

ALL THE BEST

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CRACK THE IELTS (ESSAY)

Essays from Past IELTS Exams



Prepared by : NIKUNJ P. PATEL

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| 1. | Children are facing more pressures nowadays from academic, social and commercial perspectives. What are the causes of these pressures and what measures should be taken to reduce these pressures? |
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It is commonly said that today's children are pressurized and are facing harder and harder academic, social and commercial challenges. This essay intends to discuss the causes of these pressures and suggest some remedial measures. I believe that children must be shielded from such mounting pressures.

Today's child is not competing with the child next door or even of one's town or country. He is competing with the child of the global village. The big planet Earth of yesteryears is a small well linked global village of today. Parents want their children to excel in every field. They send their children to the best schools where the school bag is often heavier than the child himself. Even after school hours there are private tuitions. Children don't have time to bloom and bring out their hidden talents.

Socially also the children of today are in a huge dilemma. They want to adopt the global culture, whereas their parents force them to confine themselves to the traditions. This sometimes makes them rebel against the rules laid by their elders. Then, they also face peer pressure, which can be good if their peers are good and bad if their peers are not disciplined. This peer pressure coupled with the consumerist society of today can lead to a lot of stress and strain on children. They see the latest models of cell phones and other items with their peers and want to buy them. When they are unable to do so, they get stressed.

The solutions are not simple. Children have to be handled with great care. Parents should have realistic expectations from their children. They should have a pro-active approach and give time to their children. The biggest onus is on the schools and teachers. They should strive to bring out the best in every child and competition and cooperation should both be taught simultaneously. The aim of competition should not be to win at all cost. Children have to be taught to win with modesty and lose with grace.

To summarise, there is no doubt that the children of today are facing so many pressures, but steps should be taken on a war footing to protect their innocent childhood. Otherwise, these pressures will stifle the physical and psychological growth of children.

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| 2. | Some people believe they should keep all the money they have earned and should not pay tax to the state. Do you agree or disagree? |
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I disagree with the statement that individuals should not pay taxes to the state. The government runs the country from the taxes it collects. Taxes are collected only from those who earn above a certain minimum limit. It is our moral duty to pay taxes.

Tax money collected by government is used to fund basic amenities, provide various services to citizens and for government administration and projects, running of jails and defence system, and many other operations. It is not wrong to say that "taxes run a country." Thus, it is very important for a government to make people pay taxes.

Let us analyse why people do not want to pay taxes. The main reason is their dissatisfaction with government in serving them. They blame government for things like lack of infrastructure, poverty

and unemployment, but they are not completely wrong as tax revenue is misused in some or the other way in every country. In developed countries, however, because of higher satisfaction from government's functioning, citizens may be more willing to pay taxes. Another factor generating dissatisfaction is the tax structure itself. Often the tax system is complex and it drives people away from paying taxes. It is also felt that the tax rates are high and tax slabs are unequal. So they feel it is not unethical if one goes for tax avoidance or tax evasion.

Not paying taxes can drastically affect a country's revenue generation, my own country, India, for that matter. But then, it is equally desired that government come up with a fair tax structure and also make people aware where the taxes are being diverted. Even lowering the tax rates can help a country increase its tax collection as it would increase compliance among the taxpayers. Tax reform should also be fast so that no public grievance or non-compliance remains for long. A proper tax system backed up with strict tax laws can produce the best results.

Summing up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that it is the duty of every citizen to pay tax and the duty of every government to use it appropriately in public interest.

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| 3. | Some people think that cultural traditions may be destroyed when they are used as money-making attractions aimed at tourists. Others believe it is the only way to save these traditions. Discuss on both sides and give your opinion. |
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It is irrefutable that cultural traditions attract tourists from all over the world and develop local economy. Some individuals are of the opinion that these may be destroyed if they are modified to attract tourists. Others, however, hold the view that if we don't use them for tourism, these cultural attractions will die. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss both sides of the argument. I, personally side with the latter view.

We have to make these cultural traditions alluring for tourists because we need tourists. Firstly, tourism boosts our economy and secondly we get a chance to spread our culture to different countries. If our artists and artisans do not earn money from their art, which depicts our culture and tradition, then this art will die off and we'll only be the losers.

Tourism is the backbone of any country's economy and every country does its effort to attract tourists. Many people depend on tourism for their livelihood. People in the food industry, hotel industry and transport industry depend on tourism. Presentation is very important to attract visitors, and to present nicely some change is unavoidable.

On the other hand, when cultural traditions are used as money-making attractions, they lose their original features. Sometimes it makes cultural traditions disappear altogether. However, I believe that culture and tradition are deep rooted and minor superficial changes cannot harm them in any way. Change is the law of nature and all we should look into it that the changes are made with caution to retain the inherent elements of culture.

Summing up, to save cultural traditions we need to make some changes to make them captivating to the tourist of today. If we don't do so we'll lose our cultural traditions altogether and we'll lose our tourists also.

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| 4. | Some people believe that reading stories from a book is better than watching TV or playing computer games for children. To what extent do you agree or disagree? |
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Reading stories in books is a basic way for children to obtain knowledge and open their minds. Although watching TV and playing computer games are also popular educational methods among children, I believe that reading books is better and offers more advantages than watching TV and playing computer games.

Learning by reading is more effective compared to TV and games because it is an active activity. Like any other skill, reading takes practice. To fully understand the content, children have to give all their attention to the text. Also, more than just understanding a certain topic, children tend to develop imagination, as they imagine the characters from the description they read, which helps them to learn more efficiently and deeply in the future.

Furthermore, reading stories also helps children master language development, as by reading stories, children learn pronunciation and vocabulary. It also increases a child's attention span, and develops the ability to concentrate. It develops children's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken and written terms. It develops and fosters a child's natural curiosity

On the other hand, the knowledge disseminated by vivid pictures on screen is easier for children to imbibe, but too many moving objects and colourful images can distract children, especially some young kids, from other important tasks. Playing computer games also can be very addicting, as a result of which children fail to do their homework. Additionally, spending too much time before a computer screen or watching TV can lead to health problems such as short sightedness. Therefore, reading is better for both efficiency and health purpose.

In conclusion, it can be reiterated that reading stories in book is better than watching TV and playing on computers, as it is a more effective way to learn and is better for health.

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| 5. | In many parts of the world, children are given more freedom than in the past. Is this a positive or a negative development? |
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The world is changing fast and so are the rules and the norms of society. When grownups today compare their childhood with that of today's children, they find that today's children have more freedom than what they used to have. I believe this situation is largely positive.

There are many advantages of children enjoying more freedom. They grow up quicker than their parents did. This produces more liberal, mature and adventurous adults, which obviously has an effect on society in the long run. Today's children follow the global culture, which is the amalgamation of the good points of the various cultures of the world. Consequently, countries progress more rapidly because of this shedding of many traditional ways of doing things and becoming freer and more open societies. For example, in India, if today's youngster wants a dowry free marriage, he will go ahead and have it against all odds, whereas earlier youngsters could not take a stand against it as it was considered customary.

Furthermore, today's children have the power of the Internet and the satellite TV in their hands. Today's young generation is the most well informed generation than ever in the history of mankind. They know what their parents and grandparents do not know. They have oceans of opportunities in

front of them, which they want to explore. They adopt careers of their choice and do not hesitate walking on the un-trodden path. They are not afraid of taking risks. For instance, earlier children were pressurized by their parents to take up medical, non-medical or commerce streams, but today's children are going into computer animation, computer gaming and other fields, which were unheard of before.

On the other hand, sometimes this freedom can be detrimental for children. They like maturity and fail to see the far-reaching consequences of their actions. It is also the time when teens make mistakes and need someone there to guide them understand what went wrong, take a step backward, analyse, and again take a step forward. Freedoms should come in small steps so that the teens are ready to move forward having proven their ability to handle each small movement. Too much freedom can end them in bad company and also drugs.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that freedom enjoyed by children is, by and large, a good thing, but the onus is on the parents to prepare them for this in small steps, so that the negative side of this excess freedom does not go against them.

6.	Because of the global economy, many goods including what we use as daily basics produced by other countries have to be transported for a long distance. To what extent do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?
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Globalisation has revolutionized our world in many aspects. Now, we don't belong to a big planet Earth. We belong to a small global village. Everything is available everywhere. There are many advantages and disadvantages of transporting goods over a long distance. In my opinion, the pros outweigh the cons.

On the positive side, transporting goods over a long distance gives us a lot of choices. We can taste a variety of fruits and vegetables from all parts of the world. For example, about ten years ago, we hardly saw kiwi fruit, which is from New Zealand. But, now it has a place on every fruit stand. Earlier, we had very few shoe brands like Bata and Carona, but now the market is flooded with Reeboks, Nike, Adidas and other foreign brands.

Secondly, many people get employment in this field. Small businesses have a chance to expand globally and it increases the overall economy of the country. Finally, it helps in developing good relations between countries, which helps in international co-operation and peace. If countries are dependent upon one another's economic success, then armed conflict would be less likely.

On the downside, importing goods can have a negative effect on local culture. This can be seen in countries such as Japan where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. A second major disadvantage is pollution. When goods are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, it increases pollution from exhaust fumes.

To conclude, importing goods has both merits and demerits but the pros outweigh the cons.

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| 7. | Environmental problems are too big for individual countries and individual persons to address. In other words, we have reached the stage where the only way to protect the environment is at an international level. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? |
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Climate change is a phenomenon affecting all people in all walks of life, from individual citizens to whole countries and huge multinational companies. Therefore, I disagree with the notion that the only way to address the environmental problems is at international level. I firmly believe that this colossal problem can only be handled if all individuals contribute; all governments take steps at national level and also join hands at an international level.

Undoubtedly, gigantic steps need to be taken, and are being taken at the international level. The 'COP21' in Paris in November 2015 is a step in this direction. The aim of 'COP21' is well known: to reach a universal agreement limiting the rise in global average temperature to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. All nations are realizing that climate change is one of the greatest challenges faced by mankind today.

Many steps can be taken at the national level. Governments can aware people of the benefits of using energy efficient devices. For instance, this year government of India gave 2 LED bulbs to each government employee at Rs. 10/- each under the "Prakash Path" scheme. The cost of each bulb is Rs. 400/-. The cost will be recovered by adding a very small amount in each month's electricity bill for about a year. In about 100 cities, the streetlights have been replaced with LED bulbs, which is a saving of a huge amount per day. LED bulbs use a tenth of electricity as compared to other bulbs. Once people realize that by using LED bulbs, their electricity bills will reduce, they will be prepared to make the initial heavy investment also.

Although the international and national level steps are imperative, it is also a fact that individual action combined with governmental action can do a lot more to prevent climate change than if individual citizens were not involved. In a world of six billion people, if everyone stopped wasting water, disposed of their rubbish properly, started accepting recycled material and stopped succumbing to consumerism, then it would go a long way in solving the problem of environment.

Summing up, individual citizens cannot sit back and say it is someone else's responsibility to protect the environment; we must all play our part - individual citizens and governments at the national and international level.

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| 8. | People are surrounded by advertising, which has an increasing effect on our lives. Do you think the positive effects of this outweigh the negative effects? |
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Whether it is on TV, radio or hoardings at the side of the road, advertisements have become a part of our lives. Advertising is a powerful and persuasive medium. I believe that the beneficial effects of ads overpower the detrimental ones.

On the positive side, advertisements provide us with information on new products. If it were not for electronic and print advertising, many products would not be bought. In this way, advertising provides an important service to manufacturers and some consumers. Additionally, it fuels the advertising industry, creating jobs for thousands of people. In this respect it has become the backbone of many economies of the world.

Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, when Amitabh Bachhan tells people to bring their children for pulse polio immunization, people listen. Then, there are ads against female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come. This is because through satellite TV we can see ads from all over the world. For instance, when we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the traditional clothes of Japan.

However, adverts also have a downside. Because of advertisements, sometimes we buy what tempts us without the insight of what we need actually. Impressive images, videos, or captions are bound to leave an imprint on us. Secondly, ads are very disturbing at times. Television commercials are a great example of this. Just as we are enjoying a TV program, a commercial break occurs, forcing us to listen. Then, ads show dangerous stunts, which may be copied by children and they may get hurt. Finally, some ads target vulnerable children and so children pester their parents to buy things which can upset the family budget.

To conclude, adverts have their advantages and disadvantages. Indubitably, the merits outstrip the demerits. The onus lies on us to look into our real needs and not be swayed by adverts.

9.	In many parts of the world, children are given more freedom than in the past. Is this a positive or a negative development?
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Many people believe that today there is a general increase in anti-social behaviour and lack of respect for others. What might have caused this situation? How to improve it?

It is unfortunate that in the midst of vast progress in every field of life there is also a growth in the anti-social behaviour and people have become less respectful of each other. This essay intends to analyse some causes of this phenomenon and suggest some ways to ameliorate the situation.

Today, we live in an era of technology in which the whole Earth has shrunk and become a global village. Everybody is connected to everybody through telephone lines and the Internet, but the warmth of relationships has taken a back seat. Most people have more than enough wealth, comfort and freedom, but their hearts desire even more. To satisfy their hearts greed people have become workaholics, and as a result have no time for family and friends. People have become selfish, isolated and indifferent. Each person is busy in his own quest for more. To add to it, the youngsters who are at ease with the new technology think that the elderly are good for nothing and that is why they don't respect them.

The changing family structure is another big cause of this phenomenon. Earlier, people lived in joint families and the grandparents were there to supervise the children. Now there are nuclear families in which both parents go out to work, and children are left unattended in the hands of pervasive media like the TV and the Internet. No one monitors what they watch and they see the programs full of violence and crime, which makes them anti-social. The pressure of consumerist society and peers also breeds anti-social behaviour. To add to it, the values of traditional culture are being lost and people are following the global culture, which is also considered anti-social by the orthodox elderly.

There are many solutions to this problem. To begin with, people have to learn to strike a balance between work and family life. Government should also fix the maximum hours a worker can work per

week so that exploitation is not there in the job market. People should revert back to the old joint family system. This would be in the benefit of all. The children would learn moral values and the elderly would be well looked after. Negative effects of excessive consumerism should be taught to the people. Media can play a big role in highlighting the good points of the traditional and the western culture so that the people can adopt good social values. Neighbourhood associations should be set up to connect people to each other.

Summing up, anti-social behaviour and mutual lack of respect in today's times can be dealt with by taking simple measures, and individuals and governments should collectively take these steps.

10.	Interviews form the basic selecting criteria for most large companies. However, some people think that interview is not a reliable method of choosing whom to employ and there are other better methods. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Recruiting new employees can be a long and painful process. The success of any business or organisation depends on the quality of its staff. Some employers conduct interviews to select new workers. I agree with the given statement which says that there are various other approaches. This essay intends to analyse methods of hiring new employees.

Undoubtedly, an interview is an important method of recruitment. If selection has to be done merely on an interview, then the interview has to be well executed. It requires a detailed understanding of the organizational needs as well as a careful grasp of the prospective employees' responses. It is not an easy task. If the recruitment is small scale and only a few employees are needed, it can prove fruitful otherwise alternative methods to hire have to be taken into account.

There are many other methods, which can be employed to hire new personnel. These hiring methods are a combination of several step-by-step tests. Initially, job vacancies are advertised, after which the recruiters select resumes, which meet the basic requirements for that particular job position. Then the written test is conducted to judge the skills and knowledge of the person. This is followed by group discussions and some other skill tests. Then the shortlisted candidates are interviewed. After this, background checks and reference checks are done of those shortlisted after the interview. It is important to check the credit record and criminal record. The reference checks are done to ascertain the authenticity of what is written in the resume. Finally, the selected candidates are sent for a health check to rule out any communicable diseases.

Analysing the above mentioned methods it can be seen that no single method is perfect. Each job has its own requirements. Some jobs require qualification and some require experience. Big companies have a department devoted to human resources, which takes care of the hiring issues, but for small businesses finding the right employees at the right times can be an especially time-consuming and frustrating struggle. External recruitment agencies can be assigned the task of searching suitable candidates for jobs, but it may be very expensive. However, I believe that spending on the recruitment of new employees can prove to be a good investment, as good employees can breathe new life into your business.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that finding suitable employees is an arduous task and has to be a combination of written tests, group discussions, interviews and reference checks.

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| 11. | In some countries, fast food restaurants and supermarkets give money to schools to promote their products. Do you think this is a positive or negative development? |
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In the highly competitive era of today, marketers such as restaurants and supermarkets have realized the marketing opportunity offered by schools and so are giving money to schools. Even though the administrators of schools are using that money to raise funds for school activities, this is definitely disadvantageous for school children.

To begin with, adverts of fast foods and their availability within school premises would help to develop children's taste for such foods. This can increase problems like obesity, which in turn is the root cause of many other health issues among children. As it is, children today have sedentary lifestyles, which makes it imperative that healthier food options should be made available to them. The welfare of students should be the top priority of schools and they should not fall in the bait of these companies for monetary benefits.

Secondly, such commercial intrusions within the academic environment can promote consumerism. For instance, if schools promote advertisements of any products like toys or computer games from supermarkets through educational materials, billboards or school television, children would think that they have the approval of teachers and school authorities. Consequently, these vulnerable children pester their parents to buy those products, which can upset the family budget. This is a very vivid example of how commercialization of schools can promote materialism in children.

