannica which, in printed volumes, would occupy a complete shelf section.

Furthermore, magnetic and digital media can store information much longer than traditional means. It takes great care to protect books from moisture, fire or human damage, and a book in a library serves readers for only a few hundred years. But digital files, easily duplicated and restored, can perhaps last forever.

Finally, visiting a library with multiple media access is much more interesting. Multimedia resources offer readers a dynamic combination of images, sounds, and videos. A reader can actually hear Martin Luther King crying out "I have a dream", or roam about the world with an interactive atlas.

In conclusion, modern technology has turned a public library from a place of lending and borrowing books into an interactive center for the spread of human knowledge and experience. The investment in multimedia facilities by a public library is justified and should be encouraged. (265 words)

Some people think that computers and the Internet are important in children's study, but others think students can learn more effectively in schools and with teachers.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The ways in which children today study, both at home and at school, are radically different from any previous generation, and the increased availability and relatively low price of modern technology have been instrumental in this change. However, I feel that while modern technologies, such as computers and the Internet, are important in assisting a child's learning, this learning should be guided and directed by the experience of teachers.

There is no denying the fact that computers and the Internet are popularly used in the field of education; they can present knowledge in a vivid and novel way. The computer and the Internet can also enable students in enhancing their general understanding of how to solve difficulties in the study as well as giving them vital skills in readiness for later life. However, the problems are: the information that the computer can show has to be pre-programmed and needs constant updating, for example, Encyclopedia's on DVD-ROM; and contrary to popular belief, the Internet may not be a reliable source for knowledge, since there is often conflicting information available when taken from different sources.

Traditional and long-established practice is for children to study and gain knowledge at school, learning skills in various ways taught by traditional methods. A school is a place where students gather to be educated and learn from each other as well as formal educators. At school, students' development is orchestrated stage by stage, step by step by experienced teachers, and their acquisition of knowledge is guided and backed up in a systematic way.

I do not believe that it will help students to learn effectively and in a long-term manner to overemphasizing the use of computers and the Internet. Rather, I feel that modern technologies can complement more traditional teaching and learning methods, without being used as a replacement for these traditions. (305 words)

Computers are increasingly used in education.

In which areas do you think are computers more important and in which areas are teachers more important?

Computers are now essential in many areas of life – modern banking, retail, and information exchange among others. However, this is not true for education. At a simple level, some subjects may be better taught using computers, but to explain important concepts, a human teacher is still indispensable.

There are some subjects in which a computer can be used successfully to teach. Elementary mathematics, elementary language learning, and any area which requires a student to memorize basic facts through repetition are well suited to computer learning. The computer can be programmed to provide an endless number of simple questions, and as the student answers these questions, the facts are learned and reinforced.

However, in the learning and practice of more complex ideas, the computer is not adequate. A computer can evaluate an answer as right or wrong, but it cannot determine why. It cannot find out why a student is making mistakes and then represent important concepts in a different way so the student will understand. It cannot determine at what stage in a mathematics problem the student has made an error; it can only indicate that the final answer is wrong. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught by computers, as there are too many variables for a computer to deal with successfully. In all these cases, a human teacher seems indispensable in class.

Thus, while computers may be useful as a tool for practicing simple skills, they are not an essential feature of modern education, because they cannot monitor a student's grasp of concepts nor evaluate a student's reasoning. Until further developments in computers are made, the human teacher will remain indispensable. (272 words)

Some people point out that there will be less international travel in the future.

Do you think it is a positive or negative trend?

It is said that there would be less cross-country travel in the near future possibly due to the reason that the turmoil happens on sectors of the planet, and thus the visa policy is about to become much stricter. Plus, the constantly rising fuel price gives rise to an unaffordable travel budget. Though the trend can be a little true, I still hope it would not happen.

Cutting down non-essential travelling flights can definitely save the planet immeasurable barrels of crude oil, which shows human's care and love for nature. Environmentally friendly mindsets are no doubt very welcome in today's world which is characterized by all kinds of crisis – including the energy one. Additionally, safety problems caused by travel-related crime are never concerned if international travel is no longer the choice for a holiday plan.

The above scenario seems quite pleasant. However, for that, a lot of fun is sacrificed. Watching 'Travel Log' on the travel channel can hardly offer people something special about where the history happened, or the real thrilling taste on the tongue from the local dishes. How can viewing planimetric scenes on the mass media compete with standing on Catherine the Great's doorstep at St. Petersburg's Winter Palace or walking all along the Great Wall in China? People learn the beauty of the world by experiencing them, don't they? What is more, reducing international travel would adversely influence regions and countries where tourism is the backbone industry. This revenue decrease could have led to another inning of the economic crisis in countries like Malaysia or Thailand, and inevitably, the economy would be hindered on a global basis in today's globalized world.

All in all, cross-boundary travel is a fairly important part of human life as well as a crucial contributor to the world's economy. We had better not spoil the ship for a half-penny-worth of tar. (305 words)

The tendency of news reports in the media to focus more on problems and emergencies than on positive developments is harmful to individuals and society as a whole.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is believed by some that mainstream media channels focus most of their attention on the problems and urgent issues in society, rather than on positive news, and this trend is harmful to people. I partly agree with this Idea because such a tendency involves both positive and negative impacts.

On the one hand, a higher frequency of news stories focusing on negative aspects of society is not a good thing and can have detrimental effects on people's mental state. For example, news about terrorism and war has become so common in the media that some people may hesitate to travel abroad in fear of suffering from a terrorist attack. Secondly, it can also lead people to have a misunderstanding about many aspects within society, which should be given greater respect and recognition. For example, many tabloids, such as Dispatch of Korea or 14Channel of Vietnam, have always reported on the scandals of celebrities, which can mislead the public into believing in the flaws of showbiz, whereas in reality, it is an industry where many people have made many great contributions to society.

On the other hand, the focus on negative issues rather than positive developments is legitimate to some extent. Firstly, the media can be seen as an effective way to spread news, to even the most remote places, and this can help to bring people together in order to solve serious problems. The more people that are informed about issues, the sooner they can be solved. Secondly, it can help to raise awareness amongst citizens. The more negative stories appear in the media, the higher chance that people will become aware of it and take action towards a solution. For instance, news coverage about cancer has now become a common topic in the media, and as a result, a large number of people have switched to a healthier lifestyle.

In conclusion, the media has good reason to report on all issues, although the accompanying negative impacts need to be considered. (331 words)

Vocabulary

- mainstream media channels (n)
- A higher frequency of news stories
- To hesitate to do something
- In fear of suffering from a terrorist attack
- Tabloids (n)
- the scandals of celebrities (n)
- made many great contributions to society
- bring people together

The media should include more stories that report good news.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

A large number of media channels these days are too focused on negative news, probably to increase viewership. However, many people often say that they prefer more good news being covered in the media. I personally agree with this Idea and will explain my reasoning in my essay below.

Bad news dominating the headlines is having an undesirable influence on society. Psychologically, this type of news, unless managed properly, may keep readers in a state of stress and lead them to experience trauma. Stories about ISIS slaughtering innocent citizens for example caused massive damage to people's mental states and instilled fear into their minds. Also, frequent exposure to negative news can distort readers' perception of reality In Vietnam for example, it seems that members of the media do not focus on keeping the public informed of current events anymore, both locally and globally. Instead, they are trying to publish articles with the primary aim of attracting more viewers and therefore increasing profits. This, unfortunately, shapes readers' outlook on society in a negative way.

On the other hand, including good news in the media may have positive effects on the general public. It helps restore our faith in humanity, which inspires moral courses of action to uphold ethical social values. Media stories of good news, as opposed to bad news, can also have a positive psychological implication. Such stories can uplift people to become more optimistic and generally improve both physical and mental health.

In conclusion, I believe recounting more stories of good news can positively affect the moral behavior of a group of people and therefore should receive more attention. Although negative news still has an important place in our life, its severity should be realized so that readers can fully reap all the benefits that the media has to offer. (301 words)

Vocabulary

- Bad news dominating the headlines
- Instilled fear into their minds
- Frequent exposure to negative news
- Distort readers' perception of reality
- Shapes readers' outlook on society
- Restore our faith in humanity
- Inspires moral courses of action
- Uphold ethical social values

Although more and more people read the news on the Internet, the newspaper will remain the most important source of news for the majority of people.

Do you agree or disagree with that statement?

Some people believe that despite the widespread popularity of online media, the traditional newspaper will still hold the most vital position among newsreaders. In my opinion, this idea is rather absurd as the Internet has become increasingly dominant due to the benefits it offers.

The first thing that attracts people to reading news on online sources is their easy access. With the presence of the Internet around almost every corner of the world, people with a portable device such as mobile phone can access huge storage of news. In fact, the latest events, for example, IS Terrorist attacks, would be updated immediately on CNN or New York Times. By contrast, with prolonging procedures including editing and printing, a traditional newspaper might not be able to compete with the Internet in terms of the updating speed.

Another benefit with which the Internet can, from my point of view, take over the position of the printed newspaper is the new experience it brings to readers. One limitation of the newspaper is that it cannot convey visual messages to the people who read news on a regular basis. Meanwhile, the non-stop progress of the technology industry has unfolded the possibility to upload videos and voice records on various online websites. For instance, soccer fans these days can re-watch their favorite matches anytime they want with only a laptop connected to the Internet, which a mere paper cannot do.

In conclusion, I disagree that printed newspaper would continue to be the most crucial source of information because more and more people will be drawn to use the Internet.

Word count: 262

It is believed that people who read for pleasure can develop better imagination and language skills than people who prefer to watch TV.

To what extend do you agree or disagree with this argument?

I agree that reading is thought-provoking and can expand one's imagination. Furthermore, reading has the great potential to develop one's language skills in a more subliminal and in-depth way than watching TV.

By reading, we form a mental picture of what the author narrates and depicts. Through the use of words, the author is creating pictures and images of the scenes within the book in our mind. Though we may have finished reading a novel like God Father, we can often 'see' certain scenes again with a 'rerun' in our mind. Another example is our reading mind may also go along with the multiple reports and stories in a daily newspaper, which helps lift our horizon, develop our cultural enlightenment and enrich our language abilities.

The ability to use language is actually a cumulative build-up from reading. An author should have a large pool of language skills before a volume or an article could be written. By the same token, we read to interpret, understand or even enjoy either for pleasure or for knowledge. In the course of reading, we are willingly or unwillingly influenced and will turn to use what we have read.

In comparison, TV focuses mainly on visual impact and offers audiences instant gratification. The imagery created is external from our mind and is created by the director and depends on the footage taken, though it could be said that this footage is, in itself, a realization of the imagination of the director!

From the contrast between reading and watching TV, I think that reading can make a person perfect. The end resulting from reading is long-term whereas that from TV may be temporary and not as significant in potential as reading.

Nowadays, a lot of media, including newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and even the Internet, are publishing stories of people's private lives. This practice be banned? Do you agree or disagree?

With the increasing competition among a medley of different media, newspapers, magazines, and even the Internet are putting out stories of people's private lives to gain the attention of the public. Yet, this way of boosting sales is hard for me to accept.

Therefore, it is my strong recommendation for the government to ban such practice, which is against moral principles. Seemingly, this problem is not serious enough to be prohibited by the government. However, to expose one's privacy is an insult to his or her dignity. Indeed, in society, everyone, whether a celebrity or an ordinary person, is allowed to enjoy the right of privacy without any infringement. Meanwhile, no one expects that his or her private story gets published and becomes the laughing stock shared by all.

