

Effortless Learning

Reading produces writing. You need to read model essays.

Do whatever you find is easy.

Do whatever is enjoyable

Don't do things just because you are told to.

Don't force yourself to learn

Don't push things into your brain – come back to it later

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Your subconscious brain will absorb the knowledge if it is repeated so trust it to do that. The new knowledge will then become automatic just like driving a car.

Keep reading and the subconscious mind will remember the chunks of words which it sees and hears many times. Just read and only read if it is enjoyable. If you are stressed learning will stop.

Reading lots and lots of model essays will result in you automatically producing excellent essays because your subconscious mind will do it for you. **You need to do a little bit of reading every day.**

However if you have problems reading model essays here are some things you can do:

1. Read only the essays where the question is interesting.
2. Read just for a few minutes and when it becomes boring stop.
3. Find other model essays on the internet but only at a 9 level.
4. Read other materials but preferably at an academic level (BBC is good).
5. Ask your tutor for materials which you would enjoy.
6. Read and listen to interesting stories on the internet.
7. Read a mixture of essays and other materials.
8. Study grammar rules if this is what you enjoy and look for them in the essays. Knowing the grammar rules is not necessary. English speakers don't. Through repetition they just feel that it is right or wrong.
9. If you speak an Asian language then articles, plurals and tenses are your challenges so look for them in the essays. Go on a treasure hunt and find them. Other languages have similar challenges.



The key to your learning will be to do whatever reading you enjoy but do it in short session every day.

If you miss a day don't worry, just keep persisting. Do it when you are waiting so then you will not have to find time to do it. There are many times when you are waiting – waiting for a bus, waiting while you are on the bus, waiting for your friends, waiting for the doctor etc.

ENJOY

Model Essay 1

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs. Others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

Plan:

Job skills / cost

Confidence / social skills



With more students attending university than ever before, it is clear that getting a job is not the only benefit of having a degree, but that graduates are typically more mature and promote a better future for society as a whole.

It is an undeniable truth that people attend university to advance their prospects of obtaining a good career. University courses hone a student's skills in a particular field to make them more employable and give them a better chance at attaining a well-paying job. If getting a degree would not help people have financial security, the steep costs of attending university would not be worth it. As so many people do attend though, the outcome must be believed to be worth it. Thus, many people believe university will help further their career.

Financial security does not need to be the only benefit to having a university degree, though. Further education promotes higher levels of confidence in individuals, which in turn helps the society grow. Students who need to move out of home to attend university typically improve their communication skills, expand their social circles and mature faster. Living away from home forces students to become self-sufficient. As these more confident individuals move into the workforce, the quality of society will grow due to the higher levels of intelligent input. By helping many individuals, the whole society benefits.

I believe that from this evidence it is clear that while students undeniably attend university to further their career prospects, educating individuals will also aid with their personal growth and the growth of society.

(262 words)

Model Essay 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

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

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

Plan:

Downsides:

Lack of research

Friends

Prolonged illnesses

Benefits:

It works

People pay

No side effects



The usage of alternative medicine has a long, global history that continues to this day. Although some people believe alternative medicine is dangerous, I believe that both types of treatment are beneficial in different capacities.

Concerns about alternative medicine stem from the lack of research, as there are few scientific resources advocating it. Those who do opt for alternative medication are usually referred to it via their social network. This could mean that the good feelings promoted by friends cause the user to feel more positively toward the medication's results. Moreover, it appears that using an alternative to conventional medicine is really only effective when treating prolonged illnesses and disorders.

Despite a lack of scientific research on alternative medicine, there have been sufficient personal testimonies to prove that it works. In addition to this, it is also clear that thousands of people are willing to pay for such medication despite many conventional medicines being available for free. Considering this in conjunction with how long people have been turning to such cures, I believe the likelihood of such medication having positive results is very high. Finally, the research done so far has also shown that a benefit of using alternative medicine is that it has little to no side effects, meaning that as well as being quite safe, the user is highly unlikely to be worse-off for using it.

In conclusion, there are downsides and benefits to using both conventional and alternative medication and I believe that neither one should be used exclusively and that the ideal solution would in fact be to use both as a complementary alternative to the other.