Supporters of such practices claim that the money such companies give for promoting their products inside the campus, helps financially-strapped schools to buy library books or improve sports facilities. They claim that children benefit from the additional resources and facilities that schools can afford due to such funding. What they fail to see is that commercial intrusions are already present in children's lives these days and there is no scope for more.

To sum up, it is definitely a negative development to use schools to advertise their products as this may lead to unhealthy eating and a materialistic attitude in children.

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| 12. | Some people believe that young people know about international pop and movie stars but know very less about famous people from the history in their own country. Why is this? How can more interest be created in young people to gain more knowledge about their own famous people from history |
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It is irrefutable that today we are flooded with information about everything. However, the truth is that the young generation is becoming increasingly ill-informed about their culture, history, traditions and even the current affairs. This essay shall analyse why this is happening, and also suggest some measures, to generate their interest in historical events and people.

The first and major reason for this is that the education system in most of the countries is test-based. Students are only taught to get good grades and as a result, they only focus on passing their exams, rather than gaining knowledge about any topic. Their interest is never developed in history as a result. Another reason is the teaching methods used. Not enough creative methods are used to teach about history and are mostly limited to textbook teaching. Furthermore, the youth today is more fascinated towards the celebrities because of the exposure and importance the media gives to them. To add to

it, most of the families have now started living in nuclear setups, where both the parents are working, and because of this the children's education about their roots and history has taken a back seat.

There are many methods that can be used by parents, schools and the media to develop the interest of youngsters in knowing about the famous people from history. The schools can incorporate technology in teaching methods, like the use of audio-visual aids. Educational trips to museums and famous historical places also help develop the children's interest. The government should set up museums and encourage children to visit them by highly subsidizing tickets for the students. For example, the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Museum has become a great source of information about the freedom struggle and the sacrifice made by freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh. Also, the Virasate-Khalsa museum has become very popular among the youth as they can learn a lot about Sikh history and culture.

Moreover, TV shows and movies can be made around famous historical personalities and their contributions. For instance, the recent Bollywood movie Bajirao Mastani, has been a super hit at the box office and has made a lot of people more aware about historical events and characters. TV channels like History channel has shown which run throughout the day, giving information about famous people and events from history.

To conclude, there are several innovative and creative methods that can be used to make the youth more interested and aware about the notable people from history. This effort has to be made by parents, at schools and media also has a big role to play in spreading this awareness.

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| 13. | Environmental problems such as pollution and climatic variations are increasing nowadays. The governments have taken some measures at a global level. But they got only few solutions. Why is it so? How can this problem be solved? |
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Saving the environment has become the top priority across the world. No country in the world disagrees with the fact that the Earth is at the brink of a climatic disaster, but the measures taken neither have legs nor the lengths to address the issue. This essay intends to look into why the measures have always fallen short of the mark, and suggest some solutions to mitigate the problem.

The first reason why global measures have failed is that the developed world is shying away from the burden it needs to bear for the damage it did to the environment in the colonial industrial revolution times. Hence we are stuck in a limbo of bipolar world of developing nations on one side and the developed on the other. And the compromises reached between the two have always been far from satisfactory. If we need to see a real positive change, the developed world has to do more than the developing world. It cannot just say that everyone should play an equal role. It can do so by providing wealth and technology related to renewable sources of energy to the developing and the least developed countries.

The second major reason of not being able to do for the environment is that our governments are acting in the interests of powerful lobbies and corporations. For example, the fossil fuel industries are trillion dollar businesses. If clean energy succeeds, these giants would lose. The clout of these is so strong that instead of acting with ambition and urgency, the governments are making feeble efforts. The solution, for this would be to create awareness that fossil fuel industries have to step down to let the greener energies succeed.

Finally, development and environment are always seen at loggerheads with each other. Environment always ends up taking a back seat to development. Thus, looking at the two as separate entities has delayed and brought us to our current position. The answer to this is sustainable development, which is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the environment.

To sum up, it can be seen clearly, why the steps taken so far have failed to save the environment. However, the time has come to do some soul-searching and take proactive steps for the environment

14.	Now a lot of people in college are doing academic study. We should encourage them to learn vocational skill (like plumbers and electricians). Do you agree or disagree?
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People have different views about tertiary education. Some believe that it is very beneficial for the nation if majority of the youngsters go for higher education. However, others opine that they should go in for some vocational training to start earning soon. I firmly believe that university education has an edge over vocational education.

The option to start work straight after school seems attractive to some for several reasons. Many young people want to start earning money as soon as possible. In this way, they can become independent, and they will be able to afford their own house or start a family. In terms of their career, young people who decide to find work, rather than continue their studies, may progress more quickly. They will have the chance to gain real experience and learn practical skills related to their chosen profession. This may lead to promotions and a successful career.

On the other hand, I believe that it is more beneficial for students to continue their studies. Firstly, academic qualifications are required in many professions. For example, it is impossible to become a doctor, teacher or lawyer without having the relevant degree. Another advantage of graduating from a university is that it gives you more choices when it comes to choosing a job. Most employers will be more impressed by a candidate who has a degree than they would be by one who only has high school qualifications because it shows a certain level of intelligence and education, as well as the commitment and self-discipline that is needed in order to study a degree course for three or four years. University graduates also tend to earn higher salaries than those with fewer qualifications.

Furthermore, the job market is becoming increasingly competitive, and sometimes there are hundreds of applicants for one position in a company. Young people who do not have qualifications from a university or college will not be able to compete. What is more, those who work in the construction work or as car mechanics will always have to work under those who have civil and mechanical engineering degrees.

To sum up, for the reasons mentioned above, it seems to me that students are more likely to be successful in their careers if they continue their studies beyond school level.

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| 15. | In most of the societies, the role of mother and father differs. What are the causes of this difference? What will be the parental roles in future? |
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Families are the building blocks of the society. Parents play an incredible, crucial and indispensable role for the development of children. Fathers and mothers both have an individuality, and are equally responsible for the growth of the child physically, mentally and emotionally. But still most of the societies have a different thinking that their role differs. So here I would like to discuss the reasons of these differences.

In most of the societies, especially the remote areas and villages, people believe that role of mother is just to give birth to a child and look after child's schooling, eating and homework and father is the one who brings the money for bread and butter and doesn't have to do anything with the child's care. Due to this, women are deprived of working out and even are deprived of education. First and foremost reason for these differences is that people are illiterate and 60% of the people are still below the poverty line. They are not aware of the good and bad things. Secondly, they follow the old fuddy-duddy customs and traditions.

Thirdly, I believe that in these old fashioned societies people don't have family planning, birth rate is high so women are forced to sit at home and feed the children. Therefore, all the burden of child's development comes on her shoulders and men have nothing to do except working and earning money. Just imagine if a father is asked in which class his child studies he has to think so hard and even then he cannot recollect. If women go out and work, then older people get sceptical and scold them, as they are narrow minded.

However, in the future the scenario will change. We are living in an era of globalization and westernization in 21st century. We are influenced by western culture. Nowadays people are educated, literate and aware of things and are broadminded. Parents understand their responsibility and work equally for the holistic development of the child. So, in the future conditions will improve a lot. Parents will plan the things for the bright and shiny future of their children. And they will be united and the child will not be deprived of the fathers love. Both will work so that they can do savings in the future for their child and presently in urban areas things are like this only.

To conclude, it can be said that both the parents play an important role for overall development of child. The word parent is incomplete if anyone is missing. Like with a single hand we can't clap, similarly if a single parent is there, the child's development is incomplete. And we should remember – man has made these superstitions and old customs and we humans can only lessen them. Unity has a power, so we all should stand together to aware those societies and make an egalitarian society in the future to make our children better individuals.

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| 16. | If children behave badly should their parents take responsibility and also be punished? State your answer and give your reasons.
OR
If a five year old commits a crime (any kind), should his/her parents accept responsibility and how should they be punished. What is the age of a child when parents no longer have the responsibility of a child's behaviour? |
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The debate on whether parents should be held responsible for their children's misdeeds has been going on for ages and people are divided on the issue. I believe that parents should be held responsible if their children commit any crime. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, if parents know that they will be held responsible for their children's inappropriate actions, they will see to it that their children are well supervised and well cared for. Parents are responsible for bringing their children on Earth and only they are responsible for raising them in such a way that they act appropriately in society. Everyone knows that juveniles make mistakes but it is the onus of the parents to keep an eye on them so that they do not exceed their limits and commit grave crimes.

Secondly, it has been seen that if parents are held responsible then it would definitely lead to an improvement in family life. Such parental responsibility would become a cultural norm and families will develop closer bonds. Divorces would become rare and broken families would also become less. Finally, children are also less likely to commit a crime if they know that their parents would be held responsible.

There are those who oppose holding the parents responsible. They say that children today are independent and there are many external influences, which affect the behaviour of children such as TV and peer pressure. However, I firmly believe that if parents take care of their children and monitor their activities and friends circle, the effect of external influences could never be so overpowering that children commit crimes. Parents could be made to pay fine if children commit petty crime and the punishment could also be more severe such as a heavy fine or imprisonment if the child commits serious crime such as murder.

Summing up, if we want to reduce the number of such crimes, we need to make parents take more responsibility.

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| 17. | Some people say that industrial growth is necessary to solve poverty, but some other people argue that industrial growth is creating environmental problems and it should be stopped. Discuss both views and give your opinion. |
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The persistent problem of poverty in the developing world has put a question mark on the relation between economic growth and poverty. Some individuals are of the opinion that when economy develops, because of industrial growth, poverty comes down. Others believe that economic growth leads to poverty. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, agree with the former view.

To begin with, industrial growth benefits nearly all citizens of a country, even if not equally, and therefore reduces poverty. For example, in rural areas, most of the poor are engaged in agriculture. When such a country grows through agricultural exports, it benefits both poor farmers and the even

poorer labourers they employ. Similarly, rapid growth in manufacturing sector because of increase in demand creates a lot of new jobs, and eventually causes a rise in wages that further reduces poverty.

My second argument comes from historical records. Western countries began discovering the positive relation between economic growth and poverty reduction around 1820 and as a result the living standards in Europe and the United States improved many fold in the next years. Economic growth thus eliminated mass poverty in what is today considered the developed world. Even a short-term view confirms that the recent acceleration of growth in many developing countries has reduced poverty, measured the same way.

The opponents of this view claim that economic progress leads to inequality between the rich and the poor. They opine that a handful of rich are getting richer while the poor are being driven to the wall. However, results have proved that such inequality is only short lived and everyone has benefited in the long run. It is because of the high initial inequality that it appears as if economic growth is leading to poverty.

Summing up, industrial progress definitely reduces poverty. Sometimes, there is unequal distribution of wealth in the initial stages of economic development. Nonetheless, everyone benefits eventually.

18.	Many people use distance-learning programs to study at home, but some people think that it cannot bring the benefit as much as attending college or university. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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It is undeniable that the distance learning mode is very useful, especially for those living in remote areas, for those who are physically challenged and for those who want to do a job while studying. However, there are many advantages in actually attending a university, which would not accrue to a person who prefers to learn through the mode of distance education. Let us see how going to a university scores over the distance-mode.

In the very first place, going to a university provides the opportunity of face to face interaction with the teachers. Classroom lectures are more educative and enlightening than mere reading of written courseware due to the direct interaction between the students and the teachers. The student not only masters the contents of the prescribed lessons, but also gains a deeper insight into the subject as the teacher elucidates from his own experiences. If there are any doubts in the mind of the student, the teacher can readily offer the necessary clarifications. If he has not been able to fully comprehend any particular aspect of the lesson, he can request that it be explained to him again. Students can also help each other through the exchange of ideas and information, after the class hours.

Secondly, one learns in a more disciplined atmosphere. One has to attend the classes regularly and in time. This results in a more focused and systematic study. This leads to better preparation for the examinations and consequently better results. Also, one can easily access reference books and other valuable reading material from the University Library.

Apart from the academic curriculum, the student also gains by useful participation in other extra-curricular activities like sports, competitions, contests and the like. All this helps in the sharpening of his communication skills and the overall development of his personality. He develops better team spirit and learns the art of working with others in a group. Another great advantage is that of campus placement opportunities. Many reputed companies approach the good universities with offers of

campus placements for their students. They are thus saved from the uncertainty and hassles of a later job hunt.

To conclude, a university education is certainly packed with several privileges.

19.	Government needs to spend money to encourage the development of sport and art for school students, rather than to support professional sports and art events. Do you agree or disagree?
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The professional sports and the cultural programs have been in existence for a long time and have played an important part in people's life. Therefore, I disagree that government should direct the funds allocated to such events towards encouraging sports and arts among school students. A number of arguments support my opinion.

To begin with, the professional sports bring name and fame to a country. Countries, which spend a lot on such sports, are always leading in sports in the Olympic Games, the World Cup and other such international competitions. Professional sports also boost the economy as millions of spectators come to see and cheer for their favourite teams in the stadiums. There are also big benefits from advertisements on TV as millions of people sit in front of TV and watch sports shows.

Furthermore, the cultural programs are effective ways that help people relax and reduce stress after work. Every day, there are a variety of cultural performances happening all over the world. These fascinate thousands of young people as well as adults. These cultural programs not only enrich people's mind, but also spread our rich culture globally.

Finally, it is difficult to motivate children to take up sports and arts without naming and praising super stars in professional activities. The success from people such as Sachin Tendulkar (a cricket player) or A R Rehman (a musician) is even more important in encouraging children to participate sport and art subjects than any other kind of motivators. How could we tell our children to put more efforts on arts and sports if it would not lead to any money and success in the future?

To sum up, it can be reiterated that spending on professional sports and cultural programs is imperative for the governments. Promoting sports and schools should also be there, but not at the expense of professional sports and cultural events.

20.	Now the machine is very complex, and a lot of difficult work is automated. Does this machine automation have more pros than cons?
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Modern technology has equipped us with machines, which are working like robots. There are positive and negative effects of these machines on the individual and the society, which I shall highlight in this essay. Overall the pros outweigh the cons.

On the positive side, machines are faster, more convenient and energy saving. Households and industries are much facilitated with machines. Personal use of machines gives people more free time to spend with family and pursue hobbies. Likewise, industrial use of machines reduces manpower for

work and increases output. In the words of Oscar Wilde – “On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends.”

Moreover, computer machines or robots manage our banks and even the tickets at the airport are issued by machine-robot. The computerization certainly relieves human beings from dull repetitive tasks without any human error. What is more, robotic surgery is being done to overcome the limitation of human beings such as trembling of human hands. Microscopic surgeries and eye operations can be better done with the help of robotic surgeons.

On the negative side, machines reduce the need of manual work, which can lead to unemployment especially in the developing countries. What is more, insufficient knowledge of machine handling and operating is detrimental to uneducated workers and they end up getting injuries or disabilities while working with machines. Technical failures can also disturb the whole working system and lead to losses. Other negative effects of machines are on the health of individuals, especially the housewives who rely heavily on machines for the household chores. Machines are a failure where creative work is required. For example, machines cannot reproduce the unique and original work done by many artisans. It has been rightly said that a machine can do the work of a thousand ordinary men, but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

Overall, the positive effects of machines outweigh the negative effects on the individual and society. However, in developing countries, in order to meet the employment needs of the population, a balance has to be maintained between manual work and mechanization.

21.	Newspapers have influenced people's ideas and opinions. What are the reasons for this? Is this a positive or a negative situation?
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Media has an indubitable role in refining the outlook of people. This essay intends to analyse the reasons for this. Admittedly, the influence created by media is largely positive, although there is a slight negative effect also.

Firstly, the diverse news in print media brings out huge responses and emotions in people. Newspapers have a wide coverage and manage to fetch the latest happenings around the globe. The way news items are reported influences the way people think and act. Moreover, media always presents the news in an appealing way, which catches people's attention and they want to dig into it deeper. People find such news hard to be neglected. The quest of people to know more about the world is undoubtedly well looked after by the media. It is the media because of which the people are aware about what the government is doing for them, and through letters to the editor they can reach out their voice to be heard by the government. People realize that media is a link between them and the government, and so it influences their opinions even more.

The influence created by the media is undoubtedly positive as knowledge about one's fellow beings makes one more empathetic and alert. The fact that media update people with both good and bad latest happenings is a helpful influence. For example, media's wide coverage of rapes and murders in surrounding areas creates sympathy as well as alertness in people. The live television of instances like earthquakes and floods helps people to be proactive. For example, when tsunami hit Japan in 2011, people from all over the world came out to help. The varied other information like entertainment, sports and arts is good enough to ease the stress level.

On the other hand, although there are some unhealthy practices like gutter-press journalism, cheque-book journalism and libel writing, people today are mature enough to take it all with a pinch of salt, and use their own analytical ability to shape their judgement. Such media, which takes the help of ill-founded news and other wrong means cannot sustain long. On the whole, media always act as custodians of the interest of the general public.

To conclude, media is powerful enough to influence ones attitudes and thought process because of many reasons. However, such changes always act positively despite some drawbacks.

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| 22. | The economic growth in developing and developed countries is making people richer. However the research indicates that people in the developing countries is happier than people in developed countries. What is your opinion on this? |
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There is no denying the fact that economic growth has improved the standard of living all over the world. However, growth in global economy may mean different things to different people. To the developing world, recent growth may be coupled with a rise in standards of living, and thus seen as positive. To the already developed countries, this growth brings with it increased global competitiveness, and is thus seen as negative. Both sides will be analysed in this essay. The lesson we get from this different perception towards development of global economy shall also be discussed.