It is true that man is born to be on tiptoe for privacy with curiosity. Nevertheless, it is by no means a sufficient reason to allow the practice of making public people's privacy. As a consequence, it would encourage immoral conduct of nosing into others' privacy. Indeed, some teenagers who have read the information describing the affairs of a movie star could be under the wrong impression about love.

As far as the public is concerned, some private stories give a misleading example of love and marriage. In fact, some newspapers and magazines are teeming with the photos and articles detailing the new girlfriends or boyfriends of celebrities, which contributes to the disturbing mindset that marriage is no longer as important and sacred as before.

In view of the above undesirable impacts, it is reasonable to assume that the practice of printing privacy is detrimental to our social ethics. It is my earnest request to our government that such practice should be forbidden in the form of law. Furthermore, it is the obligation of all citizens to respect and value other people's privacy. (314 words)

The high sales of popular consumer goods reflect the power of advertising and not the real needs of the society in which the goods are sold.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In advanced industrial countries as well as in many less developed ones, new consumer products are emerging at an alarming rate to meet the increasingly diverse needs of people from all walks of life. And it seems that this trend of consumerism is fueled by widespread advertising in modern societies. In my opinion, both factors are critical to the soaring sales of consumer goods.

On the one hand, with the fast pace of modernization, people's physical and spiritual needs are greatly diversified and carefully categorized, which can be witnessed by mushrooming supermarkets, department stores, and shopping malls. From kitchenware to gardening implements, from office consumables to household confections, those places exist to provide a splendid array of modern commodities, catering to every particular taste of humans. No wonder that many housewives are so thrilled at the thought of another shopping spree! Moreover, many new businesses have sprouted up in recent decades. For example, the pedicure industry is thriving in Southeast Asia as an effective channel to relieve the stresses and strains of modern life.

On the other hand, the mighty power of advertising is also a contributing factor. Inundated by a succession of seductive images and attractive prices, most consumers find it hard to resist the allure of possessing the advertised products. Following the principle of "3B" (baby, beauty, and beast), many advertisers use newborn infants, gorgeous females, and domestic animals to stimulate purchasing impulses in the audience their potential customers through those icons are irrelevant to their products. For instance, although car manufacturers and real estate developers have been criticized for using shapely models in their advertisements, the climbing sales of cars and properties give evidence of their great success, at least in commercial terms.

In conclusion, in the analysis of excessive consumption, it is obvious that people's real needs and the magnetism of advertising are the two most powerful forces at work. In fact, it is often difficult to distinguish between them because a really fascinating advertisement can actually create new needs in the viewers, who feel compelled to go on a shopping tour! (347 words)

It is said that the amount of violence on TV programs has a negative effect on our social development and therefore should be reduced.

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

Television is a powerful tool of communication. It may bring us laughter and joy, but may also incite hatred or violence, leading us towards deviant behaviors and crimes. A responsible government should protect the general public by strictly regulating any inappropriate programs on TV.

Over recent years, there has been an increasing amount of media violence. TV series portrays serial killers, gun battles and brutal fighting. News and documentaries illustrate every detail of a startling crime in the name of crime investigation. TV viewers today are so used to violence that they never think it disturbing but find it fun to watch.

Young people and children are the greatest victims of this surge in media violence. Not yet able to distinguish between right and wrong, they often imitate the violence they observe on TV and accept it as the normal way to behave towards others. It is reported that many juvenile crimes are the direct result of viewing aggressive behaviors on TV.

Opponents of strict media control often point out that some of the violence shown on TV is the true portrayal of what is happening around us and people have the right to know it. Although this is undoubtedly true, it also means that people who see them a lot may gradually develop a sense of insecurity and mistrust as they are forced to believe they are living in a dangerous world.

Psychological and sociological studies have concluded that violence on the screen is contributing to the increased crime rate in our world. The government should combat the threat of media violence to the general public. (266 words)

Some people think movies should only be for entertainment. Others think that they should also have educational values.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

While some people consider films simply a source of entertainment, others suggest that films should be educational. Personally, I believe that films can be either, or both, entertaining and educational; however, it is up to each individual to choose what films they like to watch and for what reasons they watch them.

These days, films and TV are extremely popular forms of entertainment. Almost every household owns one or more televisions, and almost everybody loves to watch a certain television program or type of film. After a long day at work or school, many people simply want to come home and sit in front of the TV to relax and be entertained. They may not have the energy or enthusiasm to sit and learn about something. Furthermore, films and television programs are a part of the entertainment industry. The purpose of this industry is for entertainment, and it is a multibillion-dollar industry that creates jobs and generates a lot of money in many countries.

On the other hand, films and TV programs can have very strong effects on the minds of audiences and therefore people should be careful about how the content of the films that they watch affect them and their families. For example, many people's morals and values are shaped by what they watch on TV and in films. In addition, children can learn about right and wrong through the cartoons they watch, while adults can also learn many important lessons through watching films. For instance, watching a film about war may cause people to have a strong sense of patriotism for their country which could be seen as a positive educational effect.

In conclusion, while educational films, such as documentaries, can also be entertaining, and some films for entertainment can also have many educational aspects, I believe it is not necessary that all films need to be educational. (315 words)

Vocabulary

- A source of entertainment = a form of entertainment
- A part of the entertainment industry
- A multibillion-dollar industry
- To generate a lot of money
- Morals and values are shaped by what they watch
- To have a strong sense of patriotism

Some people believe that it is more important to teach children the literature of their own country than other countries.

Do you agree or disagree?

It is argued by some people that local literature is of greater importance in children's education compared to foreign literature. From my perspective, I disagree with this view since both types of literature play equal roles in the development of children.

On the one hand, **locally written works** come with numerous benefits to students. Firstly, these pieces of art can enrich student's skills to use their own language. Indeed, through learning literature of their **mother tongue**, students can learn the art of using the language such as the flexibility in the vocabulary highlights used, the syntax of sentences, different ways to convey ideas. Hence, **linguistic knowledge** will gradually be built up and benefit the students not only in their study but also in social communication. Secondly, national literary works give students an insight into their own culture. For example, through traditional literature, namely fairy tales, legends and fables, students can become familiar with their traditions, native terms and also national values which have been **passed down from generation to generation**. As a result, they will naturally **develop a sense of national identity and patriotism.**

On the other hand, studying foreign literature is also advantageous for the following reasons. To begin with, it gives learners opportunities to expand their horizons by showing them a bigger picture of the outside world. **Having access to** foreign historical events and cultures, commentaries on politics, society, and stereotypes in literature from countries abroad will foster students' awareness of the diversity of the world. Additionally, the students will **be equipped with** a broader range of knowledge to help them be more prepared for the globalized world that we are living in today. To be more specific, the students will have a grasp of the culture of foreign countries and how to adapt themselves in terms of manners, customs or behaviors if they live in that new environment or dealing with foreigners.

In conclusion, it seems to me that there is a need to teach both local and foreign literature at schools so that students can develop comprehensively. (342 words)

Vocabulary

- Locally written works = national literary works
- Mother tongue
- Linguistic knowledge
- To pass down from generation to generation
- To develop a sense of national identity and patriotism
- To have access to something
- To be equipped with something

Some people believe that all the children in school are required to learn at least one foreign language. However, others say that those who are not talented do not have to learn.

What is your opinion?

For children in school, learning a foreign language or not should be determined by the school curriculum. Provided that it is offered as a subject, all students – talented or otherwise- must study it as partial fulfilment of their academic achievement.

The study of a foreign language – especially English for children at Grade s-is now a compulsory requirement at all primary schools in my country although it was not the case just a few years ago. With increased globalization, comes increased cross-cultural contact and because of this, it is important for children to master at least one foreign language at an early age so as to prepare them for this global society. To understand a foreign language is also an opportunity for children to learn about and understand a little about another culture or cultures. Also, it is an opportunity to cultivate students' talent, develop their ability in learning and boost their potential for further education.

It is irresponsible, and indeed, even harmful, to separate and label students as talented or not in education at such a tender and vulnerable age. Why should the study of a foreign language alone be used as the only yardstick to label students as talented or not in education? It is advisable to help all students to understand that the study of a foreign language will bring benefit to their studies and, in the future, their careers.

Thus, I feel that it is not healthy to advocate the labelling of students as talented or not in the study of languages.
(256 words)

The tradition of families getting together to eat meals is disappearing.

What are the reasons? What are the impacts?

Nowadays, it seems that families tend to eat together less frequently. This essay will put forward some explanations for this trend and an analysis of the potential impacts.

The fact that family members choose not to eat with each other can be attributable to two reasons. Firstly, since people these days tend to **have heavier workloads and more hectic schedules** than in the past, sitting down to share a meal with their family members might not be a convenient choice. Instead, these individuals usually eat out with their friends, colleagues or business partners near their workplace which can be more suitable for their timetable. Secondly, the **fast-food culture of modern life** can **change people's eating habits** because fast food can be found everywhere and is usually an inexpensive food choice. For instance, young people in Vietnam often grab a quick meal after a busy day at work or school, which leads them to skip meals with their family when they go home.

The trend has both positive and negative impacts on people. In terms of the benefits, people are able to be much more flexible with their time. They will not have to show up at a fixed hour to have meals with their family and can eat whatever and whenever they want. However, in terms of the negative effects, this can **lead to a weaker family bond**. If a family continuously eats separately, family members may not be able to share their thoughts, feelings with each other, and therefore may feel isolated from each other. This will result in a lack of deep family connection.

In conclusion, the tendency of family members to eat separately is mainly caused by the difference in their schedules or the preference to eat fast food, which can have both positive and negative impacts. (300 words)

Vocabulary

- To have heavier workloads and more hectic schedules
- The fast-food culture of modern life
- change people's eating habits
- To lead to a weaker family bond

Many museums and historical sites are mainly visited by tourists but not local people.

Why is this case and what can be done to attract more local people to visit these places?

Many museums and historical sites have become an attraction to tourists although they fail to increase the number of local visitors. This essay will analyze some main reasons for this as well as measures to encourage more local people to visit such places.

The causes for a huge difference in the number of the two mentioned types of visitors are varied.

First, people who live in the neighborhood seem to be familiar with their traditional customs and history. Going to those places would be therefore a waste of time and money owing to the entrance cost, and people would not pay an amount of money to see what they have already known. Meanwhile, tourists from other places tend to pay a visit to museums to know more about a new culture when travelling to a new region. Second, the design of museums and historical sites almost remained unchanged throughout decades, which can be visually unattractive to local residents who have been there at least once in earlier years. However, these places always pick tourists' curiosity during their first trip.

Some measures can be taken to stimulate more local inhabitants to visit museums and historical places. To begin with, those places should serve both education and entertainment purposes. More game zones should be constructed or didactic as well as recreational competitions should be conducted to increase the number of the local who come to enjoy their time. Furthermore, if the layout of museums and historical sites are renovated with more decorations and ornate designs of the interior, not only tourists but also more local visitors will come.

In conclusion, there are two principal causes for the locals' disinterest in spending their time in nearby museums and historical places as mentioned, and actions should be taken to encourage people to go to such places.

Word count: 301

Some people think government funding should not be used for supporting art and culture, while others think supporting cultural activities may be beneficial for the population and the culture.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Opinions diverge on the necessity of funding cultural activities. While some claim it is an unnecessary investment, others believe both citizens and cultures would benefit if governments were to provide financial support for art and culture. I will discuss both views and state my own opinion in this essay.

On the one hand, many people oppose **investing in** cultural activities because there are more serious issues to address. The **deterioration of transport infrastructure** in many cities, for example, is the major reason for the increased number of traffic accidents. Using money for the construction of new roads and highways would bring about immediate effects and save thousands of lives. In addition, nations across the globe are **facing many environmental problems** that require urgent attention, namely pollution and natural resource depletion. National leaders, therefore, should join forces with scientists to combat these issues by allocating financial resources to the development of renewable and environmentally friendly sources of energy. There is no point in spending money on cultural activities before ensuring a safe and clean environment for citizens.

