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Ideas for IELTS topics

Who is this book for?

Many students have no ideas or opinions about IELTS writing topics. Even if your grammar is perfect, you will not get a high IELTS score if you do not know what to write. This book is for students who want to go into the writing exam feeling confident that they have excellent ideas, opinions and vocabulary for as many topics as possible

How do you get an IELTS score of 7 or higher?

The key to a high score is not grammar, it is not your use of words like "moreover" or "in addition", and it is not your use of phrases like "this is controversial issue nowadays".

To get a high score you need to use good "topic language" (words and phrases that are related to the question topic). You need good ideas in order to answer the question well.

How should you prepare for IELTS writing task 2?

There is an enormous amount of advice on my website ielts-simon.com. Here is a summary of what I suggest:

- **Spend more time preparing than testing**

When you test yourself, you find out what your level is, but you do not learn anything new. You will not improve if you only write test essays. Before writing an essay, study the topic and prepare your ideas, opinions and vocabulary.

- **Steal my ideas**

If you only use the vocabulary that you already know, you will not learn anything new, and you will not improve. Practise linking my topic ideas together to write "perfect essays". See the website for examples of how to do this.

- Use this book together with the website

The website ielts-simon.com contains lessons and videos that show you how to use the ideas from this book. You can speak to me there if you have any questions.

Content

24 topics:

1. Advertising

Positives of Advertising

Advertising is a key part of modern business

Companies need to tell customers about their products

Advertisements inform us about the choices we have

Advertising is a creative industry that employs many people

Without advertising we would have less choice

Without advertising there would be higher unemployment
Advertising is a form of modern art
People enjoy adverts

Negatives of Advertising

Advertising manipulates people
It aims to persuade people that buying a product will make them happier
Advertisers focus on selling a brand image
They use glamorous, successful people
We now live in a consumer culture
We are persuaded to follow the latest trend
We are encouraged to associate certain brands with a higher status
Advertisers often aim their marketing at children
Children can easily be influenced by advertisements.
Children put pressure on parents to buy them things

Opinions about Advertising

Advertising should be regulated
Advertising aimed at children should be controlled or even banned
Unhealthy foods should not be marketed in a way that attracts children
Products that can be risk to healthy should display warnings
In some countries it is illegal to advertise cigarettes on television
Warnings must be displayed on cigarette packets
However, advertising is necessary in free market economies
It creates demand for products
Governments should only censor false information or products that are harmful

2. Animal rights

Arguments for Animal testing

Animals are used in important scientific research
It is necessary to do medical tests on new drugs
Animal testing helps to advance medical and scientific knowledge
Many important medical discoveries involved experimentation on animals
Researchers aim to minimize the suffering that animals experience
Testing for the cosmetics industry is now banned in many countries

Arguments against Animal Testing

The benefits of research using animals do not justify the suffering caused
There are alternative methods of research
The lives of animals should be respected
Humans have no moral right to do experiments on animals

Arguments for Vegetarianism

Vegetarians do not eat foods that are produced by killing animals
Many people choose a vegetarian diet for moral or health reasons

A healthy diet is possible without eating meat
It is unnecessary to kill animal for food
A vegetarian diet may reduce the risk of disease like cancer
Many people question the treatment of animals in factory farms

Arguments against Vegetarianism

Vegetarians do not eat a balanced diet
In many cultures, meat is the main ingredient in traditional meals
Meat-eaters argue that animals are below humans in the food chain
It is completely natural for us to kill them for food
Our aim should be improve farming methods
Farms should produce organic food

Positives of Zoos

Zoos paly an important role in wildlife conservation
They can help to protect endangered species
Zoos allow scientists to study animals and their behavior
Zoos are educational, interesting and fun
Children, in particular, enjoy learning about animals
Zoos provide job opportunities.

Negatives of Zoos

Zoo animals are kept in artificial environments
They are kept in cages or have limited space
Zoo animals rely on humans
They lose the freedom to hunt for food
They best way to save endangered species is by protecting natural habitats.
Some people believe that zoos are unethical
Zoos exhibits animals with the aim of making money
We have no right to use animals for entertainment and profit.

3. Cities

Reasons for Urbanization

People move to cities in search of job opportunities
Cities offer greater employment possibilities and a higher standard of living
People migrate to cities from the countryside
Traditional activities like farming need fewer workers nowadays

Negatives of City Life

Life in cities has its drawbacks
The cost of living is higher than in rural areas
Some people d not manage to find work
Housing is usually much more expensive
Homelessness and poverty are common on cities
There is a gap between rich and poor
Life in cities can be extremely stressful

There are problems like traffic congestion and crime
Cities lack a sense of community
People do not even know their neighbor
Cities are sometimes described as “concrete jungles”.

Pedestrian Areas

Pedestrian zones in city centre can improve the local environment
Banning cars encourages people to walk or cycle
Many European cities have built bicycle lanes
Dependence on cars is linked to health problems like obesity
People who walk or cycle regularly are generally healthier
Pedestrian areas are safer and more attractive for both residents and tourists

4. Crime

Police and Crime Prevention

The job of the polices is to catch criminals
They must also prevent crime and make communities safer
There should be an increase in the number of police officers on the streets
Police officers should be seen as part of the community
They should be involved with education and prevention
The police should be in close contact with schools
They should focus on young people who have dropped out of school.
These teenagers may become involved with gangs

Punishments/Prisons

Fines are used as punishment for minor crimes
If the crime is more serious, prison is the most common punishment
Some criminals pose a threat to society
They are put in prison to ensure the safety of other citizens

Negatives of Prisons

Criminals are put together
They make friends with other offenders
Many prisoners re-offend when they are released
A criminal record makes finding a job more difficult

Rehabilitation

Another aim of prisons is rehabilitation
Prisoners receive education or vocational training
Prisoners should learn personal skills and specific job skills
Punishment could make prisoners’ behavior worse
Rehabilitation aims to make them better citizens
Rehabilitated prisoners are less likely to re-offend

Capital punishment

Supporters say that capital punishment deters crime

Fear of the death penalty stops people from committing offences
The death penalty shows that crime is not tolerated
It is a form of revenge
The cost of imprisonment is avoided
The offender cannot pose a threat to others

Against Capital Punishment

Innocent people could be wrongly convicted and executed
Crime rates are not necessarily reduced
Many criminals do not think they will be caught
Capital punishment is not a good deterrent
Executing prisoners creates a violent culture and encourages revenge
We have no right to take another human life

Community service

Community service is a way to reform offenders
It could be a solution to prison overcrowding
It avoids the cost of imprisonment
It makes offenders useful in their local communities
They are required to clean streets or talk to school groups
Offenders repay their community
They avoid the negative influence that prison can have

Against community service

Community service is not a sufficient punishment
Criminals should be locked up, away from their victims

Crime in the Media

Crime is one of the main subjects of most news programs.
The mass media focus on violent and sensational crimes
This lead to fear of crime among the public
Sensational stories attract more viewers or readers
The media report crime stories in order to increase their audience

5. Education

Benefits of education

Education gives people knowledge and skills
People with qualification are more likely to find work
They can earn a higher salary
They can contribute positively to society
Schools aim to teach young people moral values such as tolerance and sharing
Schools prepare children to be members of a society

Benefits of Studying Abroad

Foreign institutions may offer better courses
Many students want to attend a prestigious university

The best universities employ teachers who are experts in their fields
Qualifications gained abroad can open the door to better job opportunities
Living abroad can broaden students' horizons
Overseas students are exposed to different cultures and customs.
They become more independent
They are responsible for cooking, cleaning and paying bills
They will learn a foreign language