(271 words)

Model Essay 3

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Some people think that the best way to reduce crime is to give longer prison sentences. Others, however, believe there are better alternative ways of reducing crime.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Re-educate

Criminal connections / Community service

Closure

Crime is an ongoing issue worldwide and sentences for deterring criminals have often been debated. While some people are firm advocates of longer prison sentences, some believe that alternative methods such as community service would be better in the long-run.

Longer prison sentences ensure the wrongdoer is separated from the community for an extended period, giving them more time to be re-educated by the system and to learn to assimilate into society before being released. In doing so, this method intends to change the psychology of criminals to ensure they do not become repeat offenders, and also to prevent other people from breaking the law.

The downside to longer prison sentences is that it provides criminals with more time to build connections with, and learn from, other criminals. To prevent this, an alternative option to longer sentences is community service. Forcing criminals to do something positive for the community may give them a sense of accomplishment and allows them to build practical skills which they could put to use at the end of the sentence, thereby reducing repeat offenses and lowering the crime rate.

One thing longer prison sentences provide that alternative methods do not is closure for the victims of felony. However, although longer prison sentences have been implemented in many countries worldwide, it has not had the effect on crime rates that people hoped for. For this reason, I believe turning to alternative methods may be beneficial.

In conclusion, there are pros and cons for longer prison sentences and for alternative methods. It is my opinion that both methods can coexist and are appropriate for different offences, but that research should continue.

(274 words)

Model Essay 4

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Government investment in the arts, such as music and theatre, is a waste of money. Governments must invest this money in public services instead.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Health / transport / police - affordable

The arts – support needed

Public services are undeniably an important part of the government's budget as they ensure the community's health, education and overall standard of living. However, I believe that the arts also play an important role in our lives in the form of entertainment and education.

Funding public services means that the people in our country can afford to access health services when they are in need, that public transport is operating efficiently and that police are available, among other things. These services ensure the people living under the government's jurisdiction have access to necessary facilities and help, and the amount of money provided by the government helps to determine the quality of such services. Without the government's aid, many people would not be able to afford the help they need, and the quality of our society would suffer. Therefore, it is necessary for the government's budget to support public services.

Without government funding, many organisations that provide access to the arts would not be able to support themselves. This would be a serious loss because a large part of our history is conveyed through various forms of art, and the arts also provide a unique form of education and entertainment and foster creativity. It is important for the government to support such providers so that the public can continue to access them.

It is evident that the government needs to provide public services with enough money to ensure their quality and efficiency. However, I believe it is also important that some funding goes towards the arts to ensure the public has access to the entertainment, history and education they offer.

(269 words)

Model Essay 5

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Levels of youth crime are increasing rapidly in most cities around the world.

What are the reasons for this, and suggest some solutions.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Seeking attention / poverty / causes

Punishment / penalise parents

Youth crime is a problem that has escalated in recent times on a global scale. Children feeling neglected by their family and an increasing wealth gap are likely to be prominent causes of this, but the solution is still the same: punishment.

Children who feel neglected at home are more likely to turn to crime for attention. If both parents are working five days a week, it is easy for children to feel as though their parents do not have time for them. In cases like this, crime is often a call for attention. In other cases, crime is out of need or imitation. As the gap between wealth and poverty increases, poorer families are more likely to resort to theft in order to support themselves, and by doing so teach their children this behaviour. The likelihood of theft leading to other crimes is high if such behaviour is not punished.

Punishing criminals is the only way to let people know that crime is unacceptable. Imposing stringent laws and repercussions for all ages of people who are caught offending will ensure a lower crime rate as it will set an example. I believe that in the case of youths, parents should also be penalised as it is most often their actions that lead to such behaviour. Even when the crime is due to poverty, people of all ages must take responsibility for their actions.

In conclusion, whether youth crime is caused by familial neglect, poverty or another reason, I believe the only way to ensure it is not repeated or taken lightly is to enforce stringent punishments for both youths and their parents.

(273 words)

Model Essay 6

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

In order to solve traffic problems, governments should tax private car owners heavily and use the money to improve public transportation.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a solution?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Comfortable, punctual and safe/ clean air / taxes reduce cars

Expensive for car owners / unfair

Would taxing private car owners to fund and improve public transport solve the major issue of traffic jams? I examine the advantages and disadvantages below, noting that while more people using public transport is good for the environment, such taxes may be difficult for individuals.