Advocates of art and culture, on the other hand, argue that cultural activities **play an important role** in people's lives. Cultural events, like the Tet holiday or Christmas, are occasions when family members gather together, which helps to **strengthen the sense of family and community** and further enriches people's lives. Moreover, funding these activities helps to **preserve cultural diversity**, especially in such a globalized world where so much culture is being lost and forgotten. The Vietnamese government, for instance, has constructed many museums that solely exhibit examples of ethnic minority culture, whose populations are decreasing at an alarming rate.

In conclusion, I believe that cultural activities are of great significance and require attention and financial support from governments. However, it is also the government's duty to address issues in transportation and the environment to protect citizens' lives and maintain a healthy environment for people to live in. (321 words)

Vocabulary

- To invest in something
- The deterioration of transport infrastructure
- To face many environmental problems
- To play an important role in something
- To strengthen the sense of family and community
- To preserve cultural diversity

Some believe that it is good for a country's culture to import films and TV programs, while others think it is better for a country to have its own films and TV programs.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

There has been a difference of opinion regarding the merits of foreign movies and TV channels to the culture of a country as people believe domestic products would be better. From my perspective, both of those categories are equally important.

On the one hand, people usually believe foreign films and telecasts can contribute to the cultural diversity of a nation. Fascinating social norms and practices, such as public hugging which is common in the US, can be imported to other nations as Hollywood blockbusters are becoming more popular. This phenomenon is believed to benefit the richness of the host country's traditional backgrounds. Furthermore, the import of international movies and TV shows could improve the country's sets of beliefs. In Vietnam, for example, the ceremony of funerals is often perpetuated with ongoing depraved customs such as gambling and drinking. Since the arrival of TV shows from more developed nations, which triggers a new and civilized way of thinking, such practices have been gradually aborted.

On the other hand, it appears to me that producing local movies and TV programs has the same importance. Citizens of a country would be able to acquire knowledge about their own culture. Apparently, profound insights into traditional values can be vividly conveyed in cinemas and in the media if the content is made by local people. The second point is that this way can relieve the worry of cultural assimilation which has emerged as a detriment to the existence of a country's traditional beliefs and customs. In fact, if exotic practices are absorbed thoughtlessly, it might lead to the oblivion of the long-standing ethics.

In conclusion, I would argue that both types of films and TV telecasts play an equal role in a country's culture.

Word count: 289

In today's world of advanced science and technology, we still greatly value our artists such as musicians, painters, and writers.

What can art tell us about life that science and technology cannot?

In this modern era of **continual scientific and technological advancement**, artists are still **gaining a lot of respect from** people the world over. There are a number of things about life that the arts can teach us that science and technology fail to.

Many forms of art, especially literature, can **deliver messages about the appreciation of** what we have in life as well as life itself. Hundreds of literary works depict misery, misfortune and sorrow that still exist in life today, and this sends a strong message to those who do not appreciate their lives. "The Goldfinch", for example, which narrates a story about the miserable life of the main character after the unfortunate death of his mother makes us wonder whether we have become heartless toward our own loved ones. I doubt that there are any technologies in the world that could manage to convey such a powerful message.

Arts teach us **to cherish the beauty of culture** and are **the fuel for our spiritual lives**. This is extremely important in a world where science and technology seem to fade our belief in **the gravity of culture in daily life**. The connection between art and culture is boundless, and traditional music and ancient paintings can remind us of where we came from and who we are. That is to say, our cultural identity is preserved in various forms of art.

Although science and technology advance our understanding of all things and better our lives, arts can touch us to a much deeper extent, help us value what we have, and remind us of the significance of our culture. (269 words)

Vocabulary

- Continual scientific and technological advancement
- To gain a lot of respect from somebody
- To deliver messages about the appreciation of something
- To cherish the beauty of culture
- The fuel for our spiritual lives
- The gravity of culture in daily life

Many university students live with their families, while others live away from home because their universities are in different places.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of both situations?

While a number of university students opt to stay with their families when pursuing higher education, some choose to live far away. In this essay, I will analyze both the advantages and disadvantages of the two options.

On the one hand, there are several benefits of living with families when going to local universities. One compelling point is that students can minimize their expenditures like rent, utility bills, and renovations are no longer concerns. Consequently, students can set aside financial worries and focus solely on their studies and improve their performance. Nevertheless, staying with families also means that students have to face strict supervision and a lot of bindings. Living in their parents' house, undergraduates will have to live by the norms and rules that their parents set, which can be restricting and frustrating at times.

On the other hand, living away from home for further education can be a lifetime experience for many students. In fact, living far away from home can teach students invaluable lessons that can assist them when joining the future workforce. When living alone, they will have to take care of themselves as well as learn to tolerate and overcome difficult times, which will not only help harness their many skills but also provide them with a sense of freedom. However, living on their own means that students will have to shoulder a lot more duties and responsibilities without support from their family, ranging from securing their academic results to balancing their budgets. Constantly experiencing such unpleasant situations can put students under great pressure, which may result in stress-related illnesses.

In conclusion, though staying with families can relieve students of financial problems, it can as well deprive students of their freedom. In contrast, living in another accommodation, though provides salutary lessons, may cause a lot of discouragement to undergraduates.

(305 words)

Vocabulary

- To minimize their expenditure
- To live by the norms and rules
- a lifetime experiences
- To harness their many skills
- To shoulder a lot more duties and responsibilities
- To balance their budgets

Some teachers think that international student exchange programs would be beneficial for all teenage school students.

Do you think its advantages will outweigh the disadvantages?

Many teachers hold the view that international exchange programs would bring benefits to all teenage school students. In my opinion, although such programs can be disadvantageous to students to a certain extent, I believe that the advantages are still more significant.

To begin with, the biggest difficulty for students when attending an exchange program is the financial burden on their families. More specifically, many parents whose income is at a low or average level may struggle to cover tuition fees and daily living expenses for their children, especially when students study in a developed country. To make matter worse, students who travel to another country through an educational exchange program would not receive medical coverage like the local people. Therefore, if an exchange student happens to encounter a serious health problem during their stay, it will cost their family a fortune to cover the cost of healthcare services and medications in a foreign country.

However, there are numerous benefits that can be gained from international student exchange programs. Firstly, studying abroad allows students to significantly improve their foreign language skills. In fact, when studying in a new country, students will have the perfect opportunity to engage in conversations with their classmates and teachers, in both academic and general contexts on a daily basis, which is the perfect condition for them to improve their language skills. Furthermore, studying in a developed country often gives students access to more modern and effective facilities and methods of learning. Finally, although studying abroad can be costly, all international students have equal opportunities to apply for scholarships and financial aid from the host country to ease such financial burdens.

In conclusion, though financial problems may cause some difficulties for students and their families when participating in international exchange programs, the positive aspects that such programs bring to students are well worth the cost.

(309 words)

Vocabulary

- The financial burden on their families
- To struggle to do something (v)
- Receive the medical coverage like the local people
- Encounter a serious health problem
- To engage in = to participate in something (v)
- Access to more modern and effective facilities and methods of learning
- Financial aid (n)

For school children, their teachers have more influence on their intelligence and social development than their parents.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Both teachers and parents play a significant role in a child's upbringing. In this essay, I will discuss why I disagree that teachers are a greater influence on the intelligence and social development of children than their parents.

The first few years of a child's life are spent almost entirely in the company of their parental figures. These years are critical in the social development of a child, as they contain their first attempts to communicate with other people in order to receive the care and attention necessary for survival. Most school children start their education between the ages of four to seven years. Therefore, they have already experienced a considerable amount of parental influence before teachers are even introduced to them.

Other significant factors in the intelligence and social development of a child are the socioeconomic circumstances that they are brought up in. The quality of a child's social life, schooling, and health are all socioeconomic factors that heavily influence a child. These factors are a direct consequence of the circumstances brought about by the child's parents. Better teachers will endow a child with greater intelligence and social skills; however, better teachers are, on average, found at better schools. The attendance of a child at a good school is usually the consequence of a decision made by their parents.

I believe that parents are a far greater influence on the intelligence and social development of children than teachers because, firstly, the early developmental years of a child's life are almost entirely influenced by the company of their parents and, secondly, because the socioeconomic factors of a child's life are usually a direct consequence of the factors which affect their parents.

(281 words)

Vocabulary

- play a significant role in a child's upbringing
- in the company of somebody
- attempt to do something
- parental influence
- the socioeconomic circumstances
- endow a child with greater intelligence and social skills

Given the high unemployment rate, it is recommended that the government only provide primary education and no secondary education.

What do you think?

It is believed that countries that have high unemployment rates should only offer primary education, and extending secondary education to students who are not likely to find work in the future is a hopeless attempt. I personally consider this to be a flawed argument, and I will explain my reasoning in the essay below.

Important as it is to a child's overall development, primary education does not provide any necessary work skills. The fundamental aim of this early stage of education is simply to lay a basis for a student's cognitive development through the learning of language, art, and basic science. People who complete this level of education are not equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to enter the workforce. While those people may find blue-collar employment, it is unlikely that they can get a decent job. Therefore, if a country with a high unemployment level only offers primary education to the majority of students, the outcome will not be worthwhile.

Furthermore, I would argue that investing in secondary schooling systems and delivering secondary education to young students are of greater importance when it comes to improving the overall employment rate of a country. In fact, nowadays, many middle and high schools hire a large number of secondary education degree holders who work better with younger age groups and are more familiar with the subjects taught at this level of education. There are also many other types of non-academic careers, such as in the beauty and entertainment industries, that only require a secondary education degree. Last but not least, I believe that we should not restrict secondary education to a certain group of students who are deemed eligible because everyone deserves an equal opportunity to access education.

In conclusion, I disagree that providing only primary education is the best course of action to be adopted in the context of a nation with a high rate of unemployment. Secondary education, on the other hand, is a major contributor to combating unemployment. I also believe that we should not dispense secondary education to only a select number of students as everyone has the right to be educated.

(356 words)

Vocabulary

- lay a basis for a student's cognitive development
- flawed (adj)
- Equip somebody with something
- enter the workforce
- find blue-collar employment

Scientific research should be carried out and controlled by governments rather than private companies.

Do you agree or disagree?

Scientific research plays an important role in the development of humanity. Some people think that the responsibility for conducting and managing it should be taken by governments, and not by private companies. Personally, I believe that both governments and private businesses should have the right and duty to carry out research.

I believe that governments should play the leading role in performing research due to a number of reasons. Firstly, scientific research is the key to finding solutions to the pressing concerns of society. Thorough medical research, for example, needs to be conducted by governments to develop vaccines against potential epidemics. Research into renewable energies is also crucial to deal with global warming. These kinds of research require a great deal of spending, which can only be afforded by the government. In addition, scientific studies controlled by governments will ensure that reliable and ethical methods are used, and minimize the risk of these studies being used for criminal activity. For instance, studies related to nuclear power or weapons must be carried out or supervised by governmental organizations to protect a country from terrorism or other warfare.

However, private companies can do research which is not carried out by governments. In fact, many useful scientific discoveries have been made by private institutions. To illustrate, the invention of the iPhone by Apple, a corporation in the US began the era of smartphones and facilitated modern forms of interaction between people all over the world. Furthermore, encouraging profit-driven companies to conduct scientific investigations will help them develop their own products and create competition in the marketplace. Society will therefore benefit from new inventions and better products.

In conclusion, although governments should control and carry out major scientific studies, private companies should not be deprived of the right to do research.