Drawback of studying abroad

Living and studying abroad can be difficult
Students have problems with paperwork such as visa applications
The language barrier can be a problem
Students have to find accommodation and pay bills
Studying in a foreign language is challenging
Living alone in an unfamiliar culture can cause homesickness

Technology in Education: Advantages

Technology is a powerful tool to engage students
Technology can make lessons much more interesting
Students can do research using online resources
Students can study at their own place
Adults can take distance learning courses
Students can study whenever and wherever they want
Students also learn skills which are useful for their future jobs
For example, they learn to write reports using a word processor

Technology in Education: Disadvantages

People rely too much on computers
Young learners do not become proficient in some basic skills
They use word processors and spelling may suffer
People should be able to write a letter by hand
Technology is no substitute for a real teacher
Learners need a structured course
An experienced teacher knows what materials to choose
Computers are expensive to maintain and can be unreliable

Technology in Education: Opinion

Institutions should supplement traditional teaching with the use of technology
Technology is part of everyday life
It can enhance a teacher's lessons
Students can use online resources to help with homework
Students must still learn to write by hand
They should still use traditional sources of information such as books

Education in Developing countries: Problems

Children often have to work from an early age

There are no schools in many areas
Families do not have access to books or computers
Literacy rates are often low
People in developing countries need knowledge and skills
Education is the key to improving the economy of these countries

Education in developing countries: solutions

Developed countries could help developing nations by providing money
They could invest in schools and technology
They could supply the funds to build schools and pay for teachers
Children need to have access to free schooling
Computer equipment could be donated
The Internet can expose students to a world of knowledge and information
Governments should make education compulsory for all children
They should encourage parents to send their children to school
Governments of developed and developing countries must work together

Higher education: Advantages (also see "benefits of education")

There are many benefits to going to university
A degree can open the door to better employment prospects
Economies are becoming increasingly knowledge-based
Most jobs require specific knowledge and skills
Skilled workers are needed for sectors such as information technology and engineering
Repetitive manual jobs are now done by machine
Many factories have moved to developing countries

Higher education: Disadvantages

A healthy economy needs a wide range of workers
Some manual workers will always be needed
A university degree is not necessary for many service professions
Practical training is more important in some industries
In the UK, for example, there is currently a shortage of plumbers
Their services are therefore becoming more and more expensive

Advantage of Home-schooling

Some parents decide to educate their children at home
Some families live in isolated areas with poor transport
Other parents are not satisfied with local schools
Parents can respond to what their children need and how they learn best
One-to-one lessons allow much faster progress
The child can work at his or her own pace
Discipline problems are avoided by home-schooling

Disadvantages of home-schooling

Most parents do not have the time to educate their children at home
One parent would need to give up work

School subjects are normally taught by up to ten different teachers
Most parents do not have the necessary knowledge or resources
Private tutors are expensive
Children will miss out on the social experience that school offers
At school, children learn how to get on with each other
Home-schooled children may lack social skills
Schools offer a better overall educational experience

Bad behavior in schools: causes

Bad behavior is due to a lack of structure and discipline
There are too many children in some classes
Large classes are difficult to manage
May disruptive students come from an unstable family background
Other parents are too lenient and spoil their children
Some children are used to getting whatever they want
Schools can do very little if they are not supported by parents

Bad behavior in schools: solutions

Schools need a clear code of conduct
Schools need a clear set of rules about behavior
They need to create a positive working atmosphere
Teachers must have the power to punish disruptive students
Schools should remove difficult children from lessons
Schools need to work closely with parents
Discipline could be lacking at home
Parents must support the school rules
They should take responsibility for their children's behavior

Corporal Punishment: Opinion

Corporal Punishment is not a good idea
Physical punishment is a way of controlling children using fear
This does not promote trust between adults and children
Children who are punished physically may become shy or resentful
Corporal punishment creates an atmosphere of fear and anger

Single Sex Education: Advantages

Some people believe that male and female students should go to separate schools
This is often for religious or cultural reasons
Discipline problems might be avoided by separating boys and girls
Boys and girls may learn in different ways and have different needs
Student at single-sex schools often get better exam grades.

Single-sex Education: Disadvantages

Separating boys and girls is unnecessary
It is unhealthy in terms of children's social development
Many coeducational schools are extremely successful

A mixed-sex environment is more representative of real life
Coeducational schools provide children with better social skills for adult life

Advantages of Streaming (grouping children according to ability)

Some schools separate students according to their academic ability
Teachers can work at the right speed for their students
Teachers can plan more suitable lessons
High-level groups may progress faster
Lower level groups can benefit from a slower pace
Some teachers and parents support streaming for these reasons

Disadvantages of Streaming

Grouping by ability may have a negative impact on students
Children do not want to be seen as less intelligent than others
Streaming could damage students' self esteem
They may lose motivation
Students from wealthier families tend to be better prepared
Children from poorer families may receive less support from parents
Mixed ability classes encourage everyone to achieve their potential.

6. Environment

Global warming

Gases such as carbon dioxide trap heat from the sun
This causes global temperatures to rise
This process is known as the greenhouse effect
Human activity is a major factor in the rise of the greenhouse gases
Factories and vehicles produce emissions and exhaust fumes
Many developing countries are becoming industrialized
The number of cars on our streets is growing
Cheap air travel is allowing more people to fly

Effects of Global Warming

Global warming will have a significant impact on our planet
Rising temperature will cause melting of the polar ice caps
Sea levels will rise
We can expect more extreme weather conditions
Flooding and droughts may become more common

Impacts of humans on the environment

The increasing world population is putting pressure on natural resources
Fossil fuels like oil and gas are running out
We are destroying wildlife habitats
We have cut down enormous areas of rainforest
This has led to the extinction of many species of animals and plants

Solutions to environment problems

Governments could introduce laws to limit emissions from factories

They should invest in renewable energy from solar, wind or water power
They could impose "green taxes" on drivers and airlines companies
Government campaigns should promote recycling
Natural areas and wild animals should be protected
Individuals should also try to be greener
We should take fewer flights abroad for holidays
We should take public transport rather than driving
We should choose products with less packaging
We should recycle as much as possible

Waste/rubbish

The amount of waster we produce has increased
This problem is a result of our consumer culture
Products are not made to last
If something breaks, we throw it way and buy a new one
Advertisers encourage is to buy the newest fashions
Packaging is an important part of selling
Most foods are sold in non-biodegradable plastics packaging
The amount of household waste is growing
This waste ends up in landfill sites

Litter

People do not think about the consequences of dropping rubbish
They assume that somebody is pad to clean the streest
Plastic packaging does not break down easily
Most of the litter seen on streets is fast food packaging

Recycling and other solutions

Companies should make goods that last longer
They should not use so much packaging
Governments should be stricter, about waster produced by companies
They should put legal limits on packaging
Consumers should avoid buying over-packaged products
We should recycle and reuse useful materials.
There are collection banks for glass, paper and plastic bottles
Households can use several rubbish bins to separate waste
Recycling saves energy and raw materials.

Nuclear Power: Positives

There are several benefits to build more nuclear power stations
Fossil fuel like oil and gas are running out
Nuclear power is a sustainable energy source
It can be used to produce electricity without wasting natural resources
It could be replace the use of natural resources like coal, oil or gas
Nuclear power stations are cleaner than fossil fuel power stations
They could help to reduce carbon emissions that cause global warming

The risks of accidents are being reduced

Nuclear Power: negatives

Opponents of nuclear power worry about the safety of power stations

The building of new nuclear power stations is unpopular

Nobody wants to live near one

Nuclear waste disposal is a significant problem

There is currently no way to decontaminate radioactive material

People worry that terrorists could steal radioactive materials

It is safer to produce energy from solar, wind or water power.