For people in the developing world it means better opportunities for personal and professional growth. More and more people in developing countries such as India and China now earn more than enough to lead comfortable lives. Now they have high disposable incomes that make it possible for them to lead luxurious lives. They can now buy the latest gadgets, travel to the most exotic places on earth and own luxury apartments and cars. Their children now get world class education and healthcare. None of these would have been possible if the economy wasn't growing. Needless to say, for people in the developing world growth in the economy is a positive development.

Now let us see what global economic growth means to people in the developed world. Majority of people in the developed world already lead comfortable lives. They already possess disposable income and the recent growth in the global economy hasn't really done anything to further improve their standard of living. On the other hand, they now face stiff competition from their counterparts in the developing countries. Their market share has started eroding. They are no longer the most sought after candidates for jobs even in their own countries. Worse still, more and more jobs now get outsourced to the developing world, where the cost of labour is low compared to that in the West. As a result of this people in the developed world are now losing their jobs. Needless to say, they aren't all that happy with this sudden spurt in global economy.

The lesson we learn is that the growth of economy in developing world should not hamper the economy of the people of the developed countries. The focus should be on raising the bottom without pulling down the top. Jobs and opportunities for the people of the developing countries should be generated within their countries and not in the developed countries. Governments of developed countries should not lay-off their people to give low paid jobs to others.

The facts given above should explain why researchers feel that people in the developing countries are happier with the growth in global economy than the people in the developed world. These viewpoints are not expected to change much into the foreseeable future unless some steps are taken.

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| 23. | People are encouraged to get rid of things in order to get the newest fashion and the latest technology. Do the disadvantages of a throwaway society outweigh the economic advantages? |
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It is irrefutable that consumerism is promoted in many nations of the world. This essay intends to analyse the positive and negative effects of this use-and-throw culture. I personally believe that the disadvantages outstrip the advantages.

On the positive side, consumerism leads to mass production, which is something good for the employment sector. Mass manufacturing definitely leads to mass employment. This is undoubtedly beneficial for the overall economy of the country. Furthermore, because of consumerism, people get choices. When there is demand, more and more manufacturers come in the market. For instance, about two decades ago, there was only Kissan tomato ketchup in the market; but today we have Heinz, Del Monte, Cremica, Maggi and so many more varieties of tomato ketchups in the market.

On the downside, consumerism promotes a use-and-throw culture, which is very bad for the environment. There is a lot of rubbish generated because of excessive consumerism. Unnecessary packaging is also done to make these goods appealing to the eye. Often, this rubbish is not decomposed and ends up in rivers and waterways. This is definitely harmful to the environment.

Secondly, consumerism makes people work more and more to afford these products. This workaholic makes them forget to draw a line between work and leisure and also between work and family. The desires never end and consequently over-working becomes a part of life. This leads to stress and strain in life. Another negative point is that when children or youngsters are lured by these things and their parents cannot afford them, then they resort to petty crime such as pick-pocketing and chain snatching, which is certainly not good for any society.

To sum up, consumerism has both merits and demerits, but the cons are definitely more than the pros.

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| 24. | Once children start school, teachers have more influence than parents on their intellectual and social development. To what extent do you agree or disagree? |
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I definitely agree with the statement that once children get admission in school, teachers have more impact on them than even their parents. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, children spend quality time with teachers. Although they spend more time with parents at home but this time is not as productive as the small amount of time spent with teachers. We all know that parents are busy with their work most of the time and even if children are around, they hardly pay any attention to them. Teachers, on the other hand are in school for the students. All the time they are either teaching the students or guiding them in extra-curricular activities. They keep children focused on study and as a result have more intellectual impact on them.

What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only influence intellectually but socially. Students inadvertently follow their teachers' behaviour too. They observe how the teacher walks, talks and tackles difficult situations. At home they have parents to guide them socially, but it is seen that in nuclear families, parents hardly find time for this. Whatever

social skills children learn are from TV or other activities they do at home. So definitely teachers have an edge over parents even as far as social skills are concerned.

Teachers also guide students for their future careers. Students follow teachers more than parents because they feel that teachers are more aware of the world around them and they have better capability of guiding them. So, they depend on teachers more than parents.

To conclude, it can be said that once the schooling starts, teachers and parents both have influence but teachers influence children more.

25.	Some people think that the news media nowadays have influenced people's lives in negative ways. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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I disagree with the given statement that media has a negative influence on our lives. I believe that the media is doing a great service to us and whatever negative effect it has is negligible if we compare it to the benefits of the media.

There are many positive effects of media. To begin with, the usefulness of the media in almost instantly providing information about events around the world is undeniable. It is because of the media that today we don't belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. Furthermore, media also shapes our opinions. It is a link between the government and the people. Our conceptions of our elected officials spring from television images and newspaper stories. Most of us will never meet prime ministers or presidents, but anyone who is regularly exposed to the media will know about them. When it is time to cast our vote, we will make our decision based on the media coverage of candidates.

The media are also influential in the way they facilitate the spread of culture and lifestyle. Today, the popularity of Indian culture is an example of the media's enormous impact. It is the media, which highlights the good points of our own culture through programmes such as 'India's got Talent'. What is more, the reality shows of today have given exposure and fame to the common man with talent today. Indeed, with technological advancements such as the Internet bringing even more forms of electronic media to our homes and workplaces, it is likely the media's influence will grow even stronger. Finally, the media also helps in providing justice to the common man. Who has not heard of the Jessica murder case and the case of Nithari killings? Were it not for the media, Jessica's parents would have never got justice.

On the other hand, the media too has its downside. The paparazzi can invade the privacy of famous people. Sometimes violence and vulgarity is shown and at times it can shape our opinion in negative ways. For that my counter argument is that once the person becomes famous then his private life becomes public and he has no right to crib about the paparazzi. People can choose what they want to see and technology has provided them the tools to block those channels, which they don't want their children to see. Finally, God has given us brains to judge what is right or wrong. The media is just doing its job by providing us with the latest information.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate by saying that the influence of media on our lives is largely positive.

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| 26. | Differences between countries are barely evident these days. Everyone in the world is wearing the same brands and watching the same TV channels and movies. Do you think it is a positive or a negative development? |
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It is irrefutable that because of globalization, similarities between countries are more obvious these days than in the past. In many ways people around the world are becoming more and more similar. This situation is both – a positive as well as a negative development. I personally believe that the advantages are much more.

The main advantage of this change is that communication is much better nowadays; people understand other cultures much better and have become more open in their outlook of life. This has resulted in more business and cultural contacts among different nations. Multinational companies have opened in many parts of the world providing jobs to thousands of people. There is also more efficient trade between different countries around the globe thereby improving the economies of developing countries. People have more opportunities to travel and therefore have awareness of other cultures.

The major reason why people consider such a situation negative, is that national identities are being lost. We eat the same food, watch the same TV programmes, listen to the same music and wear the same clothes. For instance, the international outlets like Reebok, Nike and Levi's can be seen everywhere. Food outlets like MacDonald and Starbuck's etc. can be seen in almost all corners of the world. People wearing the same type of clothes can be seen everywhere. People have also started speaking one language, English, in many parts of the world. In fact, English has become the lingua franca today.

However, I feel that this is a very narrow definition of national identities and nations are as different as they were ever in the past. Cultural identity is based on far more than just the films we watch or the clothes we wear. For example, take my own culture of India and compare it to the west. We may wear any clothes, but we never take the names of elders and call them with respect. In the west, it is quite OK to call anyone by name. In fact, they appreciate it more. I believe that after knowing about other cultures, we learn to respect our culture even more. So, some very deep-rooted national identities will always be there.

To conclude, similarities among people and their lifestyles cannot be denied. However, the similarities we see today are only on the surface. Total loss of national identities can never take place. Therefore, this situation is largely positive.

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| 27. | Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes serious pollution and uses up the world's fuel resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree? |
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It is irrefutable that air travel causes pollution and uses a lot of fuel, but I disagree that air travel should be restricted. I believe that restricting air travel would solve some problems but would lead to many other problems.

At a time when people all over the world worry about the decreasing level of fossil fuels and global warming, it is right to take action to save the planet Earth. However, to simply discourage flights is not the answer. International tourism has become the backbone of many economies of the world. Many countries are earning from tourism. Many people are employed in this industry. Many businesses like

hotels and leisure centres are dependent on tourists. So, if we discourage international tourism, it would create new and even worse problems. Many businesses would go broke and many people would be without jobs.

Air flight also enables intercultural exchanges between countries. The advent of cheap air fare makes it possible for people the world over to travel regularly, regardless of the purpose of the trip. Therefore, people have the opportunities to learn from different cultures and have a better understanding of countries they used to be unfamiliar with. This, in turn, enhances cultural communications between countries.

It is true that air travel consumes oil, but other modes of transportation are also causing pollution and using fuel. Discouraging private cars and encouraging people to use public transport could help save the environmental resources in a big way. Therefore it would be a very impractical decision to restrict air travel at the cost of people's mobility, or worse, at the cost of the development of the economy. Technology could also be used to produce more environmentally friendly and fuel efficient engines.

Summing up, instead of restricting air travel, we should develop more efficient engine that produces more energy output with less fuel and fewer major air pollutants. We should also focus on limiting private vehicles and encouraging public transport.

28.	Some students take one year off between finishing school and going to university, in order to travel or to work. Do you think advantages outweigh disadvantages?
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A gap year is a year after high school when a student takes time to explore his or her interests, which usually entails some type of travelling or working. After the gap year is over, the student begins his or her career. It has both pros and cons, which I shall discuss in this essay. I, personally believe that the benefits of 'gap year' outstrip the drawbacks.

There are many benefits of taking a year off. Firstly, the student can explore his interests before deciding on a major. Just passing out of secondary school, a student does not know what his real interests are. A gap year gives him time to introspect and he may also find something he has never considered studying before. Secondly, he can save money to finance his education and ease some burden off his parents' shoulders. Higher education is very expensive and some parents cannot afford the full cost of students' university fees.

Furthermore, during this year, the student meets different people and experiences different cultures. As a result his personality develops and he comes to know about the outside world. Finally, a well-planned gap year is attractive to some admissions tutors and to future employers. For example, a student can add his activities of the gap year in his resume when he applies to the university, or for some job after completion of his education. This is taken in a positive light by the admissions committee and some job providers.

As every garden has weeds, similarly a gap year also has a downside. A student may find it difficult to get back to study. A year is a long time and once that tempo of attending classes and doing homework etc. is lost, a student may not feel like studying again. Secondly, if he starts earning enough, education may seem unimportant. Finally, if a student doesn't plan it properly, it may end up as a wasted year.

To sum up, a gap year has a lot of advantages provided it is planned well.

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| 29. | Some people say that every human being can create art (e.g. painting), others think only the people born with the ability can create art. Discuss both views and give your opinion. |
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Nature vs. nurture debate has been raging for generations and no clear-cut answer has come up so far. Some think that artistic ability is inborn, whereas others say that such a talent can be acquired by training and hard work. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I personally believe that artistic knack is a combination of both, talent and training.

On the one hand, there are evidences to prove that genes do influence the innate abilities of a person. When you see 2-5 year olds in reality shows like, 'India's Got Talent' and 'Dance India Dance', you are forced to believe that they have some inborn talent. They are gifted with that talent. They certainly have more natural aptitude than others in certain areas. Other well-known examples also can be cited here. Who has not heard of the achievements of people like Mozart and Einstein?

On the other hand, anyone can produce art by practice and training. Had this not been the case, there would be no schools for Art, and Art and Fine Art would not exist as subjects. More often than not, the verdict of someone being naturally talented is skewed. For example, if we see a beautiful painting or any other such work of art, we reach the conclusion that the person must be really gifted. We tend to ignore the fact that the person may have travelled a long journey of perseverance to reach that point.

In my opinion, to reach the recognizable top, even those gifted with talent have to work hard and practice a lot. Talented people may need less hard work to reach there, but they cannot reach the pinnacles of success without sufficient practice. Even the most talented can lead a life of oblivion if they don't polish their art by continued practice. Conversely, anyone with a passion and determination can succeed in creating unique masterpieces of art.

To sum up, both talent and hard work have a role in creating art. Both are inextricably linked. The nature vs. nurture debate has no clear-cut answer and will never have.

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| 30. | Some people say that economic development is necessary to reduce the poverty in the world. Others say that economic growth should be stopped immediately to stop damaging the environment. Discuss both sides and give your opinion. |
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People are divided on the role of economic development. Some opine that it is essential in addressing poverty whereas others say that it should be stopped as it is causing irreversible damage to the environment. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I personally believe that both arguments have weightage as poverty has to be mitigated, but saving the environment is also equally important. So, we have to look into methods of sustainable economic development. Stopping economic development is not the way out.

It is irrefutable that by the development of economy people can improve their quality of life. For example, in developed countries even the poorest of the poor has the basic amenities of life such as

food, clothing and shelter. All the citizens enjoy high level of social welfare and they enjoy free medical care and free education. Even in countries like India and China, International Companies have created many jobs and as a result, economic development has accelerated even further.

However, it is also true that in our quest for development and becoming richer, we have harmed some of our environment. Most of the things we use require some kind of energy to manufacture, operate and maintain. Disposing-off these things is very difficult too. Most of the energy that we use is polluting the environment. Renewable energy forms a very small part of what is used on a significant scale. Effluents from large factories are being dumped indiscriminately and landfill sites are filling up with non- biodegradable wastes. All this is being done in the name of progress.

Looking at both arguments, it is clear that with economic development, the damage to the environment is inevitable. But, we cannot put a halt on economic progress because the status of the underprivileged has to be improved. Therefore, we have to look into methods by which we can achieve progress without damaging the environment. For instance, we know that there are renewable sources of energy which are less polluting. So, the answer lies in the green technologies, which increasingly use renewable resources of energy. We should also remember the three "Rs" - reduce, reuse and recycle. In this way we can achieve an ecologically sustainable development. In order for progress to cause minimum damage to environment, sustainability has to be worked at.

Summing up, there is no doubt that with economic development, poverty is lessened. At the same time, it is also definite that development is leading to pollution. But, instead of stopping development we can work upon environmentally friendly development.

31.	As we are facing more and more problems, which affect the whole planet, good relationships between different countries are becoming more important than ever before. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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It is irrefutable that nowadays the whole world has become a global village and communication and trade between different countries is also becoming more frequent than ever before. At the same time, the whole planet is facing problems, such as environmental problem, terrorism and poverty and diseases. In my view, countries cannot solve these problems on their own and governments of different countries must cooperate to fight these problems.

To begin with, take environmental problems. It is a bitter truth that the Earth is facing the problem of global warming and if the whole world does not unite to fight this problem, then the day is not far when the whole Earth will become a boiling pot and life would not be possible here. The Kyoto protocol has been signed by many countries of the United Nations in which, they have pledged not to make industries, which emit more than 5.2% carbon dioxide.

Furthermore, there are problems like terrorism, which are having a detrimental effect on our society. There are various global organizations, which are working towards eradicating these issues but it cannot be possible without trust and harmony between different nations. What is more, the poor countries are getting aid from developed countries to develop their infrastructure and develop themselves. In these countries many people are suffering from starvation and poverty which can harm the neighbouring richer nations and that is why all nations realize the importance of maintaining good relations.

Summing up, good relations between different countries are absolutely necessary nowadays to solve these critical issues.

32.	Some people say that playing computer games is bad for children, whereas others say that it has positive effects on the way children develop. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.
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The computer game industry is a part of our world today. From its humble beginnings in the 80s, the video game industry has exploded into a 10-billion dollar empire. It is a debatable issue whether these games are good or bad. In this essay, I intend to delve into the pros and cons of these games. I personally believe that these games are good, but only if played in moderation.

There are many advantages of playing computer games. To begin with, video games introduce children to computer technology. Secondly, some games provide practice in problem solving and logic, e.g. Age of Empires. Video games have proved to improve visual skills. They also improve motor and spatial skills. Children who play video games have better reflexes.

What is more, these modern games make learning fun. The cost of failure is lower. This encourages risk taking and exploration. If the child gets the answer wrong or their character dies, he just starts the game over and tries again. Finally, some games have therapeutic applications.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of these technological inventions. Firstly, overdependence on these games leads to social isolation, as these are usually played alone. Secondly, some games have violent characters, and seeing their violent acts leads to aggressive behaviour in children. Moreover, these games can confuse reality and fantasy. For example, when children play car-racing games then they may race their own vehicles in real life, which can lead to accidents. Finally, these games are addicting and once a child sits to play these games, time flies and everything else, such as studies and outdoor games are forgotten, which is indubitably bad.

To summarise, on the whole these games are very good and certainly their advantages outweigh their disadvantages, but these should be played in balance. Parents should limit the game playing time and see to it that home-work and other important chores are done before playing.

33.	Fewer and fewer people today write by hand using a pen, pencil or brush. What are the reasons? Is this a positive or negative development?
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Writing by hand using a pen, pencil or brush has come under a serious threat. This essay intends to delve into the reasons of this phenomenon. I firmly believe that this is a negative development.

The decline in handwriting is mainly because there is little place for it in the average modern life. Today, people need to be able to reach many people and edit documents quickly. In the competitive era of today, business matters require speed and clarity for reaching a wide audience. Therefore, a technology-based solution is always better. Technology has put everyone on one level when it comes to the ability to communicate clearly. Handwriting may be beautiful or just a scrawl, but typing will always be uniform.