(297 words)

Vocabulary

- Play the leading role in something
- To be the key to something
- To develop vaccines against potential epidemics
- To deal with something
- To minimize the risk of something
- To begin the era of something
- To facilitate modern forms of interaction
- To conduct/carry out scientific investigations

Some people believe that it is more important to teach children the literature of their own country than other countries.

Do you agree or disagree?

It is argued by some people that local literature is of greater importance in children's education compared to foreign literature. From my perspective, I disagree with this view since both types of literature play equal roles in the development of children.

On the one hand, locally written works come with numerous benefits to students. Firstly, these pieces of art can enrich student's skills to use their own language. Indeed, through learning literature of their mother tongue, students can learn the art of using the language such as the flexibility in the vocabulary highlights used, the syntax of sentences, different ways to convey ideas. Hence, linguistic knowledge will gradually be built up and benefit the students not only in their study but also in social communication. Secondly, national literary works give students an insight into their own culture. For example, through traditional literature, namely fairy tales, legends and fables, students can become familiar with their traditions, native terms and also national values which have been passed down from generation to generation. As a result, they will naturally develop a sense of national identity and patriotism.

On the other hand, studying foreign literature is also advantageous for the following reasons. To begin with, it gives learners opportunities to expand their horizons by showing them a bigger picture of the outside world. Having access to foreign historical events and cultures, commentaries on politics, society, and stereotypes in literature from countries abroad will foster students' awareness of the diversity of the world. Additionally, the students will be equipped with a broader range of knowledge to help them be more prepared for the globalized world that we are living in today. To be more specific, the students will have a grasp of the culture of foreign countries and how to adapt themselves in terms of manners, customs or behaviors if they live in that new environment or dealing with foreigners.

In conclusion, it seems to me that there is a need to teach both local and foreign literature at schools so that students can develop comprehensively.

(342 words)

Vocabulary

- Locally written works = national literary works
- Mother tongue
- Linguistic knowledge
- To pass down from generation to generation
- To develop a sense of national identity and patriotism
- To have access to something
- To be equipped with something

Some people think that it is more effective for students to study in a group while others believe that it is better for them to study alone.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

People have different views about whether students should work collaboratively with each other or whether they should study on their own. In my opinion, each studying method has its own advantages, and therefore, choosing which method to employ depends on the student.

On the one hand, studying in a group can bring students many benefits. Firstly, if students study with others, when a question regarding the subject they are learning arises, they can discuss that question and have it fully and immediately answered, which can greatly facilitate their learning process. Secondly, students can have further discussions over the issue raised in their textbook or by their instructor if they study in a group. For example, a group of law students can discuss whether the practice of abortion is a violation of human rights or not. Each student will have a chance to listen to the views of others with regard to the problem, present their own Ideas and discuss those ideas with other students. Thanks to this, all students will have a more thorough insight into the issue.

On the other hand, studying alone also proves to be effective for many students. Some students prefer to study alone in a quiet environment in order to be able to better concentrate on studying and prevent themselves from being disturbed by others. There are also other students who study more effectively if they are alone because this allows them to work at their own pace. For example, when studying independently, a student can spend more time researching a topic that he or she is interested in or does not adequately understand. This is nearly impossible if that student studies in a group where members have to stick to the group's studying schedule.

In conclusion, studying in a group or studying alone can be equally advantageous to students. Students should adopt the studying method which they consider to be more effective and suitable for them.

(322 words)

Vocabulary

- collaborative (adj)
- To facilitate their learning process
- To have a more thorough insight into the issue
- To concentrate on something
- To disturb somebody
- To stick to the group's studying schedule

Model Essay 2

Some people argue that studying in a group would be more practical for learners, whereas others believe that the best option is to educate individually. In my view, pupils should find their peers and learn together because it makes them more motivated and passionate whenever they feel tired.

On the one hand, many individuals say that team skills make pupils perform better in life and school. If they cooperate with their classmates, they will come up with new ideas. In many cases, teamwork can increase their productivity and creativity. To illustrate this, the majority of pupils are shy when they present their classwork to others. It is because of their stress and anxiety which can be solved by communicating in a group. As a result, they will become more sociable and might have better job opportunities after graduation.

On the other hand, a growing number of people say that students can focus better while they study by themselves. In other words, numerous learners tend to be distracted by any noise, and, consequently, it can have a detrimental effect on their education. Although studying alone can be tiring, it creates self-discipline. For example, they can have a personal plan and schedule since they do not need to rely on others. In addition, some students disagree with each other and waste their time while they work with their peers. This can be avoided if they do their homework separately.

To sum up, although views differ about self-study and studying in a team, I believe teamwork is more useful because it helps them to make more progress in their lessons.

(Words 268)

Many people say that universities should only offer places to young students with the highest marks, while others say they should accept people of all ages, even if they did not do well at school.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

In today's society, where the acquisition of knowledge is the key to better career prospects, having access to tertiary education is a life-changing opportunity for many students. However, some claim universities should only accept young students with the highest grades, while others believe every student, regardless of age and academic ability, should be given equal educational opportunities. I will discuss both views and state my opinion in the following essay.

Firstly, high school students with higher grades are more deserved to attend university as their grades somewhat imply that they have superior academic skills compared to their peers, be it better memory, logical thinking, or time management skills. Therefore, such students are more likely to handle the immense workload and pressure at university. Moreover, offering university places to only a limited number of students would result in high-quality undergraduates. For example, most prestigious colleges in Vietnam, whose acceptance rates are low, only recruit the highest scorers in the national university entrance exam to make sure that all of the universities resources are available for students who have a higher chance of success.

As sensible and beneficial as it is, many people oppose the aforementioned idea since they believe that only accepting young academically-gifted individuals is unfair to older students or those who do not do well at school. Firstly, a student's s age or performance at school does not always reflect their potential to succeed at university. Thus, it is unethical to deny access to tertiary education to some students, especially in a world where formal qualifications are of great importance in gaining employment. Also, there is more to college admissions than just academic performance. In fact, many well-known universities in America, like Harvard or Yale, not only accept academically gifted students but also those who are particularly gifted in sport or art. This helps to maintain a diverse community, where each student is valued and rewarded for what they are good at instead of just academic excellence.

In conclusion, although only accepting students with high marks is advantageous in some ways, I believe providing university places for all students is more just and beneficial in the long run.

(360 words)

Vocabulary

- The acquisition of knowledge
- Life-changing (adj)
- To have access to tertiary education = To attend university

- Prestigious = well-known (adj)
- Academically-gifted individuals
- To reflect their potential to succeed at university
- Formal qualifications (n)
- To maintain a diverse community

Nowadays, some employers think that formal academic qualifications are more important than life experience or personal qualities when they look for new employees.

Why is it the case? Is it a positive or negative development?

These days, formal academic qualifications are more highly appreciated than life experience or personal qualities when it comes to the **recruitment process**. There are many reasons for this, and in my opinion, this is a positive development.

The main reason for this tendency is that academic degrees are considered **a tool to measure the level of knowledge** that students are **capable of**. To be more specific, to achieve a good degree in most universities, students need to pass many examinations focusing on testing their knowledge and take part in practical training courses. These factors ensure that students have **gained sufficient in-depth knowledge** in the field that the company is looking for. That is why recruiters place a higher value on employers holding formal academic qualifications. Whereas in terms of people having life experience or personal qualities, these people are likely to lack a suitable amount of academic knowledge in their field, and therefore, they need to be trained for a long time by employers. This results in the reluctance of employers to hire them for vacant positions.

This trend, therefore, will bring about some positive effects on society as a whole. Students will be **motivated to pursue tertiary education** for the sake of their better **career prospects**. By attending university, students can gain insights into their chosen field and have a chance to compete with others. As for society, thanks to this trend, there will be more and more people entering university, which will contribute to a society of more well-informed and educated citizens.

In conclusion, employers prefer people with better qualifications because qualifications are to prove that their holders are sufficiently trained at university. I think that there are many positives for both students and society when employers place emphasis on formal academic qualifications instead of life experience or personal qualities. (301 words)

Vocabulary

- The recruitment processes
- A tool to measure the level of knowledge
- To be capable of doing something
- To gain sufficient in-depth knowledge in something
- To motivate somebody to do something
- To pursue tertiary education
- For the sake of something
- Career prospects

In some countries, small town-center shops are going out of business because people tend to drive to large out-of-town stores. As a result, people without cars have limited access to out-of-town stores, and it may result in an increase in the use of cars.

Do you think the disadvantages of this change outweigh its advantages?

In many countries the world over, small shops in city centers cannot compete with large stores that are based on the outskirts; therefore, many of those small businesses are threatened with closure. This leads to a number of consequences, including a rise in car usage in these countries and access to large out-of-town stores becoming limited for those without cars. In my view, this change does more harm than good.

Increasing bankruptcies among small town-center shops are an unfortunate situation that puts local people to great inconvenience, with those who are not in possession of a car standing most affected, because they now have to travel to a distant place to shop. (2) The time used for such journeys could be better spent on other activities that are of greater importance, be it work or entertainment. The situation's impacts are also far beyond individual levels. It causes a significant loss for the economy of any city where large numbers of such businesses are forced to shut down. This may inflict unexpected damage on the national economy as a whole.

The rise in car usage caused by people's demand for long-distance travel is also problematic. Traffic congestion will become worse due to the higher number of vehicles on the streets. Furthermore, the number of pollutants emitted from car engines will rise, which heightens pollution levels in those places and adversely affects human health.

However, this change in people's shopping preferences may encourage them to move to out-of-town areas to live. Given the fact that modern cities are faced with overpopulation and consequently ever-growing pressure on housing supply systems, this could be considered a start of relieving such pressure.

In conclusion, the trend towards shopping in large stores located away from city centers is having many negative impacts. Although it could encourage some people to move to places where these stores are established and help to solve some population problems in modern cities, I doubt that the trend could promise any significant outcome. (329 words)

Vocabulary

- To compete with something or somebody
- To be threatened with something
- A rise in something
- Increasing bankruptcies among small town-center shops

- To be faced with overpopulation and consequently ever-growing pressure on housing supply systems

Some cities have few controls over the design and construction of housing and office buildings. People think that they should be free to choose the design they like.

Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

It is true that in some cities, the residents do have the freedom to design their homes or office buildings in their own way because there are limited government regulations on how it should be done. Although some clear benefits of such a trend can be seen, they are, in my view, eclipsed by the considerable drawbacks.

On the one hand, there are many benefits of having less oversight on building design. The first advantage is that it gives scope for creativity. This allows designers or house owners to be more open to new ideas and to freely experiment with new materials and designs, which may eventually lead to the arrival of more innovative and unique buildings. Secondly, the freedom of construction design gives owners an opportunity to fulfil their personal preferences which may vary significantly from person to person. While some maybe passionate about a traditional design, others might enjoy a more modern perspective. A building should not be considered a mere shelter but a place where its owner feels a sense of satisfaction and contentment as well. As such, in such circumstances, a loose regulation on the design and construction of buildings is obviously advantageous.

On the other hand, I believe that the disadvantages of this trend are more significant. Firstly, houses and other buildings which are built without any strict or uniform building codes may be vulnerable to serious damage, especially due to natural disasters. A typical example of this is housed in parts of central Vietnam, where there are few regulations from the government on their construction. Due to this lack of government control, whenever a fierce storm strikes the region, thousands of houses lose their roofs, and even worse, are sometimes completely collapsed, leading to both losses of lives and property. Secondly, without strict control on building design, the uniformity of a city can be distorted. This may, in turn, damage the look of the city since the consistency in building design is often accompanied by beauty.