7. Family

Family size

Families in many countries are not as large as they used to be

We tend to live in small nuclear families rather than large extended families

Parents tend to have fewer children

Young children are no longer expected to work

Nowadays both parents often work

It costs so much to bring children up

It is more difficult to raise a large family

Working parents (also see "gender" topic)

Children and their parents seem to be less close nowadays

Parents spend less time with their children

Women traditionally stayed at home to cook, clean and look after children

Nowadays both parents often work full time

Children may be left alone, or with nannies or babysitters

Busy parents have less contact with their children

Many families no longer eat meals together

Children spend more time with friends or surfing the Internet

Negative effects on Children

The lack of closeness in families can have a negative effect on children

Many parents have no idea how their children spend their time

Friends, television and the Internet become the main influence on children's behavior

Teenagers are influenced by peer pressure

Some of them join gangs

Juvenile delinquency is on the increase

Parents should be more involved with their children's upbringing

Young people need positive role models

Divorce

In the past, divorce was unacceptable

It was considered to be embarrassing for a family

People stayed together for religious or family reasons

Divorce is more socially acceptable nowadays

It has become much more common
Divorce can be extremely stressful
Lone parents may face financial difficulties
Many single parents have to rely on benefits paid by the state
Divorce can have a negative effect on children
Children from single-parent families are more likely to get lower grades or drop out of school.
The rise in divorce rates may be connected to some social problems

Care for Old people

Caring for elderly people was traditionally the responsibility of families
Adults had to look after their elderly parents
A woman's job was to stay at home taking care of her family
Nowadays, fewer elderly people are looked after by their relatives
Residential homes provide care for large number of elderly people
Some families are unable to look after elderly relatives
Families tend to be smaller these days, and women often have full-time jobs
Cares homes provide a professional service for senior citizens
Nurses are better trained than family members

Care for Old people: Opinion

The best form of care for the elderly depends on the family situation
It depends on whether family members have the time resources
We all have a responsibility towards the older people in our society
Governments should invest money in facilities and training for care workers.

8. Gender

Gender and education

Men and women should have access to the same educational opportunities
Males and females should be accepted onto courses according to their abilities
It is wrong to discriminate against students because of their gender
Gender should be irrelevant in education
Student's achievements should depend on hard work and individual merit
In the UK, there are similar numbers of male and female students in higher education

Gender and work

Men and women should have access to the same professional opportunities
Both man and women should be able to pursue a career
They should earn equal salaries
They should be employed according to their abilities, qualifications and experience
Traditionally women have been restricted to certain roles
They were often employed as secretaries or receptionists
Nowadays, a range of occupations is available to both sexes
Career success depends on individual merit

Women's and Men's roles in the Family

Some people argue that a mother should not work
She should stay at home and bring up her children
The father should be the breadwinner of the family
Others believe that both parents should share these responsibilities
Working women can take maternity leave during and after pregnancy
Many mothers continue to work after this period
Many fathers and mothers share their parenting and domestic responsibilities
They contribute equally to childcare, cooking and cleaning
Some women many have better career prospects than their husbands.
Paternity leave and "househusbands" are becoming more common
Traditional gender roles and gradually changing
Families can divide roles and responsibilities in the most convenient way.

9.Genetic Engineering

Positives of genetic engineering

Genetic engineering is the practice of manipulating the genes of an organism
It is used to produce crops that are more resistant to insects and diseases
Some genetically modified crops grow more quickly
Some drugs and vaccines are produced by genetic engineering
It may become possible to change human's genetic characteristics.
Scientists may use genetic engineering to cure diseases.
Inherited illnesses would no longer exist
Genes could be changed before a baby is born
It could also be possible to clone human organs
We could all have replacement body part
Humans could live longer, healthier lives

Negatives of genetic engineering

There are ethical concerns about human genetic engineering
Parents might want to choose their children's characteristics
This would be unnatural
It would be unacceptable in most religions
Soldiers could be cloned from the genes of the strongest people
Clones might be used like robots to do certain jobs
Clones might even be developed just for organ replacements
Society and human evolution would change completely
Currently, human genetic engineering is prohibited

Genetically-Modified (GM) foods: Advantages

Farmers can produce crops that grow bigger and faster
Some GM crops are more resistant to disease or insects
This could be important for food production in developing countries
Faster growing cereals, fruit and vegetables will mean more profit
GM foods can be modified to look perfect
They may be more attractive to customers

Genetically-Modified (GM) Foods: Disadvantages

There may be risks involved in the genetic engineering of foods.
GM crops might change whole ecosystems
Food chains could be broken if crops are resistant to predators
Organic foods are produced without chemicals or genetic modification
Organic farming may be slower and more expensive
However, the environment is not damaged by fertilizers or pesticides.

10. Global issues

Problems in developing countries

Developing countries face a range of problems
Standards of healthcare and education are low
Life expectancy is usually lower than in developed countries
There is a lack of infrastructure, employment and good quality housing
Many people are forced to live in poverty
Food, drinking water and basic medicines are in short supply

How to help developing countries

The best form of help for developing countries is development aid
Richer nations can help by investing in long-term projects
Governments and charities can help by building new houses and schools
Globalization may also help developing countries
Multi-national companies can create jobs in developing countries
On the other hand, many people emigrate to find work in richer countries
They often send money back home to their families
This money helps to improve the standard of living in developing countries

Immigration

Some people move to another country in search of a better life
Many immigrants come from less developed countries
Richer, industrialized countries may offer opportunities for employment
Free healthcare and schooling are available in some developed countries
Other people migrate to a foreign country to improve their academic qualifications

Positives of immigration and Multi-cultural societies

From an economic perspective, immigration can be extremely positive
Many immigrants have skills that are needed in the country they move to
Immigrants who find work contribute to the economy of their new country
Many immigrants send money home to help family members
Immigration also creates cultural diversity
People of many different nationalities learn to live together
This can help people to become more open-minded and tolerant

Negatives of Immigration

Some people believe that immigrants take jobs that should go to local people
Some immigrant workers work longer hours for less money

Companies might pay lower salaries to immigrant workers
Unemployment rates could rise if there are too many immigrants

Opinions about Immigration

Immigration can help the economy of a country
It can create multi-cultural societies
However, immigration needs to be controlled
In many countries, immigrants need visas or work permit
Governments should stop companies from exploiting immigrant workers
Foreign and local workers should have the right to equal pay and conditions

Positives of Globalization

Business of becoming increasingly international
Multi-national companies do business across the world
Companies like MacDonald's can be seen on high streets in most cities
Goods are produced in one country and sold in many others
A global economy means free trade between countries
This can strengthen political relationships
Globalization can also create opportunities for employment
It encourages investment in less developed countries
It could reduce poverty in the developing world

Negatives of Globalization

Globalization is not always beneficial to everyone
Companies can move to countries where labour is cheap
This creates redundancies, or job losses
Employees cannot be confident that they have stable jobs
Companies sometimes exploit their employees in developing countries
Global trade creates more waste and pollution

The future of Globalization

There should be global regulations for salaries and working conditions
Governments should impose laws to protect the environment

11. Government and Society

What governments can do

Governments provide public services like healthcare and education
They support people who are living in poverty or unable to work
Governments raise money by taxing working people
They can spend money on resources and campaigns
They can introduce new laws
They can impose taxes
They can raise people's awareness of issues (e.g climate change/healthy eating)
They can influence people's habits and opinions
They can create jobs
They can regulate the activities of companies such as banks

They can provide resources for schools
They are also responsible for the security and well-being of their citizens
They control armed forces and police forces