It is much more likely that people will use public transport if the vehicles are comfortable, punctual and safe. Allowing a larger budget would make such upgrades possible. Not only that, but if more people use public transport and there are less cars on the roads, greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced, the air will be cleaner and the roads will be safer. Taxing private car owners would not only provide the government with enough money to make this possible, but it would also help to stop people from buying and using cars by ensuring the costs of driving severely outweigh the costs of using public transport.

While taxing private car owners may seem beneficial for the environment, it would be tough for many individuals. A fixed-rate tax on top of the already high tax amount would drain money from poorer people much faster than without. It also may not take into account how often owners use their cars, how environmentally friendly the model of car is, or that some car owners require the space a car provides or must drive further than is comfortable on public transport.

To conclude, in my opinion upgrading public transport is not a bad idea and would have many benefits, but adding more taxes would severely burden many individuals and would not necessarily be a fair tax.

(268 words)

Model Essay 7

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems.

Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

Plan:

Cannot buy / cheap houses / health / crime

Government

Individuals



This essay identifies overcrowding as one of the many dilemmas caused by overpopulation and looks at how both the government and individuals can help to fix such a serious issue.

Overcrowding happens in overpopulated cities where people cannot afford to buy their own property. The outcome is that cheap housing is built to keep people off the street. The problem is that cheap housing leads to even more issues including health and structural stability. Long-term illnesses can arise from stagnant living conditions or dangerous construction materials, and poorly-built structures in areas prone to earthquakes or storms are more likely to fail. On top of this, people in such conditions have an increased risk of committing crimes.

The solution lies first and foremost with the government. Ensuring citizens meet a certain standard of living in terms of housing, health and work is essential, as is guaranteeing the safety of those people; forbidding unsafe houses to be built on known fault lines is an example of this. Another way the government can help is to offer more work or free education facilities after hours to provide more opportunities for people to bond and learn.

As the problem concerns individuals, they must also be part of the solution. If the government takes the necessary steps to provide facilities to be used by the community, it is up to the individuals to make use of these – whether they be for education, health or something else.

In conclusion, overcrowding is a serious issue caused by overpopulation but is one that can be remedied in most cases, if individuals work alongside the government.

(267 words)

Example Essay 8

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

The percentage of overweight children in Western society has increased by almost 20% in the last ten years.

Discuss the causes and effects of this disturbing trend.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

Plan:

Processed food / children / cheap

Physical and mental health



Due largely to the availability of unhealthy foods, children are now facing more health problems than ever before. An increase in overweight children of nearly 20% has been recorded in Western societies over the last decade and will continue rising if not prevented.

Unhealthy and processed foods are by far the cheapest and easiest to obtain, making them appealing for many children and families. Children in particular are known for choosing fast food over healthy alternatives not just because of taste but also restaurant marketing. Items such as 'kid's meals' that provide a toy for children encourage repeat visits and make eating their detrimental food a positive experience. However, it is not only children who are at fault. A poorer job climate means that parents often have to turn to cheaper and less nutritious alternatives in the supermarket. As more families now have both parents working full-time, mealtimes are also more often designed to be quick and easy. Unfortunately, this means that even at home children are not getting the nutrition they need to maintain a healthy diet.

Physical and mental health concerns for children have risen alongside the obesity statistic. High blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes are all weight-related illnesses that in some cases may affect a person for life. Anxiety and depression can also be linked to obesity due to the higher risk of being bullied.

Diet is one of the main factors behind the rise in overweight children, but not the only one. Measures should be put in place to help keep serious mental and physical health risks at bay and ensure the longevity of our children.

(272 words)

Model Essay 9

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

As people live longer and longer, the idea of cloning human beings in order to provide spare parts is becoming a reality. The idea horrifies most people, yet it is no longer mere science fiction.

To what extent do you agree with such a procedure?

Have you any reservations?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

Plan:

Organs deteriorate / availability of parts / lives saved

Clone's rights / original dies? / child clones?



Science has advanced far enough for us to not only have the ability to clone animals, but also humans. The main advantage of this would be the ability to farm the clones for organs, but this raises many problematic questions relating to religion and ethics.