In conclusion, although there are many positive effects of allowing people to freely design their homes or other buildings, it seems to me that these advantages are overshadowed by the drawbacks. (359 words)

Vocabulary

- To have the freedom to do something
- Government regulations (n)
- Scope for creativity
- The arrival of more innovative and unique buildings

- To be vulnerable to something
- Losses of lives and property
- The uniformity of a city

Individuals can do nothing to improve the environment; only governments and large companies can make a difference.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Environmental issues have become an increasing concern among individuals and governments in the modern world. Some people reject the role of individuals and argue that environmental protection can only be achieved by governments and big businesses. I personally consider this to be a flawed argument, and I will explain my reasoning in the following essay.

In reality, governments and corporations take responsibility for protecting the environment. Governments could enact laws to reduce many environmental problems, while large companies are capable of investing large amounts of money in sustainable development goals. However, all the policies and campaigns will show no effect without the active cooperation of residents. In Vietnam, although the government tries to raise the public's awareness of environmental issues and even imposes heavy fines on those who violate environmental laws, many beaches and the surrounding ecosystems have been badly polluted by the sheer number of visitors. Therefore, I believe that there needs to be more action taken from individuals in such situations.

Furthermore, all the combined actions of all people will have a profound impact on the bigger picture. Researchers found that an individual will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 1500 pounds per year if he leaves his car at home two days a week. Another prime example is waste management processes. While residents can spend just a few minutes separating their biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, it takes days for waste recycling plants to achieve the same task.

In conclusion, I disagree with the opinion that environmental issues can only be reduced by governments and large enterprises because individuals also need to make a significant contribution to the process of keeping the planet clean. In other words, this matter can only be dealt with by simultaneous participation of governments, companies and residents.

(297 words)

Vocabulary

- To take responsibility for something
- To enact laws
- To be capable of doing something
- Sustainable development goals
- The active cooperation of residents
- To raise somebody's awareness of something
- To impose heavy fines on something
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Waste management processes

Given the high unemployment rate, it is recommended that the government only provide primary education and no secondary education.

What do you think?

It is believed that countries that have high unemployment rates should only offer primary education, and extending secondary education to students who are not likely to find work in the future is a hopeless attempt. I personally consider this to be a flawed argument, and I will explain my reasoning in the essay below.

Important as it is to a child's overall development, primary education does not provide any necessary work skills. The fundamental aim of this early stage of education is simply to lay a basis for a student's cognitive development through the learning of language, art and basic science. People who complete this level of education are not equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to enter the workforce. While those people may find blue-collar employment, it is unlikely that they can get a decent job. Therefore, if a country with a high unemployment level only offers primary education to the majority of students, the outcome will not be worthwhile.

Furthermore, I would argue that investing in secondary schooling systems and delivering secondary education to young students are of greater importance when it comes to improving the overall employment rate of a country. In fact, nowadays, many middle and high schools hire a large number of secondary education degree holders who work better with younger age groups and are more familiar with the subjects taught at this level of education. There are also many other types of non-academic careers, such as in the beauty and entertainment industries, that only require a secondary education degree. Last but not least, I believe that we should not restrict secondary education to a certain group of students who are deemed eligible because everyone deserves an equal opportunity to access education.

In conclusion, I disagree that providing only primary education is the best course of action to be adopted in the context of a nation with a high rate of unemployment. Secondary education, on the other hand, is a major contributor to combating unemployment. I also believe that we should not dispense secondary education to only a select number of students as everyone has the right to be educated. (356 words)

Vocabulary

- lay a basis for a student's cognitive development
- flawed (adj)
- Equip somebody with something
- enter the workforce
- find blue-collar employment
- non-academic careers

Scientific research should be carried out and controlled by governments rather than private companies.

Do you agree or disagree?

Scientific research plays an important role in the development of humanity. Some people think that the responsibility for conducting and managing it should be taken by governments, and not by private companies. Personally, I believe that both governments and private businesses should have the right and duty to carry out research.

I believe that governments should play the leading role in performing research due to a number of reasons. Firstly, scientific research is the key to finding solutions to the pressing concerns of society. Thorough medical research, for example, needs to be conducted by governments to develop vaccines against potential epidemics. Research into renewable energies is also crucial to deal with global warming. These kinds of research require a great deal of spending, which can only be afforded by the government. In addition, scientific studies controlled by governments will ensure that reliable and ethical methods are used, and minimize the risk of these studies being used for criminal activity. For instance, studies related to nuclear power or weapons must be carried out or supervised by governmental organizations to protect a country from terrorism or other warfare.

However, private companies can do research which is not carried out by governments. In fact, many useful scientific discoveries have been made by private institutions. To illustrate, the invention of the iPhone by Apple, a corporation in the US began the era of smartphones and facilitated modern forms of interaction between people all over the world. Furthermore, encouraging profit-driven companies to conduct scientific investigations will help them develop their own products and create competition in the marketplace. Society will therefore benefit from new inventions and better products.

In conclusion, although governments should control and carry out major scientific studies, private companies should not be deprived of the right to do research. (297 words)

Vocabulary

- Play the leading role in something
- To be the key to something
- To develop vaccines against potential epidemics
- To deal with something
- To minimize the risk of something
- To begin the era of something
- To facilitate modern forms of interaction
- To conduct/carry out scientific investigations

Some people think that a huge amount of time and money is spent on the protection of wild animals and that this money could be better spent on the human population.

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

There are some debates over whether the money that is spent on wildlife protection could be better spent on helping people. Personally, I believe that the protection of wild animals is extremely important and that countries need to invest more money in preserving their native animal species.

Firstly, I do not believe that much time or money is actually spent on protecting wild animals. In addition, I believe that a large majority of the time that people spend on such issues is voluntary work that people do because they are passionate about saving and helping animals. Additionally, a large amount of money that is spent on these causes is from charity organizations that rely mostly on donations. Therefore, we cannot tell people what charities that they should or should not donate their time and money towards.

Secondly, while many people believe that humans are the superior race on planet Earth, others, including myself, feel that all living beings, human and animal, have equal rights to live in peace, and therefore the protection of all animals and their habitats is extremely important. Human activity is no doubt the main cause of most problems wild animals face. The human race has continued to destroy the planet and the natural habitats of wild animals and therefore should be responsible for protecting them so that they can live wild and free, as is their natural state.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that it is essential for the health of the planet to maintain a diverse range of animals and wildlife within all ecosystems. I also believe that due to the widespread devastation humans have caused to the natural environment, it is our responsibility to do whatever necessary, regardless of time and money, in order to restore a healthy balance to the planet's natural environments.

(302 words)

Vocabulary

- Preserve = maintain = protect something (v)
- Be passionate about something
- Charity organizations (n)
- To be the main cause of something
- The natural habitats of wild animals
- To be responsible for something
- The widespread devastation

It is more important to spend public money promoting a healthy lifestyle in order to prevent illness than to spend it on the treatment of people who are already ill.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many people say that in order to fight diseases, the government should invest more money in encouraging a healthy lifestyle instead of spending money on the treatment of people who are already suffering from illness. I advocate this point of view.

On one hand, I agree that a large proportion of the state budget should be allocated to activities or campaigns that promote a healthy lifestyle. This is because a lot of diseases nowadays are actually the direct result of people's unhealthy habits. For example, children who eat fast food on a daily basis commonly can suffer from a range of health issues, such as weight problems and obesity. These diseases can be prevented if people are made more aware of the severe consequences of an unhealthy diet. In addition, there are a number of incurable diseases, such as HIV, AIDS and many forms of cancer. Of course, there are drugs and treatments that can prolong the life of patients suffering from such diseases, but the better solution, in this case, is obviously trying to prevent these diseases from occurring, instead of trying to cure them, which can often place a heavy burden on patient's families, and on society as a whole.

On the other hand, the treatment for people who are already ill should also receive adequate funding, due to the fact that some diseases simply cannot be prevented. People living in many tropical or coastal regions, for example, are highly vulnerable to water-borne diseases after a natural disaster such as a tsunami or heavy flooding. Additionally, there are also some illnesses and disorders that are inherited. For instance, if a person suffers from asthma, it is highly likely that his children will also contract respiratory-related diseases, regardless of their diet or lifestyle. These mentioned cases would be almost impossible for people or the government to prevent, and therefore money needs to be spent on the treatment of patients.

In conclusion, both promoting a healthy lifestyle and spending money on the treatment of people who are already ill are equally important in the fight against diseases, and each country should develop flexible plans to adapt to different situations.

(359 words)

Vocabulary

- To fight something (problems or issues)
- To encourage/promote a healthy lifestyle
- To place a heavy burden on patients' families
- Adequate (adj)
- To be vulnerable to something
- Waterborne diseases (n)

Some people think government funding should not be used for supporting art and culture, while others think supporting cultural activities may be beneficial for the population and the culture.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Opinions diverge on the necessity of funding cultural activities. While some claim it is an unnecessary investment, others believe both citizens and cultures would benefit if governments were to provide financial support for art and culture. I will discuss both views and state my own opinion in this essay.

On the one hand, many people oppose investing in cultural activities because there are more serious issues to address. The deterioration of transport infrastructure in many cities, for example, is the major reason for the increased number of traffic accidents. Using money for the construction of new roads and highways would bring about immediate effects and save thousands of lives. In addition, nations across the globe are facing many environmental problems that require urgent attention, namely pollution and natural resource depletion. National leaders, therefore, should join forces with scientists to combat these issues by allocating financial resources to the development of renewable and environmentally friendly sources of energy. There is no point in spending money on cultural activities before ensuring a safe and clean environment for citizens.

Advocates of art and culture, on the other hand, argue that cultural activities play an important role in people's lives. Cultural events, like Tet holiday or Christmas, are occasions when family members gather together, which helps to strengthen the sense of family and community and further enriches people's lives. Moreover, funding these activities helps to preserve cultural diversity, especially in such a globalized world where so much culture is being lost and forgotten. The Vietnamese government, for instance, has constructed many museums that solely exhibit examples of ethnic minority culture, whose populations are decreasing at an alarming rate.

In conclusion, I believe that cultural activities are of great significance and require attention and financial support from governments. However, it is also the government's duty to address issues in transportation and the environment to protect citizens' lives and maintain a healthy environment for people to live in.

Vocabulary

- To invest in something
- The deterioration of transport infrastructure
- To face many environmental problems
- To play an important role in something
- To strengthen the sense of family and community
- To preserve cultural diversity

Some people say that economic growth is the only way to end hunger and poverty, while others say that economic growth is damaging the environment so it should be stopped.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Many people believe economic development is the only solution to end hunger and poverty, while others think that economic growth should be stopped due to the harmful effects it has on the environment. In this essay, I will examine both arguments and then give my personal opinion.

It is true that economic growth has taken a heavy toll on the environment. Firstly, the ever-increasing demand for industrial development has led to the construction of more factories and manufacturing facilities, which has significantly raised the volume of atmospheric greenhouse gases, which are considered to be the main culprit behind global warming. Furthermore, human activities, such as clearing forests for farming, are directly responsible for the loss of natural habitats for many wild plants and animals, pushing these species to the verge of extinction. This, together with the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, poses serious threats to the survival of mankind, especially with today's rapidly increasing population.

However, trying to stop the economy from developing, due to the drawbacks, is not a rational approach, for economic growth is still the most effective measure to tackle poverty and hunger. A healthy economy will create more employment opportunities for those who come from underprivileged backgrounds and thus ensure a stable income for these people. Therefore, they will be able to earn enough money to cover basic living expenses. Besides this, economic growth also has a crucial role to play in the fight against hunger. With a more generous budget to invest in agricultural development, for example, governments can invest in modern machinery to automate the labor-intensive processes of growing and harvesting crops. Such a boost in productivity will increase food production and eventually put an end to hunger.