Public services

Governments pay the salaries of public sector workers like police officers and teachers
The necessary money is raised by taxing people's income
Free education and healthcare may be provided by the state
Some governments control public transport systems and even TV channels
In other countries, these services are provided by private companies
Some people believe that competition between private companies is good
It helps to improve quality while bringing prices down
Other people think that essential services should be free
Governments should pay for them

Censorship: Opinion

Governments can censor what public sees or reads in the media
To a certain extent censorship is necessary
We should use censorship to protect children from violent images
Some computer games involve killing people or committing crimes
The Internet also needs to be controlled
Many websites show pornography and violence
There should be age limits for websites and computers games
Parents need to take responsibility for checking what their children watch
It is impossible for governments to control everything we see

Video cameras in public places

The use of CCTV is becoming widespread
Video cameras have been installed in many public places
They are supposed to protect us and deter criminals
Many people think that this surveillance violates our privacy
The authorities could build databases with our pictures and identities
We should not be treated like criminals

Smart cards: Positives

Governments will probably introduce a digital identification card system
Smart cards will have benefits and drawbacks
They could help to reduce crime
They could hold personal information, such as DNA
Digital bank cards could contain fingerprint information
It would be very difficult for criminals to use a stolen card
It would be easier for police to identify people and catch criminals

Smart cards: Negatives

Many people are worried about losing their privacy
Governments could store all our personal and medical information

This information could be used by insurance companies
Employers could check our health records

People with Disabilities

People with disabilities should be treated the same as everybody else
They should have the same rights as other people
They should have access to the same jobs as other citizens
Discriminations against disabled people is illegal in many countries
Ramps and lifts for wheelchairs should be installed in public buildings
Support teacher can be employed to help children with learning difficulties

12. Guns and Weapons

Why guns should be legal:

In some countries, people are allowed to own firearms
Individuals have the right to protect themselves
People can use guns in self defence
This deters criminals

Why gun ownership should be illegal:

There is a risk of accidents with guns
The number of violent crimes increases when guns are available
Criminals may be armed
The police then need to use guns
Suicide rates have been shown to rise when guns are available
Guns create violent societies with high murder rates

Why polices should use guns

Many criminals use weapons
The threat of a gun can deter criminals
Police officers can force a criminal to surrender
It is easier to arrest someone and avoid physical violence
The police may shoot violent criminals in self defence
They can protect the public
They can shoot an escaping criminal who poses a serious danger to the public

Why police should not carry guns

There is a risk of accidents and mistakes
The police might shoot an unarmed criminal or an innocent person
Accidents can happen in public places
There are several alternatives to guns (e.g tear gas, sprays and electric shock weapons)
Only special police units should use guns

Arm Trade: Positives

The export of arms, or weapons, is an extremely controversial issue
Governments of rich, industrialized countries sell arms to each other
This industry creates jobs and wealth

The trade of weapons may improve relationships between governments

Arms Trade: Negatives

Weapons may be used in conflicts and wars

The supply of arms could be responsible for deaths

Governments are promoting war in order to make a profit

Rich countries can influence the politics of other nations

Nuclear weapons

Nuclear weapons are capable of destroying whole cities

A nuclear war between two countries would destroy both countries

Nuclear weapons are used as a deterrent

They prevent wars from starting

Nuclear weapons: Opinion

Nuclear weapons should be prohibited

Governments should limit the production of nuclear weapons

There is a danger of nuclear weapons being obtained by terrorists

Nuclear weapons cannot be used against terrorist organizations

Armed Forces: Positives

Armed forces provide security and protection

They deter military attack by another country

They can also be used to maintain peace within countries

They can be used to give the police extra support

Soldiers are also used to help in emergency situations, such as after a natural disaster

Armed forces: negatives

Armies require a lot of funding from governments

Too much money is spent on weapons and military technology

This money could be spent on schools, hospitals and other public services

13. Health

Diet

The human body requires a balanced diet

An unhealthy diet can cause various health problems

Obesity, diabetes and heart disease are on the increase

Many people nowadays rely on fast food or pre-prepared meals

These foods often contain too much fat, salt and sugar

They are cheap to buy and very easy to prepare

Many young people have grown up on a diet of convenience foods

Populations in developed countries are increasingly overweight

Exercise

Regular exercise is essential in maintaining a healthy body

Exercise burns calories and helps to build healthy bones and muscles

Doctors advise exercising at least three times a week for 20 minutes
Most people nowadays lead a sedentary lifestyle
We tend to walk less and do desk jobs
Most adults relax by watching television
Children play video games rather than doing outdoor sports
In the past, people were more active in their jobs and at home

Government's Role

Governments have a significant role to play in reducing obesity
More and more people, including young children are seriously overweight
They are at risk of heart disease and diabetes
This situation will increase the burden on hospitals and taxpayers
Hospitals rely on the government for money and resources
Governments should promote a healthy diet and regular exercise
There should be more time for sports on school timetables
Unhealthy junk food should be banned from school menus
People need information about what foods contain
Food packaging must show the food's nutritional content
The British Government recommends eating five portions of fruit and vegetables per day

State Health system: advantages

Good healthcare should be available to everyone for free
State healthcare is paid by the government using money from taxes
Everyone has access to the same quality of care and treatment
Private healthcare is unfair because only wealthy people can afford it
The National Health Service in the UK provides free healthcare for every resident

Private Healthcare: advantages

State hospitals are often very large and difficult to run
Private hospitals have shorter waiting lists for operations and appointments
Patients can benefit from faster treatment
Many people prefer to pay for more a personal service
Patients have their own room and more comfortable facilities

Alternative medicine: Positives

People are increasingly using alternative medicines to treat illnesses.
For example, acupuncture can be used to treat backache
Herbal medicines can be used to treat allergies or viruses
Many patients report positive experiences with these treatments
Some traditional cures have been used for hundreds of years

Alternative medicine: Negatives

Many alternative medicines have not been tested scientifically
They may have no beneficial effect at all
They may cause unknown side effects
People should trust the opinions of qualified doctors

An illness could get worse without treatment from a doctor

Stress

Modern lifestyles are increasingly stressful

People work long hours with strict deadlines

Our busy lifestyles mean we have less time to relax

Unemployment is a major cause of stress

Children may be affected by their parents' relationship problems

Tests and exams can also cause stress

How to reduce stress

Stress can be reduced by taking regular exercise and eating a healthy diet

It is also important to get sufficient sleep and make leisure time a priority

People should work less overtime and take regular holidays

Schools have started to employ psychologists

They can offer emotional support to students

They can help students to cope with exam stress

14. Housing and Architecture

State/council housing

In some countries the government provides state or council housing

This helps people who cannot afford to buy their own house

It can be argued that state housing creates dependence on the government

People should be rely on the government to look after them

People have no incentive to earn money and buy their own home

Council properties are often made with cheap, poor-quality materials.

Old Buildings

Historic buildings are part of a country's heritage

They should be protected

Old buildings are often considered to be works of art

They give character to cities and attract tourists

They show us how people lived in the past

We identify countries by architectural symbols like the pyramids in Egypt

Governments should spend money on looking after historic buildings

They need regular repairs and maintenance

New buildings should be designed to complement them

Modern/green buildings

Modern buildings should be designed to be environmentally friendly

They should use less energy and produce less waste

Modern insulation can make houses more energy-efficient

Solar and wind power can be used to generate electricity

Rainwater and waste water can be recycled and used to flush toilets.