Secondly, the tablets, smartphones and laptops have come within the pocket of most individuals. The earlier traditional writing tools such as the pen and pencil have been replaced with the stylus. Some schools in developed countries have spent enormous amounts to equip all classrooms with tablets. For some courses each student has a tablet equipped with specific educational programmes. The teacher can see the students' work while they are actually working on the exercises. In place of the blackboard, a projector displays the image of the tablet from the teacher.

Despite the various advantages of digital writing, I believe the slow death of handwriting is a negative development. Research shows that when children learn how to write, they also learn how to express themselves. Handwriting is so much more than simply putting letters on a page; it is a key part of learning to communicate. Writing is almost as important as speaking, as a medium for communicating thought.

Moreover, handwriting is a complex skill that affects cognitive development of children. When they write, they build hand-eye coordination and practice fine motor skills. Good handwriting can lead to better grades, too. Studies show that pre-kindergarten kids with fine motor skills scored higher years later in reading and math than those with poor handwriting. In short, there's a direct link between writing skills and academic success.

To conclude, the traditional methods of writing with a pen, pencil or brush are dwindling because of the ease, which technology is bringing in, but this is indubitably a negative occurrence.

34.	Students today can access information online, so libraries are not necessary. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Since centuries libraries have been in the service of man. These libraries are the repositories of never ending knowledge known as books. Some people opine that we can do away with traditional libraries because technology has given us the facility of virtual or online libraries. I, however, believe that even though technology has reduced our need to go to the libraries, our traditional libraries can never become redundant.

With the advent of new technologies in the field of computers and telecommunications, revolutionary changes have taken place in the field of Library and Information Science. The shape of traditional libraries containing a large number of printed documents is in the process of being transformed to paper less libraries containing a large number of digitized documents. The facilities offered by networking have not left libraries untouched. Modern libraries are not only digitized but networked also. This has led to the creation of virtual libraries i.e. libraries without walls through which the user has access to information at anytime, anywhere in the world by using the modern tools of communications, such as computers and Internet facilities.

However, one should keep in mind that a person goes to a library not only to search and get information from books, but also to sit and study there. The ambience and the peaceful and scholarly atmosphere of the library helps one to concentrate more on one's work and study. Thus, libraries will never become unneeded. They will always be there to indicate the presence of a well-read and educated society.

Another important point is that it is very difficult to always read books from the computer monitor. Traditional books can be issued from the library and read in the comfort of your bed. Virtual libraries can be accessed only by those who are computer literate. The access to virtual libraries can be affected by power cuts and network failures. Moreover, in a traditional library you are guided by the librarians if you need any help in searching for the book.

To conclude, it can be said that advancement should be welcome in every field but the importance of the libraries for their fundamental role cannot be put aside. Every library should have its digital segment also so that more and more people can access them. This will add more crowns of success to the importance of libraries.

35.	Some people think that teachers should be responsible for teaching students to judge what is right and wrong so that they can behave well. Others say that teachers should only teach students academic subjects. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
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A well-known adage from India says "Acharya devo bhava," which means teachers are next to God. Right from the ancient times, teachers are put on the highest position. It is a highly debatable topic whether teachers should be concerned with only academics or also teach manners and etiquettes to children. In this essay I intend to discuss both perspectives. I, however, believe that teachers have a much wider role than just teaching subjects.

Teacher is like a potter, who moulds the earthen vessels in whichever form he wants. A child's mind is like raw clay and is very much ready to be moulded in the shape it is guided to. A good teacher always feels responsible to develop a child's conscience. He has the potential to become a friend, philosopher and guide for his students. With this special position in students' life, he often acts as their role model. His words highly influence the minds of the students. Students always try to imitate his actions or implement his teachings, so he has to be much careful of his behaviour. Therefore, in that respect a teacher has a much more role than just teaching academic subjects.

Furthermore, teachers convey many good things to parents and society through students in many parts of the world. For example, in Nepal, where illiteracy rate is very high, teachers convey many valuable messages such as of personal hygiene through students. When a student goes home and tells his parents that his teacher says everyone should wash hands before meals, then parents listen. In such set-ups teachers are playing a much greater role than academicians.

On the other hand, those who say that teachers should only concentrate on teaching course material, argue that competition is stiff and if children lag behind in curriculum, they will never be able to catch up with their counterparts in other parts of today's global village. They opine that rules of behaviour can be taught by parents at home.

In conclusion, I believe that teachers have a much bigger role than just covering the syllabus.

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| 36. | In some countries celebrities complain about the way media publicize their private lives. Some people say that they should accept it as part of their fame. Do you agree or disagree? |
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I disagree with the view that celebrities have to accept the manner in which their private lives are made public by the media. It is undeniable that they are in the spotlight and want to be popular by choice. However, their rights to privacy need to be protected as well, as they too are humans. I shall put forth my arguments in this essay.

To commence with, celebrities are already under a lot of pressure to perform well, as they are public figures and are always in the public eye. Be it a politician, a sportsperson, a singer or an actor, all these professions require them to be at their best at all times. This stress of someone constantly following them affects the way they perform, which ultimately leads to a loss for the masses.

Secondly, these celebs are role models for the people. When any negative side of their private life is exposed, their followers think it glamorous to do the same, which is definitely detrimental for the society as a whole. For example, if people come to know that the celeb they adore, smokes and drinks in private life, they think there is nothing wrong in doing so and also copy their idol. This is where responsible journalism is needed.

Undoubtedly, the celebrities choose this life for the name and fame and to be in the spotlight. Without the media, the term celebrity will not hold any meaning. However, that doesn't mean that the media and paparazzi have a right to stalk them at all times. To add to it, sensationalizing the news in order for the channel to get more TRP is unethical. Responsible journalism and some ethics need to be followed by those who get the news to the masses, as they may adversely affect someone's personal and professional lives. Who doesn't remember the unfortunate incident when the world lost a very eminent public figure, Lady Diana? That accident happened because the paparazzi were chasing the car she was travelling in. It is something which could have been easily avoided, had the paparazzi been a little rational in their behaviour.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that responsible journalism means knowing its limits. Celebs too have their private lives and they have a right to privacy. The media has to be judicious in knowing what to report and how much to report, and should never misuse its power.

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| 37. | Most employers nowadays put increasing emphasis on social skills. Some people believe that social skills are important in addition to good qualifications for job success. To what extent, do you agree or disagree? |
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I definitely agree that today social skills are considered as important as good qualifications while recruiting new employees. Hiring the right candidate based on technical knowledge without looking at social skills is like designing a race-car with a powerful engine but substandard steering and braking systems. The car may go fast, but in the wrong direction and may even hurt a lot of innocent bystanders along the way.

A few years ago, when it came to recruiting strategies, hiring decisions often focused largely on candidates' technical skills and expertise, with relatively little attention given to soft skills. This resulted in hiring employees who had the intellect to succeed but lacked the social skills required to work effectively. This resulted in interpersonal conflict and frustration and sometimes such employees

had to leave the job. What is more, such employees were unable to handle the social demands of leadership and so had to remain at lower level jobs.

Social skills reflect a person's ability to work with others in a way that strengthens long-term working relationships. Social skills depend primarily on four fundamental characteristics. The first is self-awareness, which means monitoring how our actions affect the behaviour of those around us. The next is sensitivity to others, which implies concern toward the needs and feelings of others. Then there is social intelligence through which the person understands how to influence others' behaviours and finally there is self-control because of which a person is able to control his actions and emotions, particularly when under stress.

Undoubtedly, a university education is essential if you want to have a career in a profession such as law, engineering, teaching, or medicine. What is more, it opens more doors than you would have if you didn't get one. A university education is a great platform in learning more and gaining valuable knowledge in the field we are passionate about. Also, the university is a great place to network for friends and business associates or partners. So, definitely, in this respect, university education can help you get success.

In summary, it is clear to understand why social skills are given a lot of importance in addition to qualifications. Such skills are the key to success at work.

38.	Some people think governments should focus on reducing environmental pollution and housing problems to help people prevent illness and disease. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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It is indubitable that people's health is influenced by the environment and housing conditions. That is why some people are of the opinion that governments should focus more on the environment and housing to avoid illness and disease. I, however, disagree with this notion. I believe that even though government should address environmental pollution and housing scarcity, there are many other things on which government must spend equally to prevent ill health.

Indeed, the environmental problems and housing conditions are two main sources for illness and diseases. For instance, in many parts of my country, India, people live in slums and do not have access to clean air and potable water because of air and water pollution. In these areas people suffer from diseases such as dengue, malaria, diarrhea and so on. So, if the government looks into environmental pollution and provides basic housing, such problems could be avoided.

However, simply focusing on the environment and housing would not prevent all diseases. Government also has to allocate budget for other preventable diseases such as polio and TB, whooping cough, measles, mumps and so on, which need immunization. All over the world all governments are spending on pulse polio vaccine to eradicate polio from the world. Then, there are diseases such as cancers, which can be prevented by screening tests. Government should spend on tests like PAP smear and mammography, through which cancer of the cervix and breast can be diagnosed much before the actual symptoms appear. In such stages, these cancers are totally curable with very inexpensive treatment.

Another important area, which needs government action, is the awareness of people. Mass awareness campaigns are needed along with looking into the housing so that people can take steps to prevent

themselves. For example, even if the government provides housing to all, but the people keep stagnant water in coolers and other areas, dengue can spread like an epidemic and all government efforts will go in vain.

In conclusion, I reiterate that simply giving priority to environmental pollution and housing will not prevent all disease. Government should allocate funds to other things such as screening tests and awareness of the people also to prevent disease.

39.	Recent advancements in technology have made the TV screen so live that people don't feel the need to go for any live performance (e.g. live shows or concerts). To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Although the live plays and musicals have a magic, and a strange elusive energy between the audience and the performers, I agree with the given statement that in the current age of live TV screening, there is little incentive to go out and see such events. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Undoubtedly, the experience of live performance builds community. There's never going to be anything like sitting in a theatre with hundreds of people around you who value what you value. The appeal of live performance also provides the excitement of the actor-audience connection in real time. These will keep the theatre from fading away completely no matter how much technology takes over our lives. However, the TV of today has eroded the influence of live events so much so that the theatre and television have become competitors. The main factors in favour of TV are the high cost and the limited accessibility of actual live shows. Even if more people wanted to actually go and watch live shows, the seating capacity is limited. On top of that the tickets are very costly, especially if you want seats near the stage.

Another thing, which goes in favour of TV is the lack of time in today's fast-paced world. People also have to stand in queues and drive distances to watch these shows. One 2-3 hour live show actually takes away a whole day at times. Despite the fact that people want to experience live shows, such shows have become once or twice in a lifetime events and that too for those, who have the time and money to do so. Live television has also many other benefits. You don't need to dress formally. It can be watched in the comfort of ones sofa or bed and while doing some other household chores. The focus of the cameras is also on the main characters, because of which you can in fact get a better view of the actual show.

To conclude, I reiterate my view by saying that while actually going an attending a concert or drama is in itself a unique experience, the live TV screen of today has an edge over it all, because it has made arts accessible to all regardless of geographical, social or economic boundaries.

40.	Some children find some subjects such as mathematics and philosophy too difficult to learn, so some people argue that those subjects should be optional rather than compulsory. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Mathematics and Philosophy seek to find the truth behind the underlying workings and meanings of the universe. Mathematics teaches the formulation of proofs and concepts and Philosophy teaches

the theoretical basis of our social organisation and social relationships. It is difficult to agree or disagree with the entire statement. I believe that maths should be compulsory in schools even if students find it difficult but philosophy can be made optional. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Mathematics should be a mandatory part of school curricula because maths is the basis of all other subjects. Children need to be taught numeracy from early childhood. The knowledge of maths makes children smarter as it teaches them to think critically. If maths is not taught then the phobia some children have of maths will be even more pronounced when they are older.

Secondly, if maths is studied in school, then it opens doors to many interesting subjects and careers. Many good universities and colleges in Canada and USA, require the knowledge of maths till Senior Secondary level. Many high paid jobs require analytical thinking which only those children have who have a good mathematics base. Therefore, maths should be compulsory in schools. The onus is on the teachers to make it interesting for the students.

Coming to Philosophy, it can be made optional because school children are too immature to learn about the complexities of human relationships. They can learn such social skills from parents and teachers in an informal way by just observing them. Philosophy, as a subject, would be too boring and would only add to the burden of the students. As it is, today's children are over-burdened with tough academic subjects to make them competent enough to be a part of the global village of today. So, only those who are really interested to study philosophy should be given the option of studying it.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that maths should undoubtedly be compulsory but philosophy should be optional as maths is needed to survive today in this era of technology whereas philosophy can be left for college or university studies. That is why, perhaps, in our Indian school curricula, maths is compulsory but philosophy is optional and that too in the senior secondary classes.

41.	Some people believe that teenagers should concentrate on all school subjects. But, others believe that teenagers should focus on the subject that they are best at or that they find the most interesting. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
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People are divided on the issue of the subjects which teenagers should be required to study. Some believe that these young school goers should be made to study all subjects, whereas others say that they should be given the choice of studying subjects of their interest. This essay shall analyse both perspectives. I, personally side with the former view. I believe that in today's competitive world, a broad knowledge is needed to succeed in any field.

There are many reasons why some people hold the opinion that students should not have to study all the subjects and should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study. They opine that in this case the students will probably be more enthusiastic about their study. In addition, if students are forced to study all subjects, they can easily lose interest in education. What is more, if all subjects are compulsory for studying, students will not have enough time to learn all of them properly; therefore they will be constantly under a lot of pressure.

However, I believe all subjects are of great importance and for the holistic development of the students they need to study all subjects equally at school level. Later on, during admission to the colleges, students can select the subjects of their choice and can explore them further. At that age

they are mature enough to decide their subjects for themselves. At school level the student may not know what his real interests are.

Furthermore, nowadays, the job market is very demanding and the recruiters select students who are skilled in various fields. Having the basic knowledge of varied subjects during school time definitely widens the horizons for the students. To add to it, it is a well-known fact that most subjects are related to each other in some way or the other. For example, a basic knowledge of mathematics is needed to excel in computer languages. Finally, I believe that it is up to the teachers to develop interest of the students in any subject. For instance, during my school days, my history teacher was so good that a boring subject like history was the favourite subject of the whole class.

To sum up, it can be said that students should learn all subjects at school level, as they are not mature enough to know their real interests at school level and a broad knowledge is also needed for their holistic development.

42.	In some cultures the old age is more valued, while in some cultures the youth is more valued. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
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People of different cultures have varied attitudes toward age. They suggest that in Western societies old people are not respected, while in Asian societies elders are revered. Similarly, youth is either highly valued or ignored, depending on the culture. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives.

First of all, old age is valued everywhere. Old age is often associated with wisdom. With age comes experience, and in many societies' younger family members consult older ones for advice on relationships or problems. In some societies, not just older living family members but ancestors are revered and consulted. For instance, in the Far East, people respect grandparents, older leaders, and bosses.

In some nations, the youth are valued more because a young, vibrant workforce in a country is usually regarded as an asset. Most governments give priority to youth in terms of education so that they can move the society forward. A case in point is America, a country sponsoring university students by different forms such as scholarship and student loans. By doing this, young people can be well educated and equipped with proper knowledge and useful skills. Consequently, the young will be able to promote the development of the society.

I believe that age in itself is not a qualification for anything. If we look at western countries, we also find politicians in their sixties or seventies, and company executives in their sixties, despite strong business competition. In addition, as life expectancy increases, older people are becoming more important as consumers and voters. On the other hand, even in countries where elders previously were respected and obeyed blindly, people are realizing that old age does not always mean wisdom. The old way of running families, companies, or countries may not work today.

In conclusion, the old and the young are essential for our society, so they both should be valued. An ideal society should have a balance. We should appreciate both the vitality and potential of youth and the advice and experience of old age.

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| 43. | Studies show that many criminals have a low level of education. For this reason, people believe that the best way to reduce crime is to educate people in prison so they can get a job when they leave prison. Do you agree or disagree? |
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Unemployment and poverty are indisputably the major reasons of crime. Providing vocational education to prisoners inside penitentiaries would definitely reduce joblessness and destitution. However, I disagree with the given statement that providing education to inmates is the best way to reduce crime. It is a good method, but there are other better methods to curb crime.

To begin with, the main purpose of prisons is not just to punish criminals, but also to rehabilitate them. If this rehabilitation part is not looked into, then majority of criminals would re-offend after coming out of prison. This is because, such criminals are not accepted by the general public, and nobody likes to give them jobs. Therefore just educating them is not enough to reduce crime. The government must ensure that they are given jobs to fend for their basic needs.

Another important fact, which has to be considered, is that these penitentiaries are very costly to maintain. When these inmates are taught vocational skills such as carpentry, a lot of infrastructure is required. While all this expenditure may help a few prisoners, it may be futile in case of those hard-core criminals who are not in there because of illiteracy or unemployment. They just have a criminal bent of mind. They would never become useful members of society even after such education. Rigorous imprisonment would be better to deter potential criminals.

The best way to reduce crime would be to never let it happen in the first place. Laws should be enforced so strictly that people should think a hundred times before resorting to crime. Compulsory primary education should be given to all children. Youth unemployment should be dealt with by creating job openings or by encouraging entrepreneurship.

To conclude, it can be reiterated that while educating the prisoners and trying to make them self-sufficient would be good to reduce crime, the better methods would be to stop crime from happening in the first place.