In conclusion, it is understandable why many people believe that economic growth should be stopped to protect our environment, however, I think the government should not rely on such a desperate measure because the benefits brought about by economic growth, not only in the fight against poverty and hunger, are far more significant than the drawbacks. (340 words)

Vocabulary

- The (only) solution to
- Take a heavy toll on
- The ever-increasing demand
- The major culprit behind something
- The loss of natural habitat
- Pushing something to the verge of extinction
- Unsustainable exploitation
- Poses a serious threat to

- Has a crucial role to play
- The fight against hunger
- The labor-intensive process
- Put an end to

Some people think governments should spend money on faster means of public transport. However, others think money should be spent on other priorities (eg cost, environment).

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

People have different views about whether money should be spent on public transport or on other more important issues. While faster means of public transport would be a positive measure, I would argue that further investment in other priorities should be made first.

On the one hand, it could be argued that providing citizens with faster forms of public transportation has brought about certain benefits. Firstly, faster forms of transport are said to allow people, particularly commuters, to reduce travelling time to and from work. As a result, people will have more leisure time, and this will lead to an increase in their work productivity. Secondly, by adopting this method, people are less likely to be packed in cramped and hot buses. They will not need to rush to get to work on time or get up so early in order to get a seat on a bus, and therefore, they will have more time to prepare before going to work or school or to enjoy their breakfast with their family.

However, I believe that spending money on other vital aspects is more important. One of the most pressing concerns is environmental pollution. Despite the convenience that public transportation brings to commuters, more and more vehicles are being used each year and exhaust fumes emitted from those vehicles have exerted a detrimental effect on the atmosphere in most large cities. As a result, people are more susceptible to developing respiratory diseases and other kinds of health problems. Another significant issue is the increasing cost of living, which leaves many people struggling to cope with basic daily needs. If such situations are left untreated, this may lead to a decrease in economic growth, amongst other problems.

In conclusion, despite the advantages of improving the speed of public transport, I am convinced that it is better to spend money on more urgent issues, such as the environment and living costs.

(317 words)

Vocabulary

- Further investment in other priorities
- Lead to an increase in their work productivity
- To be packed in cramped and hot buses
- To rush to do something
- Exhaust fumes (n)
- To exert a detrimental effect on something
- To be susceptible to something
- respiratory diseases (n)

Some people think that newly built houses should follow the style of old houses in local areas. Others think that people should have the freedom to build houses of their own style.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

It is a controversial issue as to whether newly built houses should be designed in the same style as existing homes in the same area, or, whether the residents should have permission to construct their houses in a style of their own preference. My view is that people should be given permission to build their houses to their own design, as long as these designs satisfy all necessary safety requirements.

On the one hand, there are some reasons why all buildings in a particular area should have the same style. Firstly, when houses look similar it will enhance a sense of community and equality within a residential area. This is because a house often reflects the wealth and social status of its owner. If a house looks older, smaller, and less attractive than others, the people living there may feel inferior and less confident when socializing with their neighbors. In contrast, a house that stands out in the neighborhood could potentially make its owner the target of gossip or burglary. Secondly, when houses share a common design, it will be easier for the local government to supervise the process of construction, and to make sure that these buildings are safe for both the inhabitants and neighbors.

On the other hand, it should be people's right to build their own house in their own style. A good building should satisfy all three principles of durability, utility, and beauty. It should not only be strong in design and be built to last a long time, but also inspire the people who live there by its aesthetic design. It is extremely important for a person to live in a house that they feel comfortable with as it largely affects their spirit. Furthermore, if each house in an area is built in a unique style, it will greatly contribute to the diverse image of the town.

In conclusion, even though there are certain justifications for houses in an area to be constructed in the same style, I am of the opinion that governments should permit people to build their houses according to their own ideas. (352 words)

Vocabulary

- Safety requirements
- Enhance a sense of community
- Reflects the wealth and social status of its owner
- The target of gossip or burglary
- Share a common design
- To supervise the process of construction
- Aesthetic design

These days people in some countries are living in a "throw-away" society which means people use things in a short time then throw them away.

What are the Causes for this and what problems can this cause?

It is now common to see people purchase things, for example, cell phones and clothes, and only use them for a short period. A number of factors contribute to this throwaway culture and this leads to a range of dire consequences, which will be outlined in the essay below.

One main reason for the modern throwaway culture is that society is greatly affected by consumerism that encourages the mass production of short-lived goods and the consumption of those goods. The market is also flooded with cheap, single-use products, making it easier to buy things in large quantities and dispose of them even before they become unusable. Another point to consider here is that the purpose for which we buy and use consumer products has changed over the past decades. For example, we no longer wait until our clothes wear out to make new purchases; instead, our decisions to buy new clothes are heavily influenced by a number of other incentives, be it better appearances or new fashion patterns.

This practice inflicts severe damage on the environment. Products constantly ending up in trash bins will cause landfills to become overloaded with massive piles of garbage, only a small proportion of which is disposed of properly to avoid harm to the environment. The rest of the garbage, usually non-recyclable and plastic items, are either buried underground or burnt. This can increase air and land pollution levels, and directly harm the lives of people living in the throwaway society. Furthermore, natural resources that fuel the manufacturing of consumer products can be depleted due to the market's nonstop demand for those commodities.

In conclusion, a throwaway culture that wreaks devastation on our environment and depletes our natural resources is formed largely by modern consumerism. (290 words)

Vocabulary

- Dire consequences (n)
- Consumerism
- The mass production of something
- Unusable (adj)
- Make new purchases
- Dispose of something
- Non-recyclable (adj)
- Nonstop demand for something

Organized tour to remote areas and community is increasingly popular.

Is it a positive or negative development for the local people and the environment?

In recent years, there has been a growing tendency for tourists to travel to remote locations and communities on organized tours. This has some positive impacts on the local people, but I think the detrimental effects on the environment are more significant and that the issue is more of negative development.

The financial and socio-cultural benefits for the locals in remote areas are evident. Tourists visiting these regions have a high demand for goods and services and are mostly willing to pay higher than average prices. This helps to boost local economies in remote areas and eventually enhance living standards of the local people. Regarding the socio-cultural aspects, Travelers from different cultures can provide ethnic people in remote areas, who are almost completely isolated from the outside world, with a lot of experiences through their interactions with one another, which can help these local residents to broaden knowledge about more civilized society.

However, the hordes of tourists to remote regions still leave severe impacts on the environment in these areas. In fact, tourists often litter where ever they go and do not bother to clean after themselves in areas they have visited. This may lead to such conditions as dirty roads or clogged sewage systems in these places, which negatively and directly affects local people's living conditions. In terms of indirect effects, I believe that the indigenous people have to sacrifice their natural resources to accommodate tourists' insatiable demands. In several mountainous areas of Vietnam, local people cut down vast areas of forest to make handicrafts or furniture for tourists. These acts can contribute to environmental deterioration in remote areas.

In conclusion, though the economy and societies in remote areas can benefit tremendously from organized tourism, I think that the negative environmental consequences that this situation brings are far more significant. (304 words)

Vocabulary

- To have a high demand for something
- To enhance the living standards of the local people
- Ethnic people
- To be isolated from the outside world
- To broaden knowledge about a more civilized society
- Indigenous (adj)
- To sacrifice something to do something
- The environmental deterioration

Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, are used in many countries. The use of alternative sources of energy, including wind and solar power, is encouraged.

Is this trend a positive or negative development?

I think that the use of alternative sources of energy (also known in some cases as 'green' energy) is a positive trend of development, and indeed their use should be encouraged further. As the demand for energy worldwide is increasing, especially in developing countries, the strains on the existing and already limited resources also increase. To solve this problem, we must consider two issues: how to better use the existing, limited fossil fuel resources and how we can encourage the use of alternative energy sources.

It is universally acknowledged that there is a limitation on the use of fossil fuels, especially coal and oil. Some countries are rich in oil deposits like OPEC, whereas China is rich in coal deposits and Russia in natural gas. Others, such as Japan and Germany, are completely dependent on the import of resources. For all countries resource-rich versus resource-poor, alternative energy should be encouraged and utilized to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels as well as to keep the global environment in balance and 'healthy'.

The only way is to turn to other sources to get an energy supply. Wind power and solar power are at present feasible alternatives. France is one country that has the advanced technology needed to produce extremely efficient solar panels to store energy from the sun. Both kinds of power can reduce a country's dependence on fossil fuels. Furthermore, they do not pollute the environment and in turn, help keep the ecosystem stable.

While fossil fuel resources are diminishing, the demand for energy continues to increase year on year. It is a positive trend to develop other alternatives to replace these traditional energy resources. Experiences should be shared and promoted, technology-shared and exchanged to limit or even reduce the greenhouse effect. If this switch to alternative energy is encouraged early enough, then we may yet avoid the pending energy crisis. (314 words)

It is a natural process for animal species to become extinct (e.g. Dinosaur, dodos …) There is no reason why people should try to prevent this from happening.

Do you agree or disagree?

Some people believe that there are no compelling reasons for us to protect animal species from extinction as it occurs naturally. I personally disagree with this conviction and will support my argument in the essay below.

It is true that millions of years ago, many ancient species of animals, such as dinosaurs, were wiped out due to a gradual shift in climate and changing sea levels, according to some hypotheses. However, these environmental factors are not the primary contributor to the disappearance of certain species nowadays. Industrial activities have been devastating the natural habitats of wildlife and disturbing the food chain, causing the mass extinction of countless species. The increased demand for goods made from animals' products, such as skins and horns, also leads to the rampant poaching of wild, endangered animals, rhinos for instance. In this regard, humans are held accountable and should do what is needed to rectify the situation.

Other justifications for saving wild animals involve the significant roles that they play in not only the balance of the ecosystem but also our lives. Everything in nature is connected, and if one species becomes extinct, many other animals and even plants will suffer as the food chain is disrupted. Wild animals also have great aesthetic and socio-cultural values. They contribute to our rich bio-diversity that makes this planet a beautiful place. In numerous places around the world, many types of animals play an important role in different cultures. For example, in some religions, cows are revered and worshipped as gods.

The disappearance of many animal species does not always occur as a natural process but as a consequence of our doings. It is our obligation to help preserve wild animals because their extinction will have a severe influence on many important aspects of our lives. (298 words)

Vocabulary

- To be wiped out
- Environmental factors
- Devastating the natural habitats of wildlife
- Disturbing the food chain
- The mass extinction
- Animals' products
- The rampant poaching of wild, endangered animals
- Rectify the situation
- The balance of the ecosystem
- Aesthetic and socio-cultural values
- Rich bio-diversity

Individuals can do nothing to improve the environment; only governments and large companies can make a difference.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Environmental issues have become an increasing concern among individuals and governments in the modern world. Some people reject the role of individuals and argue that environmental protection can only be achieved by governments and big businesses. I personally consider this to be a flawed argument, and I will explain my reasoning in the following essay.

In reality, governments and corporations take responsibility for protecting the environment. Governments could enact laws to reduce many environmental problems, while large companies are capable of investing large amounts of money in sustainable development goals. However, all the policies and campaigns will show no effect without the active cooperation of residents. In Vietnam, although the government tries to raise the public's awareness of environmental issues and even imposes heavy fines on those who violate environmental laws, many beaches and the surrounding ecosystems have been badly polluted by the sheer number of visitors. Therefore, I believe that there needs to be more action taken from individuals in such situations.