Each generation lives longer on average than the last, but that has not stopped organs deteriorating with age. With more motorised vehicles than before, we are also seeing more organs in otherwise healthy people damaged beyond repair. It is often the case that correct parts cannot be obtained in time to help the suffering person. Having a farm of humans available would give doctors the ability to replace failing organs and other body parts in true humans with ones from the clones. Many lives could be saved.

What makes a human life more important than a human clone's? If we begin cloning humans for the sole purpose of killing them, questions about right and wrong are raised. Many religious texts and almost every governing law forbid the murder of other humans. One question leads to another, but it seems that at the heart is the question about what rights clones have if they are indistinguishable from true humans. As a clone is a man-made replica of an existing human, what happens if the original person dies? Would their clone be allowed to live a life among true humans? What about child clones? The debate is endless.

Everything considered, I believe that the ethical issues are too great to ignore. Cloning should be restricted to animals only; just because we have the ability to do something does not mean we should.

(275 words)

Model Essay 10

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

A growing number of people feel that animals should not be exploited by people and that they should have the same rights as humans, while others argue that humans must employ animals to satisfy their various needs, including uses for food and research.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Superior intelligence / exploiting OK / diseases / pain and staple food

Torture / short life / vaccinations, vanity / vegetarian

emotions /

Humans have been farming animals for food for as long as we know, and more recently have been using animals as subjects in scientific experiments. However, many people rightly believe that this behaviour needs to end.

Because humans have superior intelligence, we have come to believe that other living beings are inferior. For people with this mindset, exploiting animals for needs such as food and research is okay. Many known diseases now have proven cures that were first tested on animals. Some people even believe that animals do not have the same pain receptivity or emotions that humans do, and as such do not mind being harmed as a human would. Meat is also a necessary staple of the human diet.

However, when the arguments for exploiting animals are looked at practically though, they have little basis. It has been scientifically proven that animals do feel pain to the same extent that humans do, and are therefore forced to endure nothing short of torture. Most animals in laboratories have shorter lifespans than wild ones, and while having vaccinations for human diseases is a positive thing, much of the research done on animals is actually for human vanity. To top this off, humans do not physically require meat for sustenance: by eating the right grains, fresh produce and vitamin supplements such as B12, we can receive all of the nutrition our bodies need.

In conclusion, although many people believe there is no harm in exploiting animals for food or scientific experiments, I believe there is actually no need to force animals to suffer for human nourishment or vanity. Animal rights should be recognised.

(Words 272)

Model Essay 11

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Many old buildings protected by law are part of a nation's history. Some people think they should be knocked down and replaced by new ones.

How important is it to maintain old buildings?

Should history stand in the way of progress?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

Plan:

Some are essential / understand history / tourists / comparisons
Progress / further development / history inspires



Often a country's most visited site is the one with the most historical significance, like Machu Picchu in Peru, the Taj Mahal in India and the Colosseum in Italy. Although most buildings with cultural heritage are not as old as these, they are nevertheless worth preserving. I believe that cultural progress should be inspired by the past, not replace it.

It is true that not all buildings are worth preserving, but I believe some are essential. Structures that give us physical proof of the people who lived there long ago and show the differences of modern day life are cultural artefacts that help us understand the history of a place and people. Tourists often visit historical buildings due to ancestral importance or historical interest, making them an important economical tool as well. It is also interesting to see the differences in architectural styles from one country to the next. A castle in Scotland may look quite different from one in Spain, and they are often beautiful structures.

However, architectural and cultural progress should not be restrained by buildings of historical significance. In fact, these buildings should help further development by being utilised in modern ways so that the old buildings can be given new life and continue to be a part of the evolving culture. History is, after all, what inspires us to progress in all areas of life. Furthermore, analysing cultures of the past through the structures they occupied can help us understand human nature and the environment to a better degree.

All in all, it is my opinion that preserving buildings of historical significance teaches us about cultural and architectural history, which can then inform modern progress. History should not hinder progress, but inspire it.

(Words 287)

Model Essay 12

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Examine the arguments in favour of and against animal experiments, and come to a conclusion on this issue.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

Plan:

Cures / saved lives / no harm to environment

Cruel / torture / cosmetics / humans are separate species



This essay looks at the ongoing debate about whether animals should be used for experimentation. One opinion is that such tests help us create cures for human diseases, but another opinion is that it is wrong to harm animals when many of the tests could be performed on humans.