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| 44. | Many different countries have most shops and products as the same. Some consider it a positive development, whereas others consider it negative. Discuss both sides and give your opinion. |
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It is indubitable that globalization has ushered in an era of similarities. People are divided on whether these likenesses are good or bad. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

On the positive side, people have more choices, as now everything is available everywhere. Earlier, only locally made products were available, but now people are able to enjoy things from all over the world. For instance, earlier there were only two popular brands of shoes available in India, which were Bata and Carona, but today we have Reebok, Nike, Adidas, Puma and so many more. Similar examples can be cited for infinite number of other products. Therefore, in this regard, having similar shops and products is a positive thing.

Secondly, people are becoming aware of other cultures and lifestyles through these products. They are becoming tolerant of each other. They have the choice of picking and adopting the best points of

each culture, and as a consequence a global culture is emerging. The youth of today are adopting this culture and are wearing globally similar clothes, eating similar food, using similar cosmetics, having similar furniture in their homes and they are living similar lifestyles.

Another benefit of this similar situation is that relations between countries are improving. When countries import or export their products, they develop bonds with each other, which is good for both. For instance, India exports tea and iron ore to other countries, and imports automobiles, refrigerators and televisions etcetera. It is but obvious that countries, which are linked by trade, cannot afford to go against each other.

On the other hand, these similarities are diluting the national identities. Our diversity is disappearing. It is well known that diversity adds spice to life. Unfortunately, malls in any country have the same showrooms of the same brands that there is no charm of going anywhere for buying something unique. Another big demerit of all products being available everywhere is that the local businessman cannot compete with the international giants and is therefore going into oblivion. However, despite these disadvantages, I still believe that the advantages are much more.

To sum up, similarity in shops and products has its dark and light side, but the pros definitely edge over the cons.

45.	In some parts of the world, it is becoming increasingly popular to try to find out about the history of your family. Why do people do this? Is this a negative or positive development?
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The study of family history or genealogy has become very popular especially after the coming of the Internet. People are indulging into this study for various reasons, which I shall highlight in the following paragraphs. I believe that it is largely a positive development although there are some disadvantages also.

The most popular reason for studying the family history is that people want to know their roots. Besides honouring the significance of one's ancestors, studying one's family's genealogy can just be plain fascinating. It is considered by most to be the fastest-growing hobby in North America, with many surveys and media sources proclaiming that it has surpassed quilting, stamp collecting and even gardening in popularity. Another reason for studying family history is the potential to trace living relatives. This then opens up the possibility of finding out about and connecting with long-lost cousins or relatives. The ability to trace living relatives can also be important in tracing an heir or beneficiary.

Finally, the most significant reason is that studying family history is an important tool in maintaining good physical health. Studying family history helps to predict risk for a range of health concerns and diseases, including heart disease, osteoporosis, type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer. Once a person's family medical history has been established, it is far easier for physicians to advise patients on how to keep healthy.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of tracking family history. Genealogy begins as a curiosity, which becomes a hobby and then may become an obsession. Then people waste too much time and money on it. One should not forget that it is the present, which influences the future more and not the past. Often knowledge of family history is disastrous, leading people to keep old enmities alive. It may also reveal unpleasant facts that one would regret knowing.

In conclusion, it can be said that there are many motivations for studying family history, from developing a sense of belonging to maintaining good health. However, one should not develop an obsession for it and waste too much time and money on it.

46.	Everyone should become vegetarian because they do not need to eat meat to have a healthy diet. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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A lot of scientific evidence indicates that wholesome vegetarian diets offer distinct advantages compared to diets containing meat. However, I disagree with the given statement that everyone should adopt a meat-free diet to be healthy. In this essay I intend to support my opinion with my arguments.

Undoubtedly, there are many benefits of a vegetarian diet. To begin with, vegetarian diets are easy to digest, whereas meats can be difficult to digest. The fats in meat are saturated, which means they are unhealthy and contribute to higher cholesterol levels. Plant sources of food, on the other hand, are rich in fibre, complex carbohydrates, magnesium, folic acid, vitamin C and E, carotenoids and other phytochemicals. Dietary fibre helps prevent colon cancer, which is more prevalent in meat-eaters.

However, a totally vegetarian diet can be deficient in several nutrients including protein, iron, zinc, calcium, vitamin B12 and A, n-3 fatty acids and iodine. Although vegetarians can consume protein through legumes and nuts, these protein sources are incomplete.

A complete protein contains the essential amino acids that your body needs, and animal products provide a complete protein. Many animal products are also high in iron and vitamin B12. Iron found in animal products is easier for your body to absorb. A deficiency in iron or B12 can result in fatigue. For women, who lose iron through menstruation, getting enough iron through their diet is important.

Proponents of vegetarian diet claim that veggie diets have high-protein gems like cottage cheese, nuts, and tofu. I still believe that people who go vegetarian may have to take a lot of supplements, and would definitely need to put in a lot of effort to have a balanced meal full of essential macro and micronutrients. A purely vegetarian diet, which is not planned well, may prove very bad for health. People, who are non-vegetarian, can easily have a mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian diet to remain healthy. They can cut down their meat intake to avoid the detrimental effects of a non-veg diet.

To sum up, I reiterate that although a vegetarian diet has several benefits, I differ with those who say that everyone should turn vegetarian to be healthy.

47.	Some people believe that success in life depends on hard work and determination, while others believe that other factors like money and personal appearance are important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
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Success means different thing to different people. Therefore, success by "hard work + determination" or "money + looks" is a hot topic of debate. This article will discuss both these views. I personally believe that success comes mainly from the hard work and perseverance and only on some odd occasion money and looks can play a role. It would be quite unwise to give credit solely to money and looks for success.

Determination and hard work is an important prerequisite for success. First of all, determination gives us an impetus of setting up goals, which become the cornerstone of success. For example, Marie Curie (Madame Curie) determined to finish her husband's lifetime unfinished work after his death and eventually discovered radium.

However, determination alone is not enough; efforts are also very important as without hard work determination is of no value. It has been well said that 'Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety nine percent, perspiration'. Take the example of businessmen. Only those succeed who have determination and who put in a lot of sweat and toil in their business. Good looks and money cannot help you sell your products.

Those who advocate that money and good looks are needed for success, believe that good looks increase the confidence of a person and a confident person has more chances to succeed in his life. With good looks a person can succeed in the acting and modelling fields. They also opine that money is needed to become an entrepreneur and those who have the capital to invest have more chances to succeed. They have faith in the dictum that money multiplies money.

To sum up, a powerful background of money as well as attractive looks can help a certain number of persons to succeed, but too much reliance on these is impractical. So, success depends on how firmly people hold on to their determination and how much effort they put into their work.

48.	Some teachers think that international student exchange would be beneficial for all teenage school students. Do you think its advantages outweigh its disadvantages?
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International student exchange programs involve exchanging students of one country or place, with those of another country or place to complete part of their education there. A lot of people find these programs very beneficial, while there are some people who do not approve of these. I believe that the educational, personal and long-term advantages of these programs, to the teenage students, outstrip the disadvantages.

There are many educational benefits of these programs. Because of international learning and knowledge, students accept and understand different cultures and their perspectives. Secondly, as the students mingle with the local people in another country, they get to learn a new language. They become aware of, and adopt alternative, multi-faceted approaches to learning. They develop analytical and problem solving skills. Students have enhanced interest in global issues, as well as a broader general knowledge.

At the personal level, the most noticeable change in returned exchange students is their enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem. They become mature, as they get to confront challenges outside a familiar comfort zone. They develop life-long friendships and also appreciate their home and family even more than before.

In the long run, students who go on to tertiary studies find themselves more comfortable in 'foreign' environments. They have better job opportunities. This is because, prospective employers in almost every field look favourably upon experience gained while living overseas and knowledge obtained of another language and culture.

On the other hand, the most obvious disadvantage of a student exchange program is the cultural shock that any student has to go through. For instance, if a student from India has to shift for an exchange to China and the vice-versa, it is going to be a big challenge initially. The student needs to be acquainted with at least one of the official languages of the host country otherwise it would be difficult to stay there. Next, the student has to adjust or compromise with the habits of the homestay family. Finally the time zone difference is a big problem during the initial days in the guest country.

To sum up, there might be a lot of problems in another place for the teenage student, but it is an opportunity that can change the students' life for the better. It is altogether a good blend of educational benefits along with personality development.

49.	Students at schools and universities learn far more from lessons with teachers than from other sources (such as the Internet and television). To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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It is irrefutable that students can learn a lot nowadays from Internet and television and these have become an indispensable part of education, but I firmly believe that teachers play a more significant role in the classroom. I believe that no amount of technology can ever undermine the importance of the teacher. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, teachers can stimulate interest, and it is an undeniable fact that interested stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. A student studying by himself through Internet and TV, may get bored and stop studying. Secondly, teachers can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. In addition, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills.

Furthermore, there are many practical subjects, which students can learn best from the teacher. For example, experiments of physics and chemistry, are best learnt by the teacher guiding you at every step. What is more, teachers give assignments and regularly check them. This helps the teachers to recognize the weak points of students and guide them accordingly. All this cannot be done by the Internet and TV.

On the other hand, it is also true that the Internet is an ocean of knowledge. You can get information about any topic on Earth from the Internet. But there is no authenticity of this information. What information to get and from where to get, requires a lot of expertise. The television also has a lot of educative programmes but students still need the guidance of the teachers at all stages of learning. Teachers can make even the dull and boring subjects seem interesting. So definitely students learn more from teachers.

To conclude, it can be said, that no doubt TV and the Internet are very educative these days but students definitely learn more from the teacher.

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| 50. | Animals are in danger of extinction. Some people say that we should protect only those animals, which are useful to humans. Do you agree or disagree? |
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Animal extinction has become a matter of great concern. I disagree with the given statement that we should conserve only those animals, which are beneficial to humans. I believe that all animals have direct or indirect effect on mankind. It has been rightly said that plans to protect wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.

The most important reason for saving all animals is that they are part of our ecosystem. Every species of wildlife plays a role to maintain the balance of life on Earth. Thus, the loss of any species can affect us directly or indirectly. For example, there are many bat species that are becoming extinct. Such bats help keep the insect population in control. If these bats die then the insects will increase a lot and destroy our crops. So, we will have nothing to eat. In addition, many animals, like rodents, help in the dispersal of plant seeds and in the pollination of plants. By protecting endangered animals we ensure not only their survival but also the biodiversity that is necessary for the ecological health of the planet.

Secondly, wild animals provide many valuable substances such as medicine and fur. The horn of the rhinoceros has medicinal value and the fur of the mink is very valuable. The recreational viewing of animals at zoos is also a source of revenue. Thus, the financial value of wild species is important to the economies of many nations.

Furthermore, wild animals have aesthetic appeal. They are beautiful creatures of nature and are a part of our bio-diversity. Their beautiful and mysterious life has enchanted mankind since the dawn of evolution. Scientists have been awed, by observing their behaviour. Such study has helped scientists understand how the human body functions and why people behave as they do. Scientists have also gained medical knowledge by studying the effect of many drugs on these animals.

Finally, it is undeniable that animal species have been vanishing at a much faster rate for about a century now due to human factors such as pollution, commercial overexploitation, poaching and deforestation. Knowingly or unknowingly, we humans are doing so much damage to plants and animals that working for their conservation has become a necessity.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that saving all the animal species on the verge of extinction is well justified. All animals have direct or indirect relation to humans. So we should not work to save only those few species, which have a visible effect on humans.

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| 51. | Many people are afraid to leave their home because of crime. Some believe that more action should be taken to prevent crime. While others feel that little action can be done to stop crime. What is your view? |
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It is irrefutable that crime is burgeoning day by day in many countries. Many people are scared to go away from their home because of crime. Some people contend that number of ways can be used to prevent crime. While other people argue that nothing can be done to prevent it. I believe that it is possible to tackle this serious issue by taking some action.

Firstly, some people do not want to leave their home because they think that they are secure only in their homes. They feel that if they go out of their home then they may be affected by crime like chain snatching, murder, kidnapping etc. One approach would be to increase the number of police on roads.

If more police were on the streets, whether on foot or on patrol cars, criminals would be less likely to commit crime and people would feel much safer. Having more police especially at night would be particularly beneficial.

A second possibility would be to make laws stricter and punishments more severe. This could involve increasing fines or lengthening prison sentences. If a criminal has to pay more money for doing something illegal or would have to face more time in prison then I believe this is likely to reduce the crime rate.

On the other hand, some people are frightened to leave their home because they feel that if they are not present in their home then their home is not safe from crime. To solve this problem, methods to increase security might deter potential criminals. For example, more effective alarm devices can be used in houses. Technology is so advanced nowadays that the alarm could ring on your mobile device if someone breaks-in your home. This would reduce burglary and theft. In addition, hidden security cameras like surveillance cameras can be used in homes with the help of which people can watch what is happening in their homes from anywhere. In this way one can feel secure about one's home.

In conclusion, although crime is a major problem in most cities in the world, the situation can be addressed by adopting the methods mentioned above. It would definitely be wrong to say that nothing can be done to address this problem.

52.	The best way to solve the world's environmental problem is to increase the price of fuel. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
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Excessive traffic and increasing pollution are affecting every major city in the globe. To lessen such problems, some people say that governments should raise the price of fuel such as petrol and diesel. It may help to some extent, but I disagree that it is the best solution to solve the problem of environment.

To begin with, the number of cars in a country directly depends on the proportion of the population, affluent enough to own cars. As a result, raises in gas price could invoke hard feelings among this segment of people, but would not drastically change their behaviour in using cars. Even if the number of cars on road is reduced due to higher gas cost, this is not the best way to solve traffic problems. Such policy would hurt the auto industry, place higher costs on current and prospective car owners, and be detrimental to the economy of a nation. In the long run, the final way out could be the construction of better roads and more effective use of available public transport facilities.

Secondly, there is evidence that waste gas from cars is not the leading cause of air pollution. The culprit may be the discharge of polluting substances into the atmosphere due to the rapidly growing manufacturing industry. As a result, reduction of the number of cars would not return us a blue sky and fresh air. We could better handle this problem if we could increase control over industrial waste-discharge and adopt more environmental friendly materials and production equipment.

Finally, other measures like the application of cheaper and cleaner energy resources could also be a better solution. For example, we now have the ability to make cell- powered or even solar-powered cars. Such energy is completely clean and plentiful.

Summing up, it is not the best way to control traffic and pollution by increasing gas price because such action will hurt consumers and economy without achieving what it is aimed for. Measures such as construction of better transport facilities and development of new energy resources could be more effective solutions.

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| 53. | Some people think that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace in the future. Others think the true function of a university is to provide access to knowledge for its own sake. What do you think are the main functions of a university? |
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As university education is the last stage before the starting of career, many people believe that it prepares students for employment only, but the fact is that it serves a lot many purposes. In this essay I shall discuss the various functions of a university.

Universities provide specialised education in fields such as medical, engineering, commerce etc. They provide library facilities, which support the curriculum. They provide laboratory facilities for science and technology related subjects. They send students to factories and industries so that they get practical experience. This job-oriented training helps them to understand the working conditions and also gives them an idea about competition in the market. They also create job opportunities for the students by arranging campus interviews.

On the other hand, universities also perform other functions, which help the students in their personal life. They organise co-curricular activities such as cultural programmes, sports, debates, fairs etc. Students gain many qualities such as self-confidence and positive attitude, which help them in their future life. Moreover, some people just go to university for gaining knowledge just out of interest for the subject. For example, a doctor may want to learn French language just for interest in the language.

Furthermore, a university is a place to know more about the world because there are students from across the globe in a university. For many, who may never travel abroad, this may be a chance of a lifetime for them to broaden their horizons and know more about the different cultures of the world. For example, in LPU (Lovely Professional University), there are 200 students from Malaysia, Korea and other parts of the world.

To conclude, universities do not simply prepare a person for employment, but also have many other functions.

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| 54. | Some people think that the government should provide assistance to all kinds of artists including painters, musicians and poets, etc. However, other people think that it is a waste of money. Discuss both views and give your opinion. |
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Many people's lives are richer because of art - music, paintings, calligraphy, pictures, sculpture, poems and dance. There are some who claim that it is important to support the artists, and others who are opposed to government funding. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

There are many reasons why government should fund artists. The contributions of artists to the society are very essential. Art can bring out people's creativity, views and personalities. For example, we learn about our history, traditions and culture through movies, songs and paintings made by artists. Artists are the media of diffusing tradition. All kinds of tradition are the basis of a country without which the country can't be civilised. So artists are the ambassadors of culture and play a vital role in elevating the level of civilization of the country. Art is a major form of cultural abundance.

Another important aspect of this is that art is an ancient means of communication. Our language is a result of people's need to communicate. Art is what differentiates us from animals. Art is our soul and it is a source of courage. Artists also entertain us. Finally, government should fund artists because earning a livelihood from art is difficult, especially in the budding stages.

Opponents of government funding on artists say that money spent on the arts could have been used for considerably more vital purposes. They have strong reasons as a nation's health and wellbeing should be paramount. The idea that elderly people are forced to wait for essential operations, whilst the money required to increase available medical provision is spent on opera and ballet is plainly immoral. There are also more deserving social causes for the money that should be considered before the arts. Homelessness, unemployment, illiteracy - all of these deserve to be addressed before money is spent on what is essentially little more than entertainment.

To summarise, I would like to say that even though both sides have strong arguments, spending on arts is a must, but funds allocated for spending on basic healthcare and education should not be diverted to the Arts. There should be separate funding for Arts, as it is as important as other basic necessities.