Furthermore, all the combined actions of all people will have a profound impact on the bigger picture. Researchers found that an individual will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 1500 pounds per year if he leaves his car at home two days a week. Another prime example is waste management processes. While residents can spend just a few minutes separating their biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, it takes days for waste recycling plants to achieve the same task.

In conclusion, I disagree with the opinion that environmental issues can only be reduced by governments and large enterprises because individuals also need to make a significant contribution to the process of keeping the planet clean. In other words, this matter can only be dealt with by simultaneous participation of governments, companies and residents. (297 words)

Vocabulary

- To take responsibility for something
- To enact laws
- To be capable of doing something
- Sustainable development goals
- The active cooperation of residents
- To raise somebody's awareness of something
- To impose heavy fines on something
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Waste management processes
- biodegradable (adj)
- To make a significant contribution to something

Some people think that a huge amount of time and money is spent on the protection of wild animals and that this money could be better spent on the human population.

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

There are some debates over whether the money that is spent on wildlife protection could be better spent on helping people. Personally, I believe that the protection of wild animals is extremely important and that countries need to invest more money in **preserving** their native animal species.

Firstly, I do not believe that much time or money is actually spent on **protecting** wild animals. In addition, I believe that a large majority of the time that people spend on such issues is voluntary work that people do because they **are passionate about saving and helping animals.** Additionally, a large amount of money that is spent on these causes is from **charity organizations** that rely mostly on donations. Therefore, we cannot tell people what charities that they should or should not donate their time and money towards.

Secondly, while many people believe that humans are the superior race on planet Earth, others, including myself, feel that all living beings, human and animal, have equal rights to live in peace, and therefore the protection of all animals and their habitats is extremely important. Human activity is **no doubt the main cause of** most problems wild animals face. The human race has continued to destroy the planet and **the natural habitats of wild animals** and therefore should be responsible for protecting them so that they can live wild and free, as is their natural state.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that it is essential for the health of the planet **to maintain** a diverse range of animals and wildlife within all ecosystems. I also believe that due to **the widespread devastation** humans have caused to the natural environment, it is our responsibility to do whatever necessary, regardless of time and money, in order to restore a healthy balance to the planet's natural environments. (302 words)

Vocabulary

- Preserve = maintain
- Be passionate about something
- Charity organizations (n)
- To be the main cause of something
- The natural habitats of wild animals
- To be responsible for something
- The widespread devastation

The environmental problems facing today's world are so great that there is little ordinary people can do to improve the situation. Governments and large companies should be responsible for reducing the amount of damage being done to the environment.

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

In modern society, more often than not, environment-related issues have confronted ecological scientists, government agencies, and the general public. While they are making coordinated efforts to curb the global environmental deterioration, the downward spiral can hardly be reversed. In my opinion, environmental protection can only be achieved by promoting people's environmental awareness.

To begin with, individual awareness of the natural law of cause and effect must be nurtured. All levels of education, especially primary and secondary schools, can be a good starting point to develop the realization that whatever we do to the environment, it will return to us. Moreover, the mass media are also responsible for raising the public's ecological consciousness. Instead of persuading people to buy those new products that only serve to fuel the existing environmental problems, one of their unavoidable obligations is to instill the urgent need of taking care of our natural environment into the psyche of each and every member of our planet.

It is undeniable that serious actions are being taken. In fact, restrictions are being placed on emissions of pollutants, and new environmentally friendly sources of energy for motor vehicles are being developed. Moreover, vast tracts of land are allocated for wildlife conservation, and many endangered species have been spared the fate of extinction. Nevertheless, it is also a well-known fact that the pace of damage to the environment far outstrips our conservation efforts. Unless all citizens of the world are fully aware of the gravity of the situation, ecological degradation, which is happening in their countries, can never be halted. All too often, we tend to expect our scientists, engineers and governments to solve the environmental problems while, in the meantime, factories and households are dumping millions of liters of toxic wastes into rivers, lakes and oceans. Similarly, fancy private vehicles are being crazily purchased, emitting billions of tons of car exhaust into the atmosphere and aggravating the greenhouse effect.

Given this argument, it is reasonable to conclude that if every member of society is aware of the relationship between humans and nature and stops their destructive behavior, the ecological strain on earth can be relieved and the benefits to all nations are enormous. (365 words)

People have little understanding of the importance of the natural world.

What are the reasons and how can people learn more about the natural world?

These days, many people do not fully comprehend how absolutely important nature is for the existence of human beings. This essay will discuss some reasons why people do not understand its importance and some ways they can learn more about it.

In modern societies, most people have a severe lack of understanding when it comes to the role that nature plays in their lives, and this can be attributed to a number of reasons. Firstly, most modern cities these days are nothing more than concrete jungles, devoid of any significant amount of nature. As a consequence, people are not close to nature and therefore do not appreciate or understand its significance. Kids these days spend their free time playing computer games or staring at a smartphone or TV screen, while adults are endlessly working or pursuing other leisure activities, which tends to disconnect them from the natural world. Another possible reason for this lack of understanding may be that it is not taught in schools. For example, biology is not one of the subjects that hold great importance in most schools these days.

However, there are various solutions to this problem. Firstly, cities need to become greener. Local governments need to incorporate larger green spaces into cities so that people are encouraged to spend more time in nature on a daily basis. The streets must be lined with trees, and there must be large parks in every single neighborhood. Furthermore, there must be large communal spaces where people can learn about gardening and growing food. In addition, and most importantly, children need to be taught about the importance of nature in school. Such subjects need to be a compulsory part of every child's education in order to ensure that future generations are well aware of the importance of nature and how-to live-in harmony with it.

In conclusion, being close to nature and learning about it in school or elsewhere is of vital importance to future generations. Without a deep understanding and appreciation of nature, the human race will face catastrophic consequences. (343 words)

Vocabulary

- The existence of human beings
- A severe lack of understanding
- The role that nature plays in their lives
- Nothing more than concrete jungles
- Devoid of any
- Staring at a smartphone or TV screen
- Disconnect them from the natural world
- Incorporate larger green spaces
- Be lined with trees
- Large communal spaces

- A deep understanding and appreciation
- The human race

People generally know that the environment is important. However, most individuals still don't take responsibility to protect the environment.

Why is this? What should be done to encourage people to protect the environment?

Humans have been damaging the environment ever since we realized our powers to harness nature. Global warming and air pollution are now frequent headlines on TV and in the newspapers all over the world, which keep reminding us of our obligation to protect the environment. However, few actions are actually being taken at the individual level, and I think there are two major reasons why people are being so indifferent.

The first reason is that many people consider environmental problems as a future concern. Environmental reports often warn us of the dire consequences of climate change or energy crisis 100 or 200 years later. As a result, many people feel that money and time are better spent on solving more immediate problems such as housing shortage and traffic congestion than on preventing a disaster that is only predicted to happen in the future. Also, people feel that the environmental problems are too complex for individual people to cope with. Indeed, a combination of factors causes environmental problems, many of which are impossible to be controlled through individual actions.

The above attitudes are understandable but are obviously mistaken, so the government needs to take proactive measures to make people more environmentally responsible. They can make more public service advertisements to encourage people to consume more green products instead of disposable goods that are harmful to the environment. They can also offer more incentives to people who have been active in cleaning up the neighborhood or severely punish those who have been unfriendly to the environment.

There is always a dilemma between environment and development, but as an individual, we can do something to reduce the negative impact of human activities on the environment. Certainly, we do not want to see the Earth turn into an uninhabitable planet.

The unlimited use of cars may cause many problems.

What are those problems?

In order to reduce the problems, should we discourage people to use cars?

Having a car has become an essential part of many people's lives. It offers flexibility to their life and work, and also provides ready access to a variety of services and leisure options. However, a range of problems have been identified and need to be addressed.

The problems associated with frequent car use are becoming increasingly familiar to the general public. The widespread use of cars has real environmental costs. Vehicles are major sources of urban air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. It is reported that road traffic is the source of one-third of all harmful air pollution in the world. Car exhaust contributes to acid rain, carbon dioxide and lead, which cause global warming and damage human health. Traffic jam is another problem. As more and more people drive to work rather than walk, cycle or take public transport, there are heavy traffic jams almost every day at rush hours. The most serious problem, however, is safety. Car accidents cause huge numbers of casualties every year.

To solve these problems, some people suggest that the government should impose a strict restriction on the use of cars, but I do not think this is the best option, because this would lead to reduced mobility for people and a decline in the car industry. I think a better solution would be for car manufacturers to design more environmentally friendly cars, which run on solar power or hydrogen. Also, traffic problems can be alleviated by building more underground tunnels and parking garages, and safety problems can be avoided by educating drivers as well as pedestrians to use greater caution on the road.

So, in conclusion, I think that while discouraging car use might seem a quick solution to many problems currently facing society, it is most unlikely to be a permanent cure. (303 words)

In the future, it is expected that there will be a higher proportion of older people in some countries.

Is this positive or negative development?

Developments in medical technology and health care systems, among many other factors, are leading to people having a longer life expectancy than before. As this trend continues, in the future, we can expect the number of old people will be much greater than that of young people. In several ways, society may benefit from a growing proportion of senior citizens. However, I believe the rest of the world population would have to shoulder much more responsibilities and the global economy would face a serious labor crisis.

On the positive side, an increase in the number of old people means a greater pool of volunteers for community and government projects. These people are usually more financially comfortable and therefore more willing to contribute free labor to ameliorating their communities. For example, we often see old people in developed countries engage in charity work to provide shelter and food for the homeless in their neighborhoods. Such an act also instils a great sense of responsibility and altruism into the young generation. This is, in fact, globally recognized to be advantageous in a world where selfishness hinders one from taking action for the sake of others.

Nevertheless, ageing populations will place the whole world under many pressures. Both governments and businesses will have to pay for increased retirement pensions and health care costs, which means taxpayers will have to bear a greater financial burden and the young workforce will have to work harder and care for the elderly at the same time. Furthermore, a lack of a young labor workforce would cause stagnation for the growth of individual businesses and the global economy as a whole because little innovation may take place in this circumstance. (2) As a matter of fact, many first world countries whose proportion of senior citizens is higher than that of young people, such as Japan, are already experiencing these undesirable impacts.

In conclusion, an ageing population is beneficial in certain ways. However, the benefits society may reap from an ageing population cannot match the damage it inflicts. It is important that the world governments should not underestimate the complexity of this problem and take immediate action to reduce its future influences. (359 words)

Vocabulary

- To have a longer life expectancy than before
- Senior citizens
- To shoulder much more responsibilities
- To contribute free labor to ameliorating their communities
- To engage in charity work

- Stagnation

In many places, people's lifestyles are changing rapidly, and this affects family relationships.

Do you think the advantages of such developments outweigh the disadvantages?

In the present age, people have dramatically changed the way they live, which in turn affects their family relationships. Personally, I think this tendency comes with both positive and negative effects.

On the one hand, changing lifestyles bring about various positive impacts on family connections. Firstly, people are paying more attention to their well-being nowadays, and therefore family members tend to go to fitness centers together to lead healthier lifestyles. As a result, spending time working out together will help to bridge the generation gap and promote better communication between family members. To illustrate, when a child takes part in some forms of sport or physical activities with their parents, they will feel more open to share things and seek advice from them. Secondly, thanks to developments in technology, devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptop computers have not only become an indispensable part of our lives but have also helped to make communicating with our friends and families much easier, particularly between those who are separated by long distances.

On the other hand, changes in lifestyles also have their downsides when it comes to family relationships. To begin with, the overuse of such technological devices mentioned above can also hurt family relationships. For example, if family members become too immersed in using their devices for individual recreational purposes, like checking their social media accounts or browsing their favorite websites, they may neglect their relationships with other family members. Consequently, the amount of quality time that a family spends together is likely to reduce, negatively impacting family relations. Furthermore, these days, people are becoming more and more career-oriented and are subsequently losing the balance between work and family life. In fact, it has become more common that family members are less available at home, even outside of official working time, leading to weakened family interactions.