Modern glass buildings take advantage of natural light

15. Language

English as an international language

English is widely used around the world

It is becoming a global second language

It is the dominant language of technology, science and international business

International business meetings are regularly held in English

The most important textbooks and journals are published in English

The ability to speak English is a necessary skill in the modern world

Negative of English as an International Language

If one language is dominant, other languages may disappear

The dominant language brings its own culture

American culture has become popular around the world

Other cultures may be damaged

As an alternative to English, a new global language could be invented

It would have no nationality or culture attached to it

This could help to promote international peace and understanding

Esperanto is an example of a language that was invented with this aim

16. Money

Money and Society

Society has become increasingly materialistic

People aspire to earn more money

They want a bigger house or a better car

We connect wealth and material possessions with happiness and success

Brands like "Armani" or "Mercedes" are status symbols

Advertising creates new desires and needs

It persuades us to buy the latest styles

Positives of Consumerism

Consumerism creates employment

It helps to reduce poverty

It encourages innovation and creativity in business

We live in a global economy

We have a better quality of life

Negatives of Consumerism

Consumerist societies create more waste

They use more natural resources

They cause damage to the environment

Consumerism creates a "throw-away" culture

Advertisers tell us who we are and what we want

Wealth does not lead to happiness

Materialism causes greed and crime

We should return to traditional values like sharing

17. Personality

Happiness

Happiness means different things to different people
It can be described as a feeling of pleasure or enjoyment
People enjoy spending time with family and friends
Hobbies, sports and games can be a source of fun and enjoyment
Some people see money as a source of happiness
Other people define happiness as something deeper
In order to be truly happy it is necessary to live a good life
We need to feel that we are doing something useful with our lives
Some people get a sense of achievement from their work
Others find happiness in bringing up their children
Religion or a sense of purpose can also be a source of happiness

Success

People define success in different ways
Some people get a sense of achievement from raising a family
For others, success is defined by wealth or status
We often think of rich and famous people as being successful in life
Millionaires like Bill Gates are considered to be successful
They have risen to the top in their chosen professions
For some, being successful means achieving personal or professional goals
They see success as the result of hard work
Success in any field requires long-term planning and effort

Nature or Nurture

Some people believe that our personalities are determined mainly by genetics
We inherit our abilities and talents from our parents
Others think that our education and upbringing are more important
We develop according to the influences around us
Our personalities and achievements depend more on nurture than nature
Many people argue that we control our own destinies
We can shape our own personalities
By working hard we can achieve a goal that we put our minds to
Many successful people are "self-made"
We are not limited by our genetic characteristics or upbringing

18. Sport and Leisure

Arguments against Professional/competitive sport

Sport has become a business
Professional sport encourages people to compete for money
Many sports stars are only concerned about money and fame
Some athletes take drugs in order to win at any cost
Competitors are often selfish and rude

They are not good role models for children
All sports should be amateur
Sports should be leisure activities rather than jobs
People should do sporting activities for enjoyment and health reasons
Taking part is more important than winning

Arguments for Professional sport

Professional sports are the same as any other business
Many people are employed in the sports industry
People should be able to use their talents to earn a salary
Sports stars entertain millions of people
Money is necessary to improve facilities and train athletes
The level of professional sport is much higher than that of amateur sport

Arguments for Competitive sport

Competition is a natural instinct in humans
In daily life we compete to get jobs or the highest grades
Sports are a safe form of competition
Competition is healthy because it pushes us to give our best
Competitors and fans can release energy and aggression
Supporters of teams feel a sense of belonging to a community

Opinion: professional sport salaries are too high

Sports professionals earn too much money
They do not provide a vital service
Football players, for example, earn enormous salaries by simply kicking a ball
We could all live happily without professional football
Life would be difficult without doctors, engineers and other vital professionals.
Society does not seem to value these professions as highly as professional sport
Sports salaries should be compatible with the wages most people earn

Opinion: professional sport salaries are fair

It is fair that the best professional earn a lot of money
Sport is a multi-million-pound industry
There is a large audience of sports fans
Sports on television attract many viewers
Sports stars have dedicated hours of practice to developing their fitness and skills
Only the most talented among them will reach the top
A sports career many only last 10 years
Sports fans are willing to pay to support their teams

Sports and Politics

Some people think that sport and politics should remain separate
Governments are involved in the hosting of sporting events such as the Olympics.
These events attract investment and create jobs.
The Olympic Games are an advertisement for the host nation

They attract huge numbers of visitors and sports fans
Wealthy countries tend to hold these events
Developing countries should be given the chance to become hosts

19. Television, Internet, Phones

Positives of television

Watching television is a good way to relax
It is many people's favorite way to wind down after a hard day at work
Television programs can be entertaining and enjoyable
Viewers have access to a huge variety of entertainment channels
Television brings the best comedians, musicians and actors into our homes
Programmers can also be informative and educational
News coverage makes the public aware of events around the world
Documentaries can make learning more interesting

Negatives of Television

Television is having a negative impact on society
Some people link violence on television with crime rates in the real world
Children copy the behavior they see on the screen
Children are less healthy because they spend less time playing
Advertisers direct their marketing at children
Most programs do not require much thought
Watching TV is a waste of time

Opinions about Television

Television has many benefits
However, it can be addictive
Children should play outside rather than sit in front of a screen all day
Behaviour shown on TV can influence people
Parents should choose carefully what their children watch
Children should not be exposed to violence, swearing or sexual images
Advertising during children's programs should be strictly controlled
TV companies should make more positive, educational programs

Positives of the Internet

There are many advantages to using the Internet
It gives us instant access to information on almost any subject
Shops and other services are now available online
People can buy goods and services from the comfort of their homes
The Internet is starting to replace other forms of entertainment
It has revolutionized communication
We can keep in touch by email or instant messenger services
Video messaging is becoming common for business meetings

Negatives of the internet

Many websites contain offensive content

Some sites show violent or sexual images
Parents find it difficult to control what their children see online
They do not always know who their children are chatting to
With so many websites it is difficult to search for good information
Criminals increasingly use the Internet to steal people's money

Internet compared to newspaper and books

Newspapers and books are now published online as well as in print
We can read the news in any language from any country in the world
It costs nothing to publish or access information on the Internet
The Internet allows anybody to publish their own writing
Newspaper articles and books are written by professionals
Professionals produce better quality writing than amateur
People still buy newspapers and books because they are portable
People do not like reading from a screen

Positives of Mobile Phones

The mobile phone is the most popular gadget in today's world
Mobile phones have revolutionized the way we communicate
We can stay in touch with family, friends and colleagues wherever we are
Users can send text messages, surf the Internet, take photos and listen to music
Mobiles have also become fashion accessories

Negatives of Mobile Phones

Mobiles phones can be a problem in some public places
Ringing phones cause disturbance in cinemas and school lessons
Some people are not aware that others can hear their conversations
Mobile phones may also interfere with electronic equipment
Their waves could cause damage to our brains
Mobile phones can also be a dangerous distraction
Using a phone while driving reduces the driver's concentration
Mobile phones are a popular target for thieves

Opinion about Mobile Phones

The benefits of mobile phones outweigh the drawbacks
We need to use these phones with care

20. Tourism

Positives of Tourism

Tourism is a popular leisure activity
People go on holiday to relax and have fun
Tourists can experience different cultures
They can sunbathe on beaches or go sight-seeing
Travelling abroad opens our minds
We can learn to speak other languages
The tourist trade is vital for some economies

It creates employment in services like accommodation, transport and entertainment
Some areas rely on tourism for their income
Tourists spend money
Tourism attracts investment from multi-national companies
It helps to improve the standard of living
Low-cost airlines are making it cheaper to travel abroad

Negative effects of tourism

Tourism can have a negative effect on the natural environment
The building of facilities and infrastructure can destroy the habitat of wild animals
Beautiful beaches are spoilt by the building of hotels
Tourism creates pollution and waste
It puts pressure on local resources
Local traditional and cultures may be endangered
A rise in the cost of living affects local people
The price of goods, services and housing may increase significantly