55.	Some people think that government should not give international aid since they have disadvantaged people like unemployed and homeless in their own country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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International aid is a voluntary transfer of resources from one country to another. I disagree with the given statement that governments should not give aid to poor countries if there are underprivileged people within their own country. I believe that the developing and developed countries should always step forward to help the impoverished countries.

My first argument is that if unemployment and homelessness are the criteria for not giving aid, then there would be no aid on humanitarian grounds at all. Some degree of unemployment and homelessness is there even in the most developed countries such as the USA and the UK. If such countries stop giving aid, then there would be no one to help the poverty stricken world. For instance, according to statistics of 2013, nearly 6% people in the USA were unemployed, but aid given by USA was \$30 billion approximately. Even the developing countries such as India have allocated some part of their budget for foreign aid.

Secondly, most aid indirectly helps the donor country, such as for resource extraction from the recipient country or to gain some commercial access. For example, the MNCs opened in India as a part of foreign aid, no doubt are providing jobs to many youngsters, but in fact are paying them much less than what they have to pay their own country's employees. Many foreign companies have opened their retail outlets in India because India is a strong commercial market due to its burgeoning population. Therefore, aid works as a win-win situation for both the giver and the taker countries.

Furthermore, in emergencies or natural calamities such as earthquakes and tsunamis, all countries should come forward and help. Aid need not be monetary; it can be in the form of volunteer workers or providing goods needed by the affected people. Such help should be given even if there are situations within the country needing attention. This also strengthens relations between countries.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion saying that all countries should help by giving foreign aid even if there are problems of unemployment and homelessness within them.

56.	International travel makes people prejudiced rather than broad-minded. What are its causes and what measures can be taken to solve this problem?
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It is irrefutable that international tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. Unfortunately, sometimes, international tourism creates tension rather than understanding between people from different cultures. In this essay I intend to delve into the causes of this situation and suggest some ways to alleviate the problem.

The most important reason why some are opposed to international tourism is that tourists may unknowingly show disrespect for local culture. For instance, we generally cover our heads in a religious place. A tourist may not do so or take his shoes inside a temple. This may offend the local people. Sometimes, youngsters may be attracted towards the western culture, which the tourists bring with them and many may find this as a threat to the local culture.

Moreover, the tourist dollar may not be helping the local people. We all know that tourists stay in five star hotels and enjoy the best facilities. They may be taking two showers a day, whereas the local people may not have enough water to drink. This has been the case in Shimla, which is a very popular hill station in Himachal Pradesh, India. On top of that, when tourists buy souvenirs from local artisans, they bargain a lot. The poor artisans, who look up to tourists for their livelihood, end up earning the bare minimum. Finally, tourism creates pollution, which helps nobody. We are all suffering the consequences of global warming.

The solutions are not simple. We cannot discourage tourism. It is the backbone of many economies of the world. First of all, the tour operators should take the onus of guiding the tourists about the main things of local culture. Secondly, the tourists should stay with locals as paying guests. This would be a win-win situation for both. Local people would earn and the tourist would taste the local culture. Finally, ecotourism should be promoted. For example, if an elephant ride is possible, the tourist should avoid using car. After all, a good tourist is one – who takes away nothing, but photographs, and leaves behind nothing, but footprints.

Summing up, international tourism does have a downside to it, but many steps can be taken to lessen the negative effects.

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| 57. | Rich countries often give financial aid to poor countries, but it does not solve the poverty, so rich countries should give other types of help to the poor countries rather than the financial aid. To what extent do you agree or disagree? |
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Even though technology is developing at a fast pace and the standard of living of most individuals has gone up, billions of people still live in poverty, and in many places, the rich countries give financial aid to developing and under-developed countries. Some people consider it improper to give direct monetary help. I agree with them. I believe that the developed countries should give some other types of help to the poor countries and not direct financial aid.

My first argument against financial aid is that this aid may not actually reach those for whom it is meant. It may go into corrupt pockets. Secondly, it would make those people lazy, as they would be getting aid without doing any work. Thirdly, the aid may be used for wrong purposes. For example, the aid may be given for development projects but it may be used to promote terrorism. Finally, if aid is given without proper research, then it may be used for projects, which are not the priority of the people. For instance, the people may need health and educational institutes, whereas the aid may be used for making dams or expanding roadways.

The best way to help poor countries would be to open good educational institutes, good health centres and create job opportunities for people of the poor countries. It has been wisely said by someone, 'Give a man fish to eat, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime'. If people of the poor countries start earning well their standard would definitely become better and the whole country would become richer.

If rich countries open factories and multinational companies in poor countries it would be a win-win situation for both, as the poor would get employment and the rich would have to pay much lesser to these workers than they would have to pay their counterparts in their own country. So, more and more rich countries would step forward to help the poor. Direct financial aid would not bring such a situation.

Summing up, financial aid is not the best way to help poor countries. From my own perspective, the developed countries ought to assist the impoverished countries through other approaches.

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| 58. | Some people who have been in prison become good citizens later. Some people think that they are the best people to talk to school students about the danger of committing a crime. Do you agree or disagree? |
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It is understandable that ex-prisoners can share the consequences of their crime with school children and educate them against delinquency. However, I disagree that they are the best people for this job. I believe that other measures taken by parents and teachers are better to teach the next generation how to become law-abiding citizens.

Obviously, the released prisoners have witnessed the tough life in the jail and can share the tears and sorrows they suffered in the jails and the harm they have brought to the victims and their family members. This may be more impressive than the traditional lectures given by professors. By listening to a wide range of real cases in person, young generation will realize the consequence of the irresponsible behaviour deeply and discipline themselves strictly in the future.

Nevertheless, I believe other alternatives should be taken into consideration as well. It is common for people to have a fear towards criminals, especially those who have committed violent crimes and therefore face-to-face conversation between the school students and people with such criminal record might be unfitting in some cases. Another point to be taken into consideration is that by inviting such people to schools to address the students, some vulnerable students might start thinking it glamorous to commit a crime.

By contrast, policemen normally have a good impression among youngsters and they can become the active voice in reducing juvenile delinquency. Senior police officials could be called to deliver lectures to students and show them videos of the harsh life in prisons to deter them from committing crime. Apart from them, parents can certainly be the first to help children learn the differences between right and wrong since they are the people who know their children the best in the world. Teachers also are good to guide children about what is right or wrong.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion that ex-criminals are good, but not the best to guide children against immoral behaviour. It is the responsibility of every member of a society to help the young generation to become good citizens.

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| 59. | The food travels thousands of miles from farm to consumer. Some people think it would be better to our environment and economy if people only ate only locally produced food. What extent do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages? |
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Nowadays, supermarkets are stocked with food products from around the world. Some individuals are of the opinion that this imported food has detrimental effect on our economy and culture and it would be better if people ate only the local produce. Certainly, the disadvantages of imported food outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, transporting food over a long distance gives us a lot of choices. We can taste a variety of fruits and vegetables from all parts of the world. For example, about ten years ago, we hardly saw kiwi fruit, which is from New Zealand. But, now it has a place on every fruit stand. Secondly, many people get employment in this field. Small farmers have a chance to expand globally and it increases the overall economy of the country. Finally, it helps in developing good relations between countries, which helps in international cooperation and peace. If countries are dependent upon one another's economic success, then armed conflict would be less likely.

On the other hand, importing food can have a negative effect on local culture. This can be seen in countries such as Japan where imported food has become more popular than traditional, local produce, eroding people's understanding of their own food traditions. Although some would claim that this is a natural part of economic development, in an increasingly global world, I feel strongly that any loss of regional culture would be detrimental.

A second major reason to reduce imports is the environmental cost. Currently, many food imports such as fruit, are transported thousands of miles by road, sea and air, making the produce more expensive to buy and increasing pollution from exhaust fumes. Despite the fact that trade in food exports has existed for many years, I am convinced that a reduction would bring significant financial and environmental gains.

In conclusion, I am certain that if people ate locally produced food, it would have environmental benefits. It would also benefit the local economy because, in time, people would prosper commercially as the demand for local and regional produce would remain high resisting the competition from overseas.

60.	The natural resources such as oil, and fresh water are being consumed at an alarming rate. What problems does it cause? How can we solve these problems?
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The time has come for international soul-searching about the environment. The industrial revolution has changed forever the relation between humanity and nature. In this essay I intend to explore the problems caused by the increased consumption of oil, forests and fresh water, and suggest some solutions.

Talking about oil first, it is well known that oil is non-renewable and so will finish very soon. Pollution is another problem that is caused by the use of oil. Oil is used in vehicles, industries and homes. Simple measures can be taken to lessen its use. At individual level we can use more public transport; we can make lifestyle changes and use fewer luxuries. At government level, people can be educated. More effort can be done to research alternative sources of energy.

Secondly, water, especially fresh water, is another big area of concern. There can be no life without water. Water is the most precious commodity today. Fresh water resources are depleting fast. At individual level we should use water conservatively and recycle water wherever possible. At government level desalination plants can be set. Strict laws can be enforced for industries against pollution of fresh water by effluents.

Finally, because of deforestation, many animals and plants, which provide us food, medicine and other valuable products, are facing extinction. We have less bio-diversity also. Moreover, when trees are cut, the soil is exposed to heavy rain and so is washed away. The soil also becomes infertile. Also, trees absorb carbon-dioxide, which causes global warming. If there are no trees, there will be increase of greenhouse gases and this would not be good for our environment. As a solution, afforestation should be promoted as a solution. If each one of us plants a tree and nurtures it for few months, then the day is not far when we shall have greenery all over.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that oil, forests and fresh water are very necessary if we have to survive. So we should use them judiciously, else our future is bleak.

61.	The most important decision that young people have to follow is what career to choose. Do you agree or disagree?
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I agree with the given statement, which says that the most pivotal decision that young people have to make is what vocation to pick. It is indubitable that there are other critical issues of life, which are very significant but career choice remains at number one.

The main argument which goes in favour of making career choice the most vital decision is that when the young persons have an idea of the career path they want to pursue, it can help them make the

best decisions about their training and education. Many lines of work require specific degrees and certifications, which can take years to pursue. Understanding the requirements of their chosen path will allow them to plan to prepare themselves for the career they want.

Secondly, when the youngsters choose a career path, they position themselves to look far into the future at their ultimate objective. This can help them identify positions they want to hold and income levels they want to achieve. It can also help to guide them in building their personal and professional networks in the industry in which they are interested. Having long-term goals can help him stay focused on their ultimate career objectives, rather than moving aimlessly from job to job.

Finally, choosing a career path can help the youth make other important life decisions. Their choice of profession can dictate where they live and may affect if and when they marry and have a family. Choosing a life partner is another very important life decision, but it comes secondary to a career choice. Achieving a satisfactory work-life balance can be a challenge for many professionals, but career planning can help to minimize some of this stress.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that choice of career is certainly the most important decision for the young people and all other decisions depend on this one primary decision.

62.	Most of our information comes from the Internet nowadays. Some people say that a large part of the information we get is incorrect. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.
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Someone has rightly said that the Internet is the first thing that humanity has made that humanity doesn't understand, the largest experiment in anarchy that we have ever had. We are all bombarded with information on the Internet once we go online. Although some of the information may be wrong but I still believe that most of the information is correct.

My first argument is that only if the information is correct, it can enjoy a lasting attraction to readers. With an expectation to have more readers, the author will be encouraged to post correct and authenticated articles which will in turn attract more and more visitors to the website. Otherwise, when the audience comes to know they are being cheated, then they will stop visiting the blog or website.

Secondly, as the people are surrounded by such a wide sea of information, they will definitely not believe in one report, but may search out all the related information to compare and form their own opinion. To add to it, the issue of cybercrime has also led to the websites being supervised because of which discourages people to post wrong and misleading information. Plagiarism is also considered an offence and so those posting any information know that they are being monitored.

Admittedly, some false, misleading or incorrect information do exist, but the person surfing the net have to learn how to look for the authentic websites. This takes a little time but ultimately people come to know about the websites imparting useful and correct information and then bookmark those sites and avoid going back to the fake sites.

To sum up, most of the information on the internet is worth our trust. With the rise of people's awareness of its accuracy, more correct information will be there awaiting us in the future.

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| 63. | As well as making money, businesses should also have social responsibilities. Do you agree or disagree? |
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I definitely agree with the given statement that the corporate sector should focus on creating personal wealth as well as shoulder social responsibilities. This would be beneficial to the society and also for the companies themselves to sustain in the long run.

To begin with, it is an inescapable responsibility of every business enterprise to create more money for itself and its employees. Only when businesses achieve profitability can the employees remain loyal to the organisations that they work for. Meanwhile, companies can themselves remain competitive in the long run. In the initial stages, great amount of investments are needed for employee training, buying equipment, advertising, marketing, research and development. Therefore, economic stimulus is the driving force for employers and employees to work hard.

On the other hand, social responsibility is also very essential for businesses. In times of natural disasters, business houses are supposed to make generous donations and set an example. All businesses should also abide by the law and never make profit by unethical means. If any business becomes prosperous by honest hard work, it can provide a number of job opportunities, which can greatly reduce the pressure of social unemployment.

Furthermore, taking social responsibility would help these large business houses themselves. For example, when any business house donates for charity, the media spreads a word about their efforts and they get advertisement for free. In my hometown, many parks and roundabouts are maintained by the textile, sugar and starch mill in my hometown. These business houses do not need to spend extra for their adverts. Providing scholarships to poor, meritorious students is another way these enterprises can take social responsibility.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that businesses need to make money and also look into their social obligations. This would be a win-win situation for the society and the enterprises themselves.

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| 64. | People have to spend more and more time to travel from their homes for jobs and study. What are the reasons? How can we solve this problem? |
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It is indubitable that commuting time for study or work has increased in the past few years. This essay intends to analyse some causes behind this situation and also suggest possible ways to alleviate this problem.

The most obvious reason is that roads are very congested, as the number of vehicles has increased to unprecedented levels in the past decade or so. Everyone seems to own a car nowadays and so the traffic during peak hours moves at a snail's pace. What used to take 20 minutes earlier, takes about 50 minutes now. Second reason for this is the suburbanization of cities. People are moving to the suburbs in search of quieter, cheaper and more open houses, as a consequence of which travel time to work or study has gone up.

The solutions are not easy, but joint efforts by the government and the people can help to lessen the gravity of the situation. At the government level, steps could be taken to improve the public transport. This could be done by increasing the comfort and frequency of public transport and decreasing the fare. That way more people would be motivated to use the public transport. People should be

motivated to do car-pooling by having HOV (High occupancy vehicle) lanes. Only those cars, which are fully occupied, are allowed to move on such lanes, because of which the traffic on these lanes moves faster. Such a system is being used very successfully in many parts of the USA.

At the individual level, people should voluntarily opt for public transport even if that involves being bound by the time of the bus or train. Wherever office and lecture timings are flexible, people can choose to work or attend lectures in those hours when commuting can be done at off-peak hours. Car-pooling should be done by conscious effort. For example, my friend works in an office, which is in a city, which is 20 km from her home. Other people in her neighbourhood also commute to the same city. She approached them for car-pooling, and now every day, one person takes his car. Instead of five cars on the road every day, now there is one and each one is doing some extra saving too.

To sum up, it is undeniable that commuting time has increased, but many steps can be taken to ameliorate the situation.

65.	The main purpose of public libraries is to provide books and they shouldn't waste their limited resources and space on providing expensive hi-tech media such as computer software, videos and DVDs. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
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Since centuries libraries have been in the service of man. These libraries are the repositories of never ending knowledge known as books. Some people opine that libraries should only provide books and no other hi-tech media such as computer software, videos and DVDs. I, however, believe that such hi-tech media should be there in libraries in addition to books.

It is easy to see why some people say that libraries should not have CDs and DVDs. They fear that the traditional book will lose its appeal. Because of technology, books are now being converted into disc forms such as CDs and DVDs. Even the availability of books in the form of electronic media on NET is putting in danger the importance of the traditional libraries, which house only traditional books. Here, my argument would be that libraries have to keep in stock many copies of a single book. CDs and DVDs occupy less space and so the availability of CDs and DVDs in addition to books seems very practical because of the shortage of space in most libraries.

Secondly, one should keep in mind that a person goes to a library not only to search and get information from books but also to sit and study there. Some books, which are out of print or not available in that particular area can be accessed through CDs and DVDs. What is more, many students cannot afford the expensive hi tech media and Internet connection in their homes. It is well known that the Internet is an ocean of knowledge and students need to access it for assignments. Therefore, they can access all this in the library. Therefore, computers and the Internet should be available in libraries.

Another important point why people oppose such hi-tech media is that they fear that instead of using it positively students will use it for chatting and surfing objectionable sites. They have a point, but this can be looked into by blocking such sites in the libraries. My final argument would be that with the help of computers the records of the books in the library could be maintained very efficiently. For example, most modern libraries can be maintained by just one or two librarians, whereas earlier they needed a lot of manpower.

To conclude, it can be said that advancement should be welcome in every field but the importance of the libraries for their fundamental role cannot be put aside. Equipping libraries with high-tech media will add more crowns of success to the importance of libraries.

66.	Many people think young people should follow traditions. Others argue that young people should be free to be individuals. Discuss both views.
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It is a highly debatable issue whether the youth should follow traditions or have liberty to be what they want. This essay shall look into both sides of the debate before forming an opinion.