Those in support of animal experimentation point to a large number of cases in which cures for major human diseases were found through animal testing. These cures saved lives, and through animal experimentation it is possible to continue having such scientific breakthroughs. Furthermore, animal experimentation does not harm the environment as some say, because most of the animals used for research are bred in captivity. If wild species are declining, it is not due to animal testing as those that are used have grown up in that environment.

Alternatively, those who oppose animal experimentation do so largely because it is cruel. Bred in captivity or not, animals still feel pain and experimenting on them is nothing short of animal torture. It has also been revealed that instead of animal testing being restricted to medical research, much of it is done for human cosmetics. In addition, as humans are a separate species from those being tested on, sometimes the predicted effects are not the same, making the animal testing unnecessary. It would make more sense for people to be tested on rather than animals.

In summary, despite the medical advances that have been made in the past, animal experimentations harm the animal and in many cases do not even give accurate results. For these reasons, I believe animal experimentation should cease to continue.

(Words 271)

Model Essay 13

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Do the dangers derived from the use of chemicals in food production and preservation outweigh the advantages?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Competition / colours / longevity / flavour

Companies research and sell / correlations between edibles and health / organic

Many chemicals are currently used in food production and preservation around the world. These chemicals improve the longevity and flavour of edibles and makes them more appealing to consumers. It is my opinion though, that mixing chemicals with food is harmful to consumers.

As competition between supermarkets has risen, companies have tried to make their food more appealing so that consumers will choose to buy their products. To make food look better, they use chemicals to enhance colours. Chemicals are also used during food production to ensure longevity. Shorter shelf life means more wastage and less monetary gain. The flavour of foods may also be enhanced by chemicals during the production process in order to entice customers to continue to purchase the same brand of product.

However, it is worrying that the research conducted on the chemicals used in food production and preservation is financed by the companies who sell the products. It is therefore possible that the results made public are not an accurate reflection of the findings. Evidence for this suspicion can be found in the increasing number of reported correlations between edibles and health concerns in both adults and children. Affordable organic products should be more readily available to consumers and, at the very least, the chemicals used should be clearly visible on the packaging.

In conclusion, although the results of using chemicals in food production and preservation seem to be beneficial on the surface, it may be more damaging to consumers in the long run. For this reason, I believe that people should be better educated about the risks and that edible products should be clearly labelled. Also affordable organic food should be easily accessible.

(Words 279)

Model Essay 14

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

According to a recent study, the more time people use the Internet, the less time they spend with real human beings. Some people say that instead of seeing the Internet as a way of opening up new communication possibilities world- wide, we should be concerned about the effect this is having on social interaction.

How far do you agree with this opinion?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

efficient communication / every country / improved many areas

less desire for offline / ability to talk / children / communities unsafe – neighbours

With the dramatic increase in our ability to communicate efficiently via the Internet, a huge number of people are spending large amounts of their time online. While the benefits of online communication are evident, I believe that it is important for people to continue developing their interpersonal skills offline.

The advancement of the Internet has given us the ability of efficient worldwide communication that was inconceivable two decades ago. Online communication means not only faster and cheaper interactions, but it also makes a wider community available to individuals from their homes. People are now able to share feelings and ideas, collect data on and build relationships with others from virtually every country without leaving the comfort of their home. Such easy communication has unquestionably improved many areas of our lives both professionally and socially.

However, due to online platforms such as social media, gaming and forums, people feel that their levels of social interaction are met through the Internet and therefore have less desire to create and foster offline relationships. This inhibits people's ability to talk to others in the real world. I believe there is more danger for children than adults, as children who have grown up with Internet accessibility do not always develop the real-world interpersonal skills they need in later life. I also believe that too much time spent online will make our communities unsafe, as it is becoming more and more uncommon to socialise with neighbours and get to know other locals.

In conclusion, while online communication has advanced our lives in many ways, our development of interpersonal skills is at risk. I therefore believe that we should not let online communication dominate our lives.

(Words 279)

Model Essay 15

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Global warming is one of the most serious issues that the world is facing today.