In conclusion, while some changes in lifestyle are advantageous to family relationships, the opposite is true for other changes.

(324 words)

Vocabulary

- Paying more attention to their well-being
- To lead healthier lifestyles
- To bridge the generation gap
- To promote better communication
- To be immersed in something
- Recreational (adj)

Large shopping malls are replacing small shops.

Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

In recent years, there has been an increasing number of shopping malls being built, leading to the disappearance of small stores. In my opinion, this change brings about both positive and negative impacts, though the impacts are more negative in the long term.

On the one hand, **the boom in** the number of shopping malls has **offered** customers a wide range of benefits. First of all, people can now save time shopping thanks to **the availability of** many types of stores located in one complex. Shopping malls offer groceries, clothing, and books, alongside food courts and **entertainment facilities**, all under one roof. This provides a lot of convenience to people who choose to shop there instead of in separate smaller stores.

Moreover, shopping malls usually offer more **discounts and promotions** that customers can benefit from when compared to small stores. Furthermore, smaller stores cannot usually provide customers with the added advantage of large, convenient and safe parking facilities that most shopping malls offer. As a result, more and more people are choosing to shop at large shopping malls, leading to a decrease in the number of people purchasing goods from small shops.

There are, however, a number of benefits to people and communities that shopping in smaller stores can bring. For example, locally-owned, **family-run businesses** are more likely to provide friendlier and better customer service than larger shopping malls and chain stores. In addition, more locally owned small businesses is better for local economies and communities in the long term, by providing more employment, profits and income to local people.

In conclusion, **the proliferation of** shopping malls could have positive effects on customers but it is likely to drive small local businesses out of business, and have a negative impact on local economies, with most profits being taken by non-local businesses. (303 words)

Vocabulary

- The disappearance of small stores
- The boom in = the proliferation of something
- To offer somebody something = to provide something to somebody
- The availability of something
- Entertainment facilities
- Discounts and promotions
- Family-run businesses

Competitiveness is a positive quality for people in most societies.

How does competitiveness affect individuals?

Is it a positive or negative trend?

People tend to be more competitive in modern society. In my view, being competitive has a major influence on many aspects of a person's life, which can be considered both beneficial and harmful in certain situations.

A highly competitive person is often considered to be conceited and self-absorbed. Their relationships with the people around them, especially relatives or romantic partners, usually suffer as they are unwilling to compromise when a conflict occurs. Additionally, an intense level of competition in a company caused by highly competitive employees can create an unhealthy work environment. This type of environment does not promote productivity but makes some workers feel uncomfortable working together and may bring them closer to leaving the organization in search of a better workplace.

However, being competitive can be a positive attribute in many other instances. Competitive people always strive to be better than other people, and they usually persevere until they achieve their goals. For example, a sense of rivalry can boost a student's study performance and encourage them to work harder. People with a competitive personality are also resilient and unlikely to give up when faced with setbacks. Furthermore, many competitive people are often competing against themselves and always putting themselves in a state of constant learning so they can achieve better results.

In conclusion, being competitive may sabotage a person's relationships with the people around them and negatively affect the workplace. However, being competitive can motivate people to work hard to reach their desired goals. I think a person should find a balance and avoid being too competitive, otherwise, the consequences can be severe. (266 words)

Vocabulary

- conceited and self-absorbed
- compromise (v)
- highly competitive employees
- create an unhealthy work environment
- promote productivity
- a positive attribute
- strive to be better
- persevere (v)
- achieve their goals = reach their desired goals
- a sense of rivalry
- boost a student's study performance
- a competitive personality

- find a balance

Nowadays, some employers think that formal academic qualifications are more important than life experience or personal qualities when they look for new employees.

Why is it the case? Is it a positive or negative development?

These days, formal academic qualifications are more highly appreciated than life experience or personal qualities when it comes to the recruitment process. There are many reasons for this, and in my opinion, this is a positive development.

The main reason for this tendency is that academic degrees are considered a tool to measure the level of knowledge that students are capable of. To be more specific, to achieve a good degree in most universities, students need to pass many examinations focusing on testing their knowledge and take part in practical training courses. These factors ensure that students have gained sufficient in-depth knowledge in the field that the company is looking for. That is why recruiters place a higher value on employers holding formal academic qualifications. Whereas in terms of people having life experience or personal qualities, these people are likely to lack a suitable amount of academic knowledge in their field, and therefore, they need to be trained for a long time by employers. This results in the reluctance of employers to hire them for vacant positions.

This trend, therefore, will bring about some positive effects on society as a whole. Students will be motivated to pursue tertiary education for the sake of their better career prospects. By attending university, students can gain insights into their chosen field and have a chance to compete with others. As for society, thanks to this trend, there will be more and more people entering university, which will contribute to a society of more well-informed and educated citizens.

In conclusion, employers prefer people with better qualifications because qualifications are to prove that their holders are sufficiently trained at university. I think that there are many positives for both students and society when employers place emphasis on formal academic qualifications instead of life experience or personal qualities. (301 words)

vocabulary

- The recruitment processes
- A tool to measure the level of knowledge
- To be capable of doing something
- To gain sufficient in-depth knowledge in something
- To motivate somebody to do something
- To pursue tertiary education
- For the sake of something
- Career prospects

These days people in some countries are living in a "throw-away" society which means people use things in a short time then throw them away.

why this could be and what problems can this create?

It is now common to see people purchase things, for example, cell phones and clothes, and only use them for a short period. A number of factors contribute to this throwaway culture and this leads to a range of **dire consequences**, which will be outlined in the essay below.

One main reason for the modern throwaway culture is that society is greatly affected by **consumerism** that encourages **the mass production** of short-lived goods and the consumption of those goods. The market is also flooded with cheap, single-use products, making it easier to buy things in large quantities and dispose of them even before they become **unusable**. Another point to consider here is that the purpose for which we buy and use consumer products has changed over the past decades. For example, we no longer wait until our clothes wear out to **make new purchases**; instead, our decisions to buy new clothes are heavily influenced by a number of other incentives, be it better appearances or new fashion patterns.

This practice inflicts severe damage on the environment. Products constantly ending up in trash bins will cause landfills to become overloaded with massive piles of garbage, only a small proportion of which is **disposed of** properly to avoid harm to the environment. The rest of the garbage, usually **non-recyclable** and plastic items, is either buried underground or burnt. This can increase air and land pollution levels, and directly harm the lives of people living in the throwaway society. Furthermore, natural resources that fuel the manufacturing of consumer products can be depleted due to the market's **nonstop demand for those commodities.**

In conclusion, a throwaway culture that wreaks devastation on our environment and depletes our natural resources is formed largely by modern consumerism. (290 words)

Vocabulary

- Dire consequences (n)
- Consumerism
- The mass production of something
- Unusable (adj)
- Make new purchases
- Dispose of something
- Non-recyclable (adj)
- Nonstop demand for something

Some people choose to have their first child at an older age.

What are the reasons?

Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

There is a growing proportion of the world's population who decide to have children later in life. The underlying reasons for this trend are varied, and I suppose that the merits would eclipse the downsides.

There are two main factors leading to the decision of delaying childbirth. The first one is because people have the propensity for prioritizing their careers over taking parental roles. Especially in the US and other developed countries, not only men but also women want to stabilize their finance before becoming parents so as to provide their kids with sufficient living condition for their future development. Another explanation for this is that many modern individuals have adopted a fear of taking unwanted custody due to the recent alarming rate of divorce. It is because premature marriages have become common, which usually goes with many couples' doubt of their marital harmony, deterring their early desire for raising a child. There would be, consequently, fewer kids growing up without fatherhood or motherhood.

However, the drawbacks should not be overlooked. That too many couples following such a trend might exert adverse effects on the population structure, which potentially results in the future ageing workforce and hinders social development in the long term. Additionally, it could both heighten the possibility of infertility among mothers at their old age and risk the newborn babies' mental and physical health. Down syndrome could be a typical example of the problems that those kids might have to suffer from.

In conclusion, occupational prioritization and the hesitation over the likelihood of single-parent responsibility could be seen as the root of late childbirth, and I am convinced that the advantages are of more significance.

Word count: 279

The world of work is rapidly changing and employees cannot depend on having the same job or the same working conditions for life.

Discuss the possible causes and suggest ways to prepare people to work in the future.

These days, people's workplaces are constantly changing and evolving to meet the demands of modern society. Furthermore, the roles and responsibilities of jobs are also undergoing changes to adapt to new ways of working and living. This essay will discuss the possible reasons for these changes and suggest some ways that people can better prepare themselves for their future careers.

Firstly, due to the developments in hi-tech machines and artificial intelligence, millions of people all around the world are losing their jobs and being replaced by automated processes. For example, millions of factory workers have lost their jobs because they have been replaced by machines that are able to do their job quicker and more effectively. Furthermore, as a result of the ever-increasing desire to cut expenses and increase profits, many jobs are being outsourced to countries where the wages are lower. For instance, when a person calls a tech support helpline in an English-speaking country, they will most likely be connected to someone in another country, like India or the Philippines, where the wages are lower.

However, there are a number of ways that people can prepare for changes in their workplaces in the future. Firstly, students preparing to leave high school need to be advised about the sustainability of the career path they are choosing. To illustrate, autonomous vehicles are predicted to replace most delivery and taxi driver jobs in the very near future, so this is not a job that someone should expect to have for a very long time. Furthermore, while some jobs are being replaced by technology, many jobs are simply incorporating technology into their process, and therefore people will need to be able to keep up to date with these changes. To help achieve this, specific courses could be designed to help educate people on the use of modern technology in their workplaces.

In conclusion, although there are many changes in the workplace these days, educating people to carefully choose their career and to keep up to date with modern technology, is the key to avoiding any major problems. (345 words)

Vocabulary

- To change and evolve to meet the demands of modern society
- To adapt to something
- The developments in hi-tech machines and artificial intelligence
- Be replaced by automated processes
- The ever-increasing desire to cut expenses and increase profits
- Outsourced
- Autonomous vehicles
- To incorporate technology into their process
- To keep up to date with something

Some people prefer to stay in the same type of work all their life, and others prefer to change their jobs from time to time.

Discuss both sides and state your own opinion.

To hold on to the work or to change it to another one is a choice of decision we might encounter once or twice in our lives, and for some people, this could be a positive thing, while for others it could be a disaster. However, the final aim for every job hopper is to find an ideal job on which they can depend for their livelihood and from which they can draw satisfaction.

Working in the same type of work for one's career lifespan has its positive underpinnings; a stable job with a steady income offers one a sense of security, especially in today's highly competitive society, as well as the feeling of 'togetherness' that comes from working with the same colleagues for many years. However, on the negative side, doing the same work in the same company with the same people in the same environment may well breed a kind of lethargy, a lack of motivation or job satisfaction; it may be difficult to generate fresh zeal or energy towards work after so much time.

If one were to move frequently from one job or job area to another, it is possible to learn and gather diverse experiences from different companies and different jobs. The new working environments could turn out to be a great opportunity to show one's talent and abilities and to gain confidence in oneself. However, new colleagues may take time to bond, and getting to know them well may prove difficult. It could also take longer to establish a rapport with the manager.

To find a job one loves is a pursuit in career life. We may change jobs. Once a work that satisfies is at hand, I think that is also the time we start to stay in the same position. Any company needs its employees to devote their effort and heart to the job, as this is for the good of achieving a win-win benefit for the company and employee. (328 words)