There are many reasons why some individuals opine that the youth should follow traditions. The prime reason is that the youth has been neglecting its own very rich culture and traditions in order to adapt to the western ideas. They have their mind-set that what the west is doing is right and one should follow it without hesitation. For example, the youth of India does not perceive its identity as traditional Indians any more. They think that their centuries old traditions are outdated and prevent modern development. But they should know that nobody likes copy-cats. They should learn from a country like Japan, which is one of the leading economies of the world and also one of the most advanced countries in terms of modernization, but it still follows and respects its old traditions and cultures. Another reason of people's opinion is that some traditions are very good and need to be preserved at all costs. For instance, touching the feet of the elderly as a token of respect and welcoming guests with folded hands.

On the other hand, it is easy to understand why some people are in favour of letting the youth have their own individuality. This is mainly because the youth of today is better informed than ever before in the history of mankind. They do not just accept things without reasoning. Today, the nations of the world are more closely linked than ever before. It would be wrong to impose traditions on them, which are obsolete in the modern era. For example, the dowry system, in which the bride's parents gave her gold, money and household items, was acceptable earlier as women were not working, but today dowry system is being condemned because the youth of today realize that it has led to many vices such as female feticide.

What is more, today, we are living in a modern world calling for innovation and modernism, which pulls us toward a new vision of traditions; a vision which respects our traditional spirit but which concurrently supports newness and modernity, and promotes making the most of the global village of today. The youth of today are borrowing methods and taking aspirations from one country to the other. For example, the beautiful traditions of The West, such as celebration of Mother's Day and Father's Day are being celebrated in India today.

In conclusion, it can be said that the youth of today should be allowed all individuality. They are not part of a big planet called Earth; they belong to a small global village. Traditions should not define them; they should define traditions. It has been rightly said that 'Traditions' should be guides and not jailors.

67.	Some people say that the government should give priority to health care whereas others say they should spend on other important priorities. Discuss both views and give your opinion
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People are divided on the issue of the allocation of funds for healthcare by the governments. Some opine that health care is a crucial facet that governments have to pay attention to. Others, however, believe that there exist other areas on which governments should attach equal or even more weight. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

On the one hand, prioritizing healthcare would lead to a healthier and happier society. It is quite obvious that the people would be less economically burdened if governments prioritize health care. It would make it more convenient and cost-effective for the public to see a doctor. For example, the financial support from governments is likely to make various medicines and treatments more affordable to people who are not so well-off. Compared with the situation where citizens have to bear the cost totally by themselves, the economic pressure will be much relieved.

However, governments' investment should not be confined within the boundary of health care. Education, which concerns the long-term development of the whole nation, should also receive similar funds. Primary education should be free and mandatory. Higher education should be highly subsidized for students whose families are under the poverty line.

Apart from education, it is also advisable that taxpayers' money should be distributed to public facilities, which will not only benefit every citizen's daily life, but also attract more investment and create more job opportunities. Public transport should be improved so that more and more people like to opt for it. Condition of roads should be bettered. Facilities for the elderly cannot be ignored in the greying society of today.

To sum up, the allotment of governments' funds should equally go to more sectors, which will exert more influence on public and the society as a whole, although the importance of health care cannot be underestimated.

68.	Government spends much money for education. More money should be spent on free-time activities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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It is true that spending on education is top priority for many governments across the world, and in doing so they ignore the recreational activities, which are as important. Therefore, I agree that the government should allocate more funds for such leisure time activities. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Undoubtedly, spending on education is very essential for the progress of any nation. Educated people get higher paid jobs and add to the economy of the country. To add to it, educated societies are crime free and peaceful societies. That is why literacy rate is an important factor in determining the status of any country in the world.

However, spending on free-time activities is equally important. Such activities benefit students academically. They learn character-building lessons that they can apply to their study habits and to their lives. Activities such as athletics, music, theatre, and organizations teach students how to discipline themselves through drills, practices, or rehearsals. In addition, extracurricular activities in

the arts teach students analytical skills and creative problem solving skills since they have to think creatively to successfully perform music, act in a play, or produce a work of art.

Furthermore, life is stressful and free time activities act as stress-busters. They break the monotony of hectic day-to-day life. They also build community spirit among people as during free time people meet each other and socialize. It is the responsibility of the governments to provide stadiums, playgrounds, gyms and community centres where people can do free-time activities.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate my opinion that apart from education, spending on recreational activities is a must. These activities are as important as education for the overall development of any society.

69.	Some people say that in our modern age it is unnecessary to teach children about the skills of handwriting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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A common opinion is that with the increasing role computers play in our society; handwriting is no longer an important skill to learn at an early age. Unfortunately this opinion is misguided. I firmly believe that handwriting is very important even in today's era of technology. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Handwriting is important because research shows that when children learn how to do it, they also learn how to express themselves. Handwriting is so much more than simply putting letters on a page; it is a key part of learning to communicate. Writing is almost as important as speaking, as a medium for communicating thought. For this reason it is said that "Writing is a secondary power of speech, and those who cannot write are in part dumb." Scrawls that cannot be read may be compared to talking that cannot be understood; and writing difficult to decipher, to stammering speech.

Handwriting is also important because kids are required to use it daily in school from kindergarten on. Children who struggle with the mechanics of handwriting may have trouble taking notes or tests or completing their schoolwork. This can affect both their self-esteem and their attitude toward school. Good handwriting can mean better grades. Studies show that the same mediocre paper is graded much higher if the handwriting is neat and much lower if the writing is not.

What is more, handwriting proficiency inspires confidence. The more children practice a skill such as handwriting, the stronger the motor pathways become until the skill becomes automatic. Once it's mastered, children can move on to focus on the subject, rather than worry about how to form letters. Furthermore, handwriting aids memory. For example, if a person writes a list or a note — then loses it — he is much more likely to remember what he wrote than if he just tried to memorize it.

In summary, handwriting skills are very essential even today. Apart from being a tool of communication, it helps the brain develop, it can improve grades and confidence and also aids memory.

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| 70. | Some developing countries invite large foreign companies to open offices and factories in order to help their economy. However, others feel that foreign companies should be shut out and instead the government should help the local companies to contribute to the economic growth. To what extent do you agree or disagree? |
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It is a highly debatable issue whether multinational companies (MNCs) should be encouraged by the governments of developing countries, or whether the local companies should be promoted. I firmly believe that MNCs are good for the economic growth. Therefore, I disagree with the given statement that MNCs should be shut out. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many advantages of MNCs. To begin with, these provide employment, which usually pays better than other available opportunities. What is more, they train local labour with more sophisticated techniques, which in the long run bring benefits to the host country. They also raise the growth rate of host nation by introducing new investment and new technology. To add to it, they promote efficient production and bring a broader range of products to the widest possible market.

Furthermore, such MNCs promote improvement or development of various supporting industries or complementary industries. For example, if an MNC opens in a place, then many businesses open in the neighbourhood, which cater to the workers working in these MNCs. In this way, these MNCs stabilize and stimulate local economies, and raise standards of living.

Another important advantage of MNCs is that they induce their local rivals to become more innovative and competitive. For instance, it is a well-known fact that Indian company Videocon has improved its standard to compete with MNCs such as Samsung and Sony. Finally, these companies promote positive values, such as diversity, and equality for women. They also create an environment of nonviolence and international cooperation.

To conclude, MNCs may have their negative points, but their pros far outweigh their cons. So, they should be promoted by the governments of developing countries.

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| 71. | Advertising discourages people from being different individuals by making us all want to do the same and look the same. Do you agree or disagree? |
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The role of advertisements in destroying individuality has sparked much debate in the recent times. Some people opine that advertisements eliminate individual sense of identity, making people indistinguishable from each other. I, however, disagree with this allegation.

To begin with, when any advertisement bombards people with any new product, then people rush to buy it and it appears that all people are doing the same. However, this similarity is very short-lived, as sooner or later they realize that it is a huge waste of time and money to spend on something that is not really appropriate for them. Therefore, ads cannot suppress individuality permanently.

Secondly, all people cannot afford all things shown in the adverts. Even when ads use famous celebs to endorse their products, and people want to purchase those things, even then they have to consider their pocket and requirement. For instance, when it comes to luxury goods, solely a marginal number of purchasers can afford the financial cost. Therefore, no matter how attractive and persuasive an advertisement is, never can it tempt people to make the same purchase. Most people cannot afford to upset the whole monthly budget just because of certain alluring ads.

Furthermore, when we talk of the latest fashions, all people do not wear the similar clothes because of ads. If people wear jeans, it is because jeans are comfortable, and in today's fast life people need comfortable clothes. Nowadays, everyone knows that only that fashion should be followed which suits them. If adverts show celebs in flared pants, those who are not blessed with a good height would surely not follow them.

To sum up, from what has been analysed above, it is concluded that advertisement cannot dominate the market trends as all people have different requirements, different material wealth and different choices. If at all there are any similarities, they are very short lived.

72.	It is suggested that all young adults should undertake a period of unpaid work, helping people in the community. Does it bring more benefits or drawbacks to the young people?
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The youth of today are generally considered to lack social knowledge and experience, which are of crucial importance in their future development. To solve this problem, some people suggest that they should undertake a period of voluntary work in the local community, helping people around them. Personally, I believe that making young people do voluntary work would be beneficial for the youth as well as for the society. The negative effects of such an approach would be negligible.

Undoubtedly, it can be a win-win approach - that is, it will benefit both the young and the community enormously if youth do a certain period of unpaid work. By helping the elderly, the sick and the disabled directly, or participating in charitable activities like raising funds or offering free consultation, young people will certainly gain and accumulate some valuable first-hand experience and know more about the society.

Moreover, young people with such experiences are more likely to become the most motivated ones in academic study or at work, and eventually become responsible citizens of the society. As far as the community is concerned, it will definitely become better with so many zealous young volunteers who are ready to help.

However, there may be some disadvantages if the young provide free service helping people in need. For example, it may conflict with their normal study or work if not arranged well. Then the result may be not as desirable as what is expected. But I think this sort of problem can be easily taken care of by meticulous planning by the school authorities.

To conclude, competitiveness of modern life and influence of global culture have isolated children from neighbourhood. So, such a step would be very beneficial to make today's children feel part of the community.

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| 73. | There are social, medical and technical problems associated with the use of mobile phones. What forms do they take? Do you agree that the problems outweigh the benefits of mobile phones? |
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Mobile phone is one of the most important inventions that have brought people tremendous convenience and efficiency. Admittedly, if misused or overused, it may cause some social, medical and technical problems. However, its pros far outnumber its cons.

Mobiles have helped people remain connected with the world from wherever they are. Distance is not a barrier any more there is a sense of security if you know you have a gadget with which you can be in touch with your near and dear ones. At the time of emergencies and calamities, they are one of the most used tools for supplying immediate help.

Mobile phones also provide us with facilities like messaging, camera, recording and the Internet. As a matter of fact, now they can serve as a good replacement of laptop. Business transactions can also take place at any time of the day and family commitments can also be fulfilled while at work. Cell phones also serve as entertainment tools as many games can now be played and some phones have FM radio connection too.

On the downside, mobile phones emit infrared rays, which directly affect the body part exposed to. According to Australian Health Research Institute, use of mobile phones can lead to ear, eye and brain cancer besides some other disorders like heart ailments. Overuse of mobiles takes away the privacy and sometimes even the peace of mind. Wherever we are, at work, at home or in a social gathering, we are hammered with unwanted calls or messages. It is a boon to roadside paparazzi for whom taking snaps is just too easy with more advanced mobiles.

To sum up, the advantages of the mobile phone far outweigh its disadvantages. Mobile technology definitely has brought a revolution and changed the way to work, to socialize and to entertain, but we must be more wise and responsible in using it.

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| 74. | Old generations often hold some traditional ideas on the correct way of life, thinking and behaviour. However, some people think that it is not helpful for the young generations to prepare for modern life in the future. What's your opinion? |
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Generation gap has been a debated issue since the dawn of civilization. I partially agree with this statement. Modern life has changed beyond recognition in many ways and so many ideas of the old generation are not suitable for today's life, but still there are some traditional ideas, which are evergreen and hold true even today.

The elderly had a much disciplined life. For instance, they believed in sticking to one job for life. They also believed in fixed-hours job. They had a stress-free work life. Moreover, they believed that marriage was for life. Divorces were rare. They had a stable family life. These values, if followed, are good for today's generation also.

However, in many ways the ideas of the elderly are obsolete in the times of modernity. The elderly live like a frog in the well. They forget that change is progress. They also want their children to follow the same profession. They do not give importance to aptitude. Youngsters are more intellectually evolved. They want to explore the un-trodden path to face the cut-throat competition of today.

Furthermore, the young differ in dress, food and habits. These things were not available to the elderly. The elderly had lesser opportunities to come in contact with the western world. The Earth was a big planet. Now it is a global village. The young speak a universal language, eat Italian pizza and Chinese food and wear a universal dress. The leisurely ways of the old are gone. The young have the speed of bikes, cars and planes. What can link them to the old bullock cart? The young today have to change to survive.

To sum up, there are some traditional ideas of the elderly that are evergreen and will hold true for times to come. But, in many ways, they are obsolete in today's time.

75.	Some people think that government should subsidize fruits and vegetables to make healthy food cheaper. Others argue that tax should be set on unhealthy food. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
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The increase in the consumption of unhealthy fast food has led to a rise in health related problems, and it is becoming a cause of concern in most countries. Some individuals opine that government should subsidize healthy foods, whereas others say that the solution is in levying a 'Fat Tax', which means a tax on fast food. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The main argument in support of 'Fat tax', is that unhealthy food habits have led to an increase in health problems. The health of the general public is not only an individual's responsibility, but also the responsibility of the government. Moreover, the revenue earned can be utilized towards providing better health care, medical research and other such issues, which will in the development of the nation.

On the other hand, some people opine that a major reason for a higher consumption of fast food is that healthier food options are not affordable by everyone. For instance, a glass of sweetened soda is cheaper than a glass of milk. Therefore, instead of making the fast food more expensive, subsidies should be provided for producers of healthy foods, like vegetables, fruits, milk, etc. By doing so, people will have a choice to make between healthy and fast food, with both being priced equally. They also say that implementing the 'Fat Tax' is not an effective method, as it penalizes everyone, both the rich and poor, thus further increasing the gaps in society. This will affect the poor more and take away the simple pleasures that everyone enjoys.

I believe that taking care of one's health is an individual's responsibility and also is a right to freedom of choice. The causes of health problems like obesity, cardiovascular diseases, etc. are not limited to an unhealthy diet. Lack of exercise is also a major cause of an increase in obesity. These are all personal choices that people need to make and measures should be taken to make people aware of the consequences of the choices they make. It would not be wise to implement a fat-tax, as it will not be practical for the government to decide which food product should be taxed and which should be exempted. Also, it has been found through a research, that taste is the number one factor, when deciding what to eat. So increasing the tax on fast food will not make a considerable difference to the consumption of unhealthy foods.

To conclude, implementing the fat-tax is not an effective solution to the health problems. Subsidizing healthier food options should be done, so that those who want to refrain from eating unhealthy foods should have healthier options within the reach of their pocket.

76.	Many people nowadays do not feel safe either when they are at home or go out. What are the reasons and what can be done to solve this problem?
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There is no doubt that an increasing number of people feel unsafe, not only when they go out somewhere, but also when they are at home. There are several factors, which have led to this increasing fear. In this essay, I will look into the causes of this and suggest some solutions.

The reasons why people are afraid of going out of their homes are very obvious. The crimes committed on the streets, are on a rise. The road mishaps have risen to a proportion, more than ever before and continue to increase every day. Some people are afraid to go out because of the fear of natural calamities and also, sometimes due to health related disorders, which might be caused due to the increase in pollution. The reports of bombings and terror attacks have become everyday news. As a result, people feel afraid of stepping out of their homes.

At the same time, people are also becoming increasingly scared within their homes. The main reason for this is the escalation in the crimes being committed at homes, like murders, robberies, etc. In a recent news article, it has been surveyed that there have been more crimes committed by domestic help at people's homes, than the crimes being committed on the streets. This has led to people feeling vulnerable, at home and when they are out on the streets.

There are certain steps, which can be taken, by the government and individuals, to make people more safe and protected. The increasing unemployment is the main reason of these crimes. If the youth of a country are provided vocational training and good job opportunities, they would not fall on the path of crime. Another important measure, which needs to be taken by the government, is to employ more security measures, like cameras, more police patrolling, and more security in public transport and public areas. This needs to be done in the residential and commercial areas, both, so that it deters the criminals and instills a sense of security in the public. For instance, in Bengaluru, government has now made it compulsory for all showrooms and shops to install security cameras. There are also random checks made by the government officials to ensure that the security standards are met in all commercial areas.

To add to it, stricter punishments for the offenders will act as a major deterrent for the criminals. This will greatly reduce the incidents of crimes on the streets and at home. Another important measure is the use of technology in the security systems installed at homes.

People can install advanced alarm systems and security cameras in their homes, to avoid any unwanted incidents of crime. This also helps greatly in the reduction of domestic crimes.

To sum it up, people's fear and insecurity is justified, with the increasing reports of crime reported by the media. However, this situation can be mitigated by taking some measures, like tackling the unemployment problem, tightened security measures, stricter punishments and the use of advanced technology in households and commercial areas.

77.	Some people think that it is more important to plant trees in open areas of towns and cities than to build more housing. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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I completely agree with the statement that it is more meaningful to plant trees in the open urban areas, rather than building more houses. Trees not only provide environmental benefits, but also provide numerous social and economic benefits. This essay intends to discuss my opinion and these benefits.