What are the causes of global warming and what measures can governments and individuals take to tackle the issue?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Causes

Government solutions

Individual solutions

Earth's arctic regions are melting, water levels are rising and temperatures are increasing. Global warming is a pressing issue for life on Earth but it is in our power to help save future generations by reducing CO2 emissions.

Deforestation is the main cause of global warming because the carbon dioxide (CO2) created by burning trees stays in the atmosphere and creates a greenhouse effect, whereby the sun's heat is absorbed and cannot escape, resulting in a warmer planet. The burning of non-renewable resources, such as natural gas and coal, is also a major contributor to the accumulation of CO2. It is not just the government's fault either as cars, non-biodegradable rubbish and the energy used in homes all contribute to climate change.

Killing trees doesn't just cause CO2, it also disposes of something that will actually help reduce greenhouse emissions, so we should be planting them instead. Another way governments around the world can help reduce life-threatening gasses is by promoting renewable energy such as wind, solar and hydroelectricity. Taxing companies on their carbon emissions would also help deter the usage of fossil fuels.

Electricity is possible through the consumption of fuel, so by installing solar panels and relying on other reusable methods to power houses, individuals can help reduce the amount of detrimental gasses polluting the atmosphere. Even small changes such as buying electric products that have a more efficient energy rating, recycling, planting trees and using public transport instead of a car will make a positive difference.

All in all, global warming is a quantifiable threat to life on earth but by switching to renewable sources of energy we can help reduce the risk and hopefully save future generations.

(281 Words)

Model Essay 16

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

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

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Less people travel / fixed rate / infrastructure

Theoretical but not practical / unlikely to deter travel / not fair / research shows little effect - cars

With more competitive airlines than ever before, we are seeing a rise in pollution and noise that some people find offensive. While they argue that a higher air travel tax should be put in place, I do not think this would have the desired result and thus disagree.

The idea behind higher air travel taxes is that by increasing the cost, less people will buy tickets meaning that less planes will be in use, thereby decreasing air traffic, pollution and noise. Thus, increasing taxes would solve the problem. Such a tax is seen to be fair because it would be a fixed rate applicable to all consumers. Not only this, but the income generated by the tax would help the government provide for more reasonable infrastructure.

It is clear to me though, that while the idea of taxing airlines works in theory, it is not practical. Firstly, if people are required to travel for work or have been saving to travel for leisure, a slight increase in cost is unlikely to deter their plans. Secondly, not all consumers are in the same income bracket, so the tax would not be a fair solution. Rather, it would make air travel something only the wealthy could afford. Lastly, research from around the globe shows that taxes on transport have had little effect. Where cars have been taxed, it has not halted car production or consumption so the same is likely to be true for aeroplanes.

In conclusion, increasing the tax on air travel will not reduce pollution or air traffic but will restrict those with lower income. Therefore, I do not believe the tax on air travel should be increased.

(278 Words)

Model Essay 17

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

University education should be free to everyone, regardless of income.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

More staff etc. / fees = quality / higher incomes so can pay / more students less labourers
Boost attendance / more education = better economy / fair society – poor get an education, rich pay

With the growth of the population and the saturation of the job market, more people are turning to universities to give themselves a more competitive chance. Despite convincing arguments for and against, I believe that universities should be free for everyone.

With more people attending university, more staff, space and equipment are needed. Many people believe that it should be the responsibility of the students to pay fees in order to ensure the quality of the service. They believe this is fair because university graduates typically earn higher incomes and so can afford to pay for the skills they have gained through further study. In addition to this, without fees, universities would have a higher attendance rate meaning the people who would have otherwise gone into manual labour jobs would be studying, which would create a shortage of labourers.

However, it is true that abolishing fees would boost the university attendance rate, but this is not necessarily a bad thing. As research has proven, with more educated people working in a society we are more likely to see greater levels of innovation and economic growth, benefitting the society as a whole – not just the individuals. With no fees, people of all income levels would be able to attend university, promoting a fair society. Instead of making individuals pay fees, taxes would be raised to allow the government to afford the free education. This means that poorer people would be able to get better education and become wealthier, and the wealthy would support the growth of their society by paying higher taxes.

In conclusion, due to the overall benefits to society, I believe that education should be free for people of all economic backgrounds.