The future of tourism

Government should introduce laws to protect natural environments and local cultures
Tourism should have a low impact on wildlife
Renewable resources like solar or water power should be used
Waste should be recycled
Local businesses such as farms should be supported

21. Traditional vs Modern

Losing traditional skills

Because of industrialization and global trade, many traditions have disappeared
Global advertising encourages everyone to buy the same products
Most products are now made in factories
Machinery has replaced skilled human labour
Factory work is boring and leaves people feeling unfulfilled
Goods are produced very quickly and in large numbers
Products are cheaper, which means that more people can buy them

Examples

Clothes are mass produced in standard sizes
People wear similar clothes, rather than traditional costumes
Jeans and T-shirt are now worn throughout the world
Historic buildings took skilled craftsmen years to build
Modern concrete, steel and glass buildings are built in only weeks or months
There are fewer people who can create hand-made goods

Traditional customs

Traditional customs are still important during weddings and religious festivals
People wear traditional costumes and eat special foods
It is important to maintain our different cultural identities

We should celebrate festivals, teach traditional skills and protect historic places

22. Transport

Traffic problems

Traffic congestion is caused by commuters travelling to work
Most people live in the suburbs outside city centre
Commuters tend to travel at the same time of day
They tend to travel alone
Cars and road space are not used efficiently
This causes traffic jams during the rush hour

Traffic solutions

In order to reduce traffic we should change our working habits
The internet can now be used to connect people
More people could work from home
Meetings can be held as video conferences
Workers could be given flexible timetables
Another solution would be to tax drivers
Workers should share their cars and travel together
In London, for example, there is a congestion charge
This helps to raise money for better public transport
Public transport needs to be reliable and efficient

Positives of Public transport

We need to reduce our dependence on cars
Parking a car can be extremely difficult in big cities
Well-designed transport systems are comfortable and convenient
Modern public transport can be fast and cheap
Public transport can help to reduce pollution in cities
Investment in buses and trains will ease traffic congestion
Buses can be given special lands to avoid traffic

Negatives of public transport

Public transport is often slow and unreliable
Metro systems and trains are often dirty and crowded
People feel like "sardines in a can"
Cars are much more comfortable

Road safety

Driving while tired or drunk is extremely dangerous
Mobile phones can be a dangerous distraction for drivers
They draw the driver's attention away from the road
The use of phones while driving has been banned in many countries
Punishments are becoming stricter
Television campaigns are used to remind people to drive safely
Speed cameras have become more common

Speed bumps are another form of traffic calming
Many streets are designed with the aim of slowing traffic down

23. Water

Importance of clean water

Water is as necessary natural resource
Humans need access to clean, safe drinking water in order to live
Poor water quality is a major cause of disease and death in some countries
Water usually needs to be treated before we can drink it
Developing countries often lack the means to treat and supply water to citizens
Developed countries tend to have much better sanitation
Citizens have access to clean tap water
Drinking water is not contaminated by sewage or waste water
The supply of clean water would improve public health in many developing countries

Water supply

Urban life would be impossible without water supply systems
These systems are massive engineering projects
Many professionals are involved in their planning, construction and maintenance
The supply and distribution of water are major concerns
Water is becoming scarce in some countries
Areas that suffer droughts often need to import water
As populations grow, there is more pressure on water supplies
This could lead to a water crisis

Water and politics

The supply of water is also an important political issue
Huge amount of water are needed for agriculture and industry
The irrigation of crops accounts for a large proportions of water use
A water crisis could lead to political conflicts or even wars

Argument: water should be free

Some people believe that water should be free for everyone
Governments should supply water to all homes at no cost
Private companies should not be allowed to profit from this natural resource
Money from taxes can be used to pay for water supply systems

Argument: water should not be free

If water is free, people take it for granted
They do not think about how much water they waste
They leave taps running while washing or brushing their teeth
If we have to pay for water, we will use it more responsibly
Water supply systems are extremely expensive
Investment is needed to maintain and improve them
Private companies may provide a better service than governments
If they provide an efficient service, they will make more money

They will repair leaks to avoid losing money

Bottled Water: Opinions

Some people carry bottles of water wherever they go

For example, they take bottles of water to work or to the gym

They believe that bottled water is healthier than tap water

They also argue that it tastes better

However, other people believe that we should consume less bottled water

Plastic water bottles add to litter and waste problems

Companies should not be able to make a profit from water

It is unethical to make money by selling packaged water

There is no difference in quality between bottled and tap water

24. Work

The benefits of staying in the same job for life

Employees have a stable career with one employer

They have a good pension and health insurance

Their salaries gradually increase

They may be promoted within the organization

They demonstrate loyalty

Experienced staff can be trusted with more responsibility

They become part of a team

There is a clearly defined path for development

The benefits of not staying in the same job

People often change jobs in order to further their career

Another company may offer a promotion or a higher salary

People who change jobs can gain experience

They can learn different skills

Changing jobs is interesting and challenging

People can retrain in a different occupation

In a fast-changing world workers need to be flexible

People need to develop a range of experience and skills

Self-employment

Nowadays, it is easy to set up a company

The Internet provides a global marketplace

Self-employment offers greater freedom than working for a company

However, there are risks to starting a new business

Self-employed people may face financial difficulties

Many businesses fail to make a profit

There is less stability in self-employment

There are no benefits like pensions, sick pay and holiday pay

Self-employment involved hard work, long hours and total responsibility

Unemployment

Unemployment is a big problem for individuals, communities and society

Some people are unable to find a job

They may not have the sufficient level of education or qualifications

They may find themselves homeless

Unemployment causes frustration and stress

Jobless people may become involved in crime as a means to get money

The unemployed need careers advice

Governments need to provide vocational courses and retraining

Unemployment benefits: positives

Some governments pay unemployment benefits in order to help jobless people

Unemployed people need financial support until they find a new job

By claiming benefits they can continue to pay for their homes

The benefits system helps to reduce poverty, homelessness and crime

Unemployment benefits: negatives

Some people claim benefits rather than working

They become dependent on the government

They are not motivated to find a job

The benefits system is a burden on taxpayers

All citizens should work to earn a living and support themselves

Receiving benefits affects people's self esteem

Work/Life Balance

It is important to achieve a balance between work time and leisure or family time

Too much work can result in stress and poor health

"workaholics" may neglect their families and friends

People need to take regular holidays

Companies should be expect employees to work overtime

Nowadays, many people work part-time or have flexible working hours

Technology allow people to work from home

Many companies provide childcare facilities

A good work/ life balance can raise job satisfaction

Happy, healthy workers are more productive

Technology and work

Internet, fax and mobile phone technologies have revolutionized working life

Workers can communicate via email, online networks and video conferencing

Technology can connect workers in different countries

It gives people more freedom

It can also save time and money

Some people believe that offices could disappear in the future

Virtual online offices may replace them

Child labour

In some countries, children are exploited

They do repetitive jobs for very low pay

Children are often used in agriculture and factory work

The employment of children is prohibited in other countries

Many people think that children should be free to enjoy their childhood

Governments should make education a priority

They should build new schools

They should supply the resources to educate children

Children need to be given the knowledge and skills for adult life

Brainstorming Samples

1. YOUNG ADULTS DOING MANDATORY COMMUNITY WORK

1. Benefits for involved young adults (age between 18 & 25)

- Learn to stand on their feet : survival skills; become both physically & mentally tough; benefit them in future

- Learn to appreciate disciplines, be well aware of the necessity to follow orders & instructions, be able to control their mood & to respect their leader

- Hardships create opportunities for them to reveal potential; strengths & qualities

- Good resume (CV)

2. Benefits for community

- Effective way of educating young people about patriotism

- A way of training future leader

- To reduce crime rate among young people.