(283 Words)

Model Essay 18

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games.

What are the positive and negative impacts of playing computer games and what can be done to minimize the bad effects?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Games – follow instructions, plan, calculate, choices / extrapolate to real life

Violence

Parental guidance / age related / parents play also / parents learn the games and relate to the child

As computers have become more commonplace, there has been a rise in the number of children playing computer games. I believe there are both positive and negative effects to this, and that parental guidance may help mitigate the negative ones.

Although people tend to focus on the negative effects of computer games on children, it is worth looking at the positive ones, too. Many games require the player to follow instructions, plan ahead, calculate costs or weigh up choices. Children often need to think laterally, creatively or logically to succeed at the game, which is important in many real-life situations.

However, the concern parents have about games being too violent for children is not unfounded. There are a lot of games available in which acts of killing, fighting, thieving or other thuggish behaviour are encouraged. The fear is that children will learn from these games and repeat the bad behaviour in real circumstances.

I do believe though, that this issue can be minimalised in a way that parents feel safe letting their children have fun on the computer. First and foremost, parents should make sure the game their child wants to play is for the appropriate age range. Games, like movies, usually have ratings to act as a guide. Parents should also set aside time to play the computer games with their children. This not only gives the parents an idea of what the game involves and whether it is appropriate, but also helps enhance the parent–child relationship.

To conclude, I believe that while the benefits of computer games may not outweigh the drawbacks, steps can be taken by parents to lessen the negative effects.

(276 Words)

Model Essay 19

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Governments should be responsible for funding and controlling scientific research rather than private organizations.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.

Plan:

Knowledge gained for society or profit

Private can be biased. Govt. unbiased



The results of scientific research inform all areas of life in the attempt to enhance what we have and create what we need. I argue that government-funded research is more likely to yield beneficial and reliable results than research funded by private organisations.

The point in doing research is to gain knowledge which then informs a choice. If the government were entirely in control of what was being researched, then the choice about what should come of the knowledge gained would be made in relation to what would benefit society. However, if the research is run by a private organisation, there is a stronger likelihood that the outcome would be based on what will make the most profit rather than the wellbeing of taxpayers.

Furthermore, the research process is far more likely to be biased if controlled by a private organisation. If a lot of money has been invested in a project, the organisation in control may only act on or publicise the favourable results rather than a true reflection of them. In such a situation it may also put a lot of undue pressure on the scientist conducting the research, which may in turn skew the results. However, if the government is in control of the research and dedicated to finding the correct outcome rather than a profitable one, then the results are more likely to be unbiased.

All in all, I believe that scientific research funded by private organisations is more likely to be biased than government-funded research. At the very least, I think that the government should monitor all private research being conducted, and ensure the results published are an accurate reflection of the research findings.

(279 Words)

Model Essay 20

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Smoking not only harms the smoker, but also those who are nearby. Therefore, smoking should be banned in public places.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

You should write at least 250 words.



Plan:

Smoking freedom / non-smokers can leave

Selfish / cancer / forced to smoke / health is more important

An overwhelming amount of research has found that second-hand smoke (smoke inhaled by someone near a smoker) is severely harmful to the person inhaling it. For this reason, I argue that smoking should be banned from public places.

Smokers and non-smokers who do not think a ban should be put in place seem to be most concerned about their freedom of location. They believe that passive smokers choose to be in the vicinity of smokers and can leave the area if they do not wish to be around smoke. There is concern that if smoking was banned in public areas, many hospitality establishments would lose business. On top of this, they believe that the choice to smoke should not limit their individual rights or restrict their freedom of location.

However, it is selfish for smokers to believe that other people's behaviour should change due to their own unhealthy life choices. Research has shown time and again that breathing in smoke, both consciously and by second-hand, dramatically increases the likelihood of causing a form of cancer. By smoking in public places that restrict movement, such as in a crowd or a bus shelter, smokers are forcing others to ingest harmful toxins. The health of individuals should take precedence over the profitability of businesses or the freedom of location of an individual who is causing harm to those around them.

Therefore, I believe that smoking in public places should be banned or at the very least restricted to certain areas. Although it is impossible to stop individuals from making detrimental life choices, the health of the general public is of the utmost importance.

(271 words)