2. OVERSEAS STUDY

Advantages

1. More advanced education systems in developed countries

- University courses in these countries are more job oriented, more responsive to labour market, more integrated in socio-economic development trends, university in most developing countries by contrast are still refer to as "ivory towers" (tháp tri thức), focusing more on providing academic knowledge and skills needed by the labour market.

2. Overseas students can access modern technologies, even state-of-the-art ones (công nghệ tiên tiến nhất) and be involved in research project; gain practical skills.

3. More independent and mature

4. Exposure to different culture

Disadvantages

1. Culture shock : New climate; New natural & social environment; Homesickness and loneliness

2. Financial difficulties facing private students

3. High cost of living/living cost

4. Braindrain

3. LEARNING ENGLISH IN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES IS THE ONLY WAY TO MASTER THE LANGUAGE ?

Agree

1. Studying environment is very important so learn English any time, any space and come naturally.
2. Easily access to native speakers or teachers; aware of correct accent and pronunciation from the beginning.
3. Experience the foreign culture

Disagree

1. In other countries which have many English course that have native teachers or not. It is also a effective way to learn English if learning hard.
2. Learning in your own country will be a safer (and cheaper) option than going abroad; less stress and fewer problems in accommodation, expensive tuition and living costs.

4. TEENAGERS SHOULD DO A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS OR THEY SHOULD FOCUS ON THOSE OF THEIR CHOICE

Point A

1. These subject cover all aspects of nature and social life. Students would be well-equipped with survival skills & academic knowledge for the future lives
2. Doing wide range of subject enables to make better of choice of those they want to focus on.
3. All fields are interrelated; broad background knowledge would be helpful.
4. This make children be difficult to develop their gifts. Teenagers spend most of time in school, so they have no time to learn other subjects.

Point B

1. More effective; students better motivated if they were aloud to pursue their interest
2. Spend more time to spend on other subjects; dig deep into each issue : do research, do assignments, field work, experiments, give presentation
- Translate knowledge from books into their own knowledge
3. Save resources for society
4. No school program, however many subjects it cover, would provide teenagers with enough background knowledge self-study skills are essential.

5. WEARING SCHOOL UNIFORM

Advantages

1. Make thing more equal for all students.
2. Equal on an economic level
3. Prevent envy and jealousy about stylish clothes
4. Form friendship based on personality not clothes.
5. Reduce unequal treatment by teachers.
6. Enhance solidarity
7. Encourage the individual students of a school to feel like part of a bigger group.

Disadvantages

1. School uniforms limit children to show their individualism in clothes.
2. Some families cant afford those uniforms because it's too expensive.

6. LONG OR SHORT VACATION IN THE YEAR FOR STUDENT

Short vacation

1. Easier for parents to schedule vacations.
2. Hard for parents to make a plan for the time in long vacation: expensive, unsafe for children.
3. Better for economy and tourism.
4. Overcrowded in holiday seasons.
5. Children are better focused on study

Long vacation

1. School buildings are air-conditioned in summer hot.
2. Students can take part in the real world; gaining experiences.

7. STUDY ALONE OR WITH A GROUP

Advantages of studying alone

1. In case the group don't take studying seriously; distracted, interruptions
2. Absolutely quite
3. Depend on your habits and personality
4. If you are sociable, it's too tempted to socialize.

Advantages of studying in a group

1. Exchange information about the topic : comparing notes, discuss various aspects of a topic; clearer arguments.
 2. Focused on studying : good discipline; no wasted time.
- What are disadvantages of studying in a group?

8. SCHOOL SHOULD ASK CHILDREN TO EVALUATE THEIR TEACHERS

1. Help teachers to perfect themselves : Inform teacher of how students react both to their teaching methods and to them as individuals.
2. Encourage teachers, give them confidence.
3. Helpful for school administrators assessment of the quality of their teachers.
4. Good exercise for students; understand better what is expected of them.
5. Teach students responsibility: Give students feelings that they have a voice in what happen in their schools.

9. SOME STUDENTS LIKE CLASSES WHERE TEACHERS LECTURE (DO ALL OF THE TALKING) IN CLASS. OTHER STUDENTS PREFER CLASS WHERE THE STUDENTS DO SOME OF TALKING. WHICH TYPE OF CLASS DO YOU PREFER ?

Advantages of lecture

1. Teacher give the student the information at their best.
2. Students gain their experience and knowledge.

Advantages of discussion

1. develop students?T activeness.
2. Develop students?T interactive skill.
3. Teachers feel more comfortable.
4. Students study more effectively:
5. One effective way of studying is: making mistake.
6. Discussion is always a better way for gaining information.
7. Students have to consider the problems right at the class to know to what extent they understand.

10. TEACHER SHOULD BE PAID ACCORDING TO HOW MUCH THEIR STUDENTS LEARN

Why shouldn't teachers be paid according to how much their students learn ? how good do their students perform in examinations

1. Students will miss out on a lot of education that cant be measured on a test, because teacher will start to teach only what students need to get high test scores.
2. Some less able students would be disadvantaged. Teachers may ignore students who have learning difficulties because they have to push the majority of the students.
3. On what basis should teachers be paid ?

11. DISTERUPT SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON OTHERS. STUDENTS WHO ARE NOISY AND DISOBEDIENT SHOULD BE GROUPED TOGETHER AND TAUGHT SEPARATELY. AGREE OR DISAGREE

we separate disruptive students for the purpose :

1. Limiting their educational opportunities.
2. A sort of prison; never recover from the experience; problems for the wider society.

What is the alternative ?

1. Investigate for the reason
2. The work is too easy
3. Teachers are uninspiring; solution

12. THE GOVERNMENT OF YOUR COUNTRY IS GOING TO OFFER A NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS, IN WHICH ACADEMIC SUBJECTS SHOULD THESE SCHOLARSHIPS BE OFFERED TO BENEFIT YOUR COUNTRY.

Why offer scholarships to excellent students committed to agricultural science and technology ?

1. Vietnam is an agricultural country.

2. The production is limited due to the lack of advanced agricultural technology and farming methods.
3. Vietnamese students would be encouraged and facilitated to acquire advanced agricultural science and technology to apply to the farms and rice fields
4. 70% population would enjoy increased production, higher quality products, more job opportunities, and higher incomes.

Why offer scholarships to excellent students committed to information technology ?

1. Pivotal role of this field in pushing up their economies.
2. Vn enjoy comparative advantages in human resource since our students rank high in international and regional computer science and maths contests.
3. Ignoring computer science in this IT world, Vietnam would risk lagging behind in the decades to come.

13. IN SOME COUNTRIES, TEENAGERS HAVE JOBS WHILE THEY ARE STILL STUDENTS. AGREE OR DISAGREE

Agree

1. Teenagers who work early are more mature and independent than those do not work
2. they have experience in work, which is useful for their future jobs
3. They have responsibility with money and the labor cost value.
 - When they know how hard to earn money, they utilize money more effectively
 - They can earn money to buy books, games, or even though spend for school fee, which help their parents to raise them
4. They can nurture their skills and social knowledge.

Disagree

1. Negative impact on their learning, and eventually on their grades.
2. Disrupt a teenager's home life. If they work, they will lack time for playing or sleeping, which results in negative effect on their health.
3. He's missing out on the fun of being young. He has a whole lifetime in which he'll have to earn a living

14. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND CLASSES OR BE OPTIONAL FOR STUDENTS.

Ads of attending the class ?

1. Personal experience can help people learn about themselves and the world outside the classroom, but when it comes to learning about academic subjects, students need to be in class.
2. In class, students receive the benefit of the teacher's knowledge.
3. Attending classes on any subject teaches more than just facts. It teaches students how to learn, how to absorb information and apply what they've learned to other situations.
4. Teach them how to work with the other members of the class.
5. Teach students responsibility and discipline.

15. A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS OR HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO GOOD STUDENTS. DISCUSS OD WHICH VIEW DO YOU AGREE WITH ?

Why everyone should have the opportunity to attend college ?

1. Education is a valuable investment in future career earnings.
2. People with college degrees make more money and have more opportunities later.
3. Everyone should have a period to learn about themselves before they begin to work and earn money.
4. College is a time to meet different people, separate from your parents, and begin to define you as a person.
5. Anyone should be given a chance to see how far she can go.

Why tertiary should be available to only good students ?

1. Higher education is very expensive.
2. Might be a waste of money to send someone to college who might not be able to handle the course work.
3. A big investment of time for studying.
4. A weak student should get a job and earn some money.

16. LIVE IN UNIVERSITY DORMITORIES, OR APARTMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Why live on campus their first two years ?

1. freshmen and sophomores need the stability of campus life
2. living on campus makes it easier to get oriented to the way things are done.
3. You get the whole university experience
4. You interact more with other students.
5. The older students in the dormitory can be a big help for the new students
6. Major task is study.
7. Feel more a part of the university community.
8. More opportunities for becoming involved in university activities and networking with student leaders and university administration.

Why live off campus their last two years ?

1. Juniors and seniors need the independence of off - campus life.
2. Finding an apartment, dealing with leases and landlord's regulations, cooking meals, and figuring out budgets are all good practice for life after graduation; grow into adulthood.
3. A better perspective on what is going on around them.

17. WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE THE UNIVERSITY ASSIGN A STUDENT TO SHARE A ROOM, OR WOULD YOU RATHER CHOOSE YOUR OWN ROOMMATE ?

Advantages of roommate from university assign ?

1. Student should meet new people and be open to new experience.
2. We can change roommate in the next semester if not comfortable.
3. We can play an decisive role when making a list.
4. Someone who is different from us would be interesting.
5. Chance to get a roommate from another culture.

18. EDUCATION IS RECOGNIZED AS VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF ANY SOCIETY IN TODAY'S WORLD. GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SHOULD MAKE EDUCATION COMPULSORY FOR ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 AND 15. AGREE OR DISAGREE ?

Benefits of compulsory education

1. At a young age, students are unlikely to be sufficiently mature to make sensible decisions about their lives.
2. In today's society, where increasingly high levels of skills and knowledge are required of the workforce; need at least basic education.
3. The governments provide a basic education for children for free; their parents have nothing to lose.
4. Some parents who do not want to follow the policy do not realize the necessity of a basic education.
5. In fact, a basic education is a major foundation for every career.

Disadvantages of compulsory education

1. Low income families may not be able to afford to keep their children at school.
2. Children can help bring in much needed income.
3. Compulsory schooling might be psychological damaging for the students who are not motivated to learn

19. EDUCATION IS A CRITICAL FACTOR IN A COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. OPINION IS DIVIDED. HOWEVER, ON WHETHER A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH LIMITED RESOURCES SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO IMPROVING AND EXPANDING BASIC EDUCATION FOR THE MASSES OR TO PROVIDING A HIGH QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE LEADERS.

Why should improve and expand basic education ?

1. Everyone born to this world is equal and, hence, is entitled to receiving basic education.
2. Only by improving basic education could a poor nation encourage its people to discover their potential, which would translate into their knowledge and skills to be employed at work, thus/thereby improving productivity and, ultimately, living standards.
3. It's common people who make up the largest part of the workforce.
4. The moral question of equal opportunities for everyone. On what criteria can a young person be judged as a potential future leader or just as a common person?
5. Deprive the involved individual of higher education opportunity to explore his/her full potential, and might also deprive the nation of a potential clever leader.

20. DESCRIBE THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF EDUCATION IN SOCIETY

1. Well - educated and good citizens.
2. Skillful and qualified workforce.

21. TOO MUCH EDUCATION IS DANGEROUS. IF PEOPLE RECEIVE MORE EDUCATION THAN THEY NEED TO FUNCTION IN THEIR JOB, IT ONLY BREEDS DISSATISFACTION. AGREE OR DISAGREE

Too much education is dangerous ?

1. Education gives people unrealistic ambitions: the law of the market decrees that not every one can be a managing director.
2. There is very little point in training people for a level of job that they can never hope to achieve.
3. Education is expensive. Over-education is a waste of time and money.
4. Students tend to be a disruptive influence on society: found at the forefront of radical organisation.

Why should invest in education ?

1. Most countries need a high standard of human resources in order to compete in the world market.
2. Uneducated people unable to show initiative.
3. Constantly changing technology means that the workforce has to be flexible and receptive to new ideas in order to be of value to employers.
4. Moral question: who has the right to say how much education a person is entitled to? What criteria could be used to decide a level of schooling?

22. EDUCATION IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTRY. AGREE OR DISAGREE

Why education is the most important factor ?

1. Education provides basis for other skills.
2. Literacy improves working person's capability.
3. Creates self/ national respect.
4. Education provides basis for healthy population.

Why education is not the most important factor ?

1. Health is more important than education.
2. Economic development is important, and may only need unskilled workers.
3. Difficult to find enough trained teachers.

23. TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE IS ATTACHED EXAMS AT SCHOOL. AGREE OR DISAGREE

Why say too much importance is given to exams and that it is time to change the way we monitor out children's development at school ?

1. Firstly, I think that the examination system is unfair because sometimes two students with the same ability in a subject get very different exam results. This is because one is much better at taking exams than the other.
2. Apart from this, exam questions often test how much a student has remembered about the things he or she has been taught in the classroom.
3. As a result, students are often encouraged to learn facts by heart, instead of how to use the information and how to think for themselves.

4. Lastly, it seems to me that exams sometimes have a bad effect on teaching, as teachers are usually judged by the exam results of their students.
5. Consequently, they are often more interested in preparing their students for the exams than in making their lessons lively and stimulating.

24. PEOPLE SHOULD READ THOSE BOOKS THAT ARE ABOUT REAL EVENT, REAL PEOPLE, AND ESTABLISHED FACTS. AGREE OR DISAGREE

Disagree

1. The real world is too complicated for children; innocent and inexperienced to know the real facts and understand what is a real life about
2. Comic books will disappear as well as animated films and fiction movies; nothing happens to excite the mind and spirit.

25. SOME CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE NATURAL ABILITY FOR LEARNING OTHER LANGUAGES. THEREFORE, THEY SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. AGREE OR DISAGREE

Disagree

1. If a child can be fluent in his/her first language, s/he can also be fluent in any other language because of the same brain mechanism.
2. Long term benefits; expose children to another culture, raising their awareness of culture diversity of the world.
3. Essential for work as globalization proceeds; high level job opportunity will be open.

26. MANY PEOPLE AGREE THAT EDUCATION SHOULD BE COMPULSORY FOR ALL CHILDREN UNTIL A CERTAIN AGE. OTHERS, HOWEVER, ARGUE THAT CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILY SHOULD BE FREE TO DECIDE WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOL. DISCUSS

Point A

1. Children are too young to make sensible decisions; leave school early would deprive them of higher education opportunity.
2. Gender equality; discrimination would limit girls access to education, thus hindering socio-economic development

Point B

1. Low income families may not be able to afford to keep their children at school.
2. Forced education might be psychologically damaging for those who are not motivated to learn.