Admittedly, housing is needed to meet the demands of the burgeoning population, but we can go for high-rise buildings and leave the open spaces for planting more and more trees.

To begin with the environmental benefits of trees, these help purify the polluted air in the cities and towns. Research has proven that 100 trees can remove tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. Trees are also known to create a buffer, which cuts down everyday noise of cities, thus tackling noise pollution also. To add to it, the water is also managed better, if there are more trees in a city. The rainwater doesn't run off into drains if there are trees in urban areas. It is filtered into the ground, thus saving the city money that is spent on drains and artificial controls. Providing a natural habitat to birds and animals is another advantage.

To add to it, trees also help save energy consumption. If planted in the right place, urban forests provide shade to homes, roads, office areas and parking spaces. Cooler homes and offices means, lesser air conditioning is needed, thus reducing the energy consumption. In parking lots too, trees help keep cars cooler, which leads to less pollution.

Planting trees in cities helps the city grow socially and economically as well. They provide an area where people can meet, socialize and also exercise. Children also get a close to nature place, where they can play. The commercial value of an urban property with trees, is more than one without trees. Retail outlets and businesses located in areas with trees, attract more customers.

To sum it up, we need houses in cities to live in, but to strengthen and improve the quality of the life in overcrowded cities we need trees. They play a vital role in combating climate change and provide numerous economic and social benefits.

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78.	In many countries traditional foods are being replaced by international fast foods. This is having a negative effect on both families and societies. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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In this era of technology and globalization, all spheres of life have changed dramatically and food is also no exception. I agree that international fast foods and restaurants have eaten up traditional foods and cuisines and this has had a detrimental effect on families and societies. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are a lot of damaging effects on families. Firstly in this torrid pace of life, people are working till their death. They have no time to prepare and enjoy traditional home cooked food. Ultimately, they switch to an easy option of restaurants. McDonalds have become a ubiquitous term in every home. Secondly, there is the influence of occidental culture over the oriental one. People are forgetting their roots. For example, in earlier times all family members used to sit together and eat, and over the dining table they shared their happenings of the day. These fast foods are eaten alone mostly because

they don't appeal to the palate of the older members. As a result, family bonds and relationships are getting blurred. Moreover, the art of home cooking is suffering a lot.

Admittedly, this trend has harmful effects on individuals. Undoubtedly, people are affected by health hazards like obesity and other diseases. Obesity is the root cause of many other diseases. Fast foods are rich in fats and salts which are not good for health. An obese person is more likely to suffer from diseases like hypertension and diabetes.

There are tangible consequences on society too. Broadly speaking, as people get inclined towards fast food and restaurants, local culture dies out. It is because traditional food is inextricably linked with culture. Undoubtedly, the identity of the society and nation will disappear. It will be monopolized by western societies. Also, if people are not healthy, the productivity of the nation will come to a standstill. Last but not least, fast foods promote use-and-throw culture, which adds to the problem of garbage dumps, contamination, pollution and eventually many diseases.

To summarise, it can be reiterated that international fast foods have carved their niche and traditional food has taken the backseat. Certainly, this has adverse effects on individuals, families and societies.

79.	In recent years, the number of crimes committed by teenagers in major cities throughout the world is increasing. Discuss this issue. Give reasons and suggest some solutions.
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It is a very shocking situation that the number of youngsters involved in crime is increasing day by day. In this essay, I intend to discuss the reasons for this phenomenon and suggest some solutions.

A number of factors are responsible for juvenile delinquency. Media is one powerful influence. Many times, vulgarity and violence is shown on TV. Children are vulnerable and accept it as natural and try to copy what is shown. For example, in Virginia USA, a student killed 30 students just after watching a TV program. Another cause of crime among youth is the changing family structure. Nuclear families are the norm of the day. Earlier, there were joint families in which grandparents used to teach moral values to children. They kept an eye on the friend circle of their grandchildren. Nowadays, both parents are working and children are left unattended at home. They may fall into bad company and resort to drugs under peer pressure. For drugs they desperately need money, which turns them towards crime.

Furthermore, increasing poverty, unemployment and competition is causing hopelessness and frustration among the youth. They are over ambitious and want to earn quick money. They have a lot of energy and if that energy is not harnessed in the right direction, they can go astray. Consumerist society is also a big factor to put them on the path of crime. When they see new things in the market, they want them by hook or by crook. Parents cannot satisfy all their whims and so they start doing petty crime, which turns to major crime very soon.

The solutions are not simple. The issue has to be dealt with on a war footing. Some censorship of TV channels is needed. Parents should ration the TV viewing hours of children. Parents should watch TV with children so that they know what their children are being exposed to. We should also encourage joint families. Parents should be good role models. Good family atmosphere should be provided to children. Friend circle of the children should be monitored. We should also educate children about the harms of consumerism. Schools should also provide good education. Finally, government should try and reduce unemployment and poverty, which are the root causes.

Summing up, crime among teens is a big problem and youth alone cannot be blamed for that. We should look into the causes and take relevant steps to fight this problem.

80.	Individual greed and selfishness has been the basis of the modern society. Some people think that we must return to the older and more traditional values of respect for the family and the local community in order to create a better world to live in. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Dwight D. Eisenhower has rightly said, "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both." Therefore, I agree with the given statement that we must revert to the golden times when we valued traditions and respected the elderly and our neighbourhoods so that we have a happier today and a happier tomorrow.

Today we live in an era of technology in which the whole Earth has shrunk and become a global village. Everybody is connected to everybody through telephone lines and the Internet but the warmth of relationships has taken a back seat. Most people have more than enough wealth, comfort and freedom but their hearts desire even more. To satisfy their hearts greed people have become workaholics and as a result have no time for family and friends. People have become selfish, isolated and indifferent. Each person is busy in his own quest for more. To add to it, the youngsters who are at ease with the new technology think that the elderly are good for nothing and that is why they don't respect them.

On the other hand, life in the past was slower and simpler. People loved and respected each other. Family members had a lot of face-to-face contact with each other. Older members of the family were well looked after and their advice was valued. Divorces were very rare as marriage was considered a sacred institution. Moreover, community get-togethers were often organized and people knew the farthest neighbours. Nowadays, the next-door neighbours are also not recognized. There were lesser worries and tensions in earlier times.

To conclude, living in this modern toxic world, we are all slowly being poisoned to death. Therefore, it is clear that the traditional value-based society is a better world to live in. We cannot return from the age of the jet plane to the age of the bullock cart but we can certainly return to these traditional values to try to create a modern world which has both, material wealth and prosperity and also respect for the family and local community.

81.	University students often focus on one subject. However, some people think that universities should encourage students to learn a range of other subjects. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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I agree with the given statement that students should study a range of subjects at university and not focus on only one major. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many advantages, for students, of studying a number of subjects. The first and foremost advantage is that if they don't get a job in their field they will be able to get any job related to their

other subjects. They will not suffer unemployment and they will not be stuck to menial jobs despite being highly qualified.

Moreover, a well-rounded education is very important in today's time. Without a diverse background, a graduate will not be competent in any job. For example, excellent communication skills are very important while looking for a job. For that you need a Basic English class. Most jobs require problem-solving skills which you get from basic knowledge of math and science. For instance, a doctor specializing in MRI scan, needs to have a good knowledge of physics – magnetism etcetera.

Another advantage is that learning a range of subjects can add spice to the students' studies. Students may be fed up with study when they concentrate on one subject constantly. Finally, it is well known that most of the subjects are linked to each other, to some extent. With a range of knowledge, students can find different solutions to approach the problems they encounter either at work or in life, which will definitely make them more creative and innovative in the field they specialize in. Clearly, the students with all-round knowledge have an apparent advantage over those specializing in only one subject.

Opponents claim that studying only one subject at university would make you a master in that field and you stand a chance of getting a high-paid job in that field. However, I still believe that that studying a range of subjects has an edge over specializing in just one.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion by saying that studying a variety of subjects is beneficial to the university students. In this case, not only can the students better themselves, but also become adaptable and flexible in the increasingly challenging and competitive world. It is advisable that students spend time learning more subjects instead of focusing on one specific subject, so that they can prepare themselves for the global society.

82.	As transport and accommodation problems are increasing in many cities, some governments are encouraging businesses to move to rural areas. Do you think the advantages outweigh disadvantages?
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It is true that the world's largest companies are located in large cities. In the city many people expect to find better employment opportunities, often with bigger, secure companies. As cities become overcrowded, problems relating to housing and transport arise, because of which some people suggest that the larger companies should relocate to the countryside. While this may have some advantages, I firmly believe that the disadvantages would be far more than the advantages.

It is reasonable to think that moving thousands of employees from large companies out to remote areas would have a positive impact on the overcrowding of some cities. There would be less traffic because of less people in the city centre, and this would obviously be highly desirable. In addition, there would be less strain on the services offered by the city – banks, public transportation, restaurants and the like. This would mean a reduction in queues and faster customer service. To add to it, housing would also become affordable. It is generally seen that because of too many people wanting to live in the city, land prices and even rents of houses start touching the sky.

The problem however would be that a dramatic reduction in numbers of people in the cities would mean that many businesses would go broke. Restaurants, cafes and other service areas would suffer tremendously. What would happen is that overcrowding would occur where the new, large

organisations relocate. More and more people offering services would spring up - restaurants, shopping centres and other businesses would be needed to serve the increasingly larger numbers of people who moved to the area. In addition, the rural area may not be able to provide the enormous quantities of housing, electricity and raw materials required to run a huge company.

Furthermore, relocating businesses to rural areas may upset many households. Children also may have to change schools. So it would not be practical to do so. Transport and accommodation problems in cities need to be sorted out by connecting the villages and cities by very efficient public transport, so that people come to work in the cities and live in rural areas. Newer businesses should be encouraged to open in the suburbs; the already existing ones should continue to be where they already are.

To sum up, relocating the companies would assist with the overcrowding problem in some cities. However, a new set of problems would surface, which would be far more than the benefits. Therefore, I reiterate my point that the idea of moving larger corporations out to rural areas would not be beneficial.

83.	Students should pay their full university fees themselves as they benefit from having university studies and not the society as a whole. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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People have different views about who should pay the fee of university education. Some believe that students should pay the full tuition fee as they benefit the most from university education. I disagree with the notion. I firmly believe that along with the student, the society also benefits from tertiary education. Therefore, the government and the student should share the tuition fees equally.

There is no doubt that the whole society benefits if majority of people receive higher education. In all developing countries there has been a strong effort to raise the educational level of the society by putting as much money as possible into providing educational institutions. Without enough educated professionals, such as doctors, teachers, scientists and engineers, developing countries cannot move ahead. Governments in such countries provide scholarships or free education, to as many students as they can fund, because they realize that the whole country will benefit. Many developed countries also try to offer free tertiary education because they want a highly educated population.

However, there is also a strong argument that individuals benefit so much from tertiary education that they should be expected to pay for it. Doctors, lawyers, accountants and engineers have some of the highest incomes in most societies. People argue that the government, and therefore the taxpayers should not have to pay for students who will later earn more than anyone else.

Moreover, most students come from the middle classes and their parents can afford to pay for their fees. There are, of course, some students who cannot afford to pay. This problem can be overcome by a system like the one being used in Australia, for example. The government gives the students a loan to pay for their fees, and later, when they are earning a good salary, they repay the loan.

To sum up, as the modern world is becoming increasingly complex and knowledge is becoming more and more specialised there is no doubt that tertiary education is necessary both for the whole society and for individuals who want to ensure that they have a good profession. It is probably impossible to decide whether the individual or the society benefits more from tertiary education, but since both benefit, the costs should probably be paid for by both equally.

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| 84. | After completing high school and before going to college or university, some students take a year off either to work or travel. What do you think is better – travelling or working? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches. |
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Taking a gap year to travel or work is in vogue in some countries, resulting in a whole market being built around providing travel and work services to these youngsters. This essay intends to explore the pros and cons of working or travelling in this year and to find out which approach edges over the other.

There are several benefits of travelling or working before embarking on further studies. Firstly, travelling broadens the mind giving young people skills they can use later on in life. They learn how to be independent, manage their budget, improve their social skills, and enhance their geographical, cultural and general knowledge. On the other hand, if they choose to work, they get a taste of the working world and know what to expect when they complete their studies. This is especially helpful in cases where they are uncertain about their study choice. Work experience gives them time to introspect and decide on what they want to actually do in life. They also earn enough to partly fund their higher education.

There are a few drawbacks of both approaches. The first has to do with finance. Some families are unable to fund their child's round-the-world trip. The negative side of working is that their earning may deter them from going back to study. Also, when young people are out of a study mind frame they might have difficulties getting back to study.

It is evident that both approaches have their own set of pros and cons. A well-planned gap year may provide the opportunity of working while travelling. For example, they may work in local farms or local hotels. This may be a win-win situation for them because they may get the opportunity of mingling with the local people and getting know-how of their culture.

To sum up, a gap year is a good idea for the youngsters of today and the choice to travel or work is a matter of personal choice as there are advantages and disadvantages of both. If planned well, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

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| 85. | Some people think that charity organizations should only offer help to people of their own country. But others believe that these organizations should give aid to people in great need wherever they live. Discuss both views and give your opinion. |
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"To have enough to share; to know the joy of giving; to thrill with all the sweets of life - is living". Helping others is a very virtuous thing. Charities help in basically two ways. One is by offering support to people in their own country, and the second is by helping the needy irrespective of their country. In this essay I intend to delve into the benefits of both approaches.

There are many advantages if charities help their own country's people. Firstly, these organisations remain directly in touch with the needy. They can see how the money or the other resources provided by them are being used. It has been well said that charity begins at home. What is more, domestic charities target problems specific to their home country. For instance, the Help Age India is an Indian charity providing help for the aged in India.

There are also many advantages if these organisations help the needy in any corner of the world. In such cases these organisations work on a larger platform and provide help for global issues. A larger

platform is a must if one has a lot to offer in charity. Help activities can be better spread through a larger network. Help need not be always in the form of money. It can be in the form of services also. For example, these organisations can provide doctors and teachers, who volunteer to provide medical aid and also teach in the under-developed nations.

In my opinion, help in any form is good. The condition of one's country could influence the way of helping. In a developed country, where even the poorest of the poor has the basic amenities of life, it would be better to help in any part of the world where people need help. But, in the case of a developing or underdeveloped country, it would be better to help those around you.

Summing up, the purpose of charity organizations is to help people in need, and it does not matter where this help goes. If people of the home country need help then it would certainly be advisable to help those around you first.

86.	Some people argue that companies and private individuals, rather than governments, should pay the bill of pollution. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Environmental pollution is a burning issue these days and to save our planet Earth, it has to be tackled on a war footing. Some individuals are of the opinion that businesses and individuals should pay for the bill of pollution rather than the governments. Although it seems reasonable to ask them to do so, it would not be easy. Therefore, I disagree with the above statement. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

First of all, it may not be possible to say who is to blame. For instance, in my home town, there is a sugar mill, a starch mill and a textile mill. All are adding to pollution in their own way. It would be very difficult to pin point the extent to which each one has to pay for pollution. Such businesses will find loopholes to avoid heavy bills. Therefore, the government should take the onus of handling the pollution costs.

Secondly, the big companies may be unwilling to accept the responsibility of paying the additional bill of pollution by saying that they are already paying heavy taxes to the government. They could also argue that they are assisting the governments indirectly by aiding many charity organizations.

Moreover, in places where governments have tried this policy and successfully prosecuted the companies who violated the law, it took years to get the result. Therefore, it would be very unpractical to make companies and individuals to pay the bill of pollution. The governments could, however, make it mandatory for companies to set up effluent treatment plants and subsidize them greatly so as to increase compliance of the companies to set them up.

Summing up, pollution is a serious issue and the government should not leave it to the individuals and companies to pay its bill. It can however, make it mandatory for the companies to set up effluent treatment plants so that pollution is minimized.

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| 87. | In the past, lectures were used as a way of teaching large numbers of students, but now with the development of technology for education, many people think there is no justification for attending lectures. To what extent do you agree or disagree? |
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I disagree with the view that technology has reduced the need to attend lectures. I firmly believe that going to college or university and attending lectures is as important as before and even more so. In the following paragraphs I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

It is irrefutable that computer and Internet have made possible distance education and on-line education. In this regard, computers are a boon for the handicapped, those living in remote areas and those in job. They can study any time of the day or night because of the Internet. This has made education approachable for many who cannot for some reason or the other attend a college or university.

However, I still feel that technology cannot replace the need for going to the classroom. When students attend lectures, they learn from teachers. In learning and practice of more complex ideas, the computer is not adequate. It can tell if the answer is right or wrong but it cannot tell where the student went wrong. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught using computers. Moreover, teachers add their own knowledge gained through experience to that of books and other resources.

Furthermore, teachers can stimulate interest and it is an undeniable fact that interested stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. A student studying by himself may get bored and stop studying. Teachers can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills. Finally, when students attend lectures, they have interaction with other students, which gives them a sense of competition to study more.

To conclude, it can be said that, there is no doubt that modern technology has added many new ways to reach education to students, but attending lectures will always hold its importance.

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| 88. | Most countries believe that international tourism has harmful effects. Why do they think so? How to change their views? |
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It is irrefutable that international tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. However, the potential negative effects of international travel have made people to grumble. This essay will outline the main reasons for these complaints and provide certain measures to change their opinion.

The most important reason why some are opposed to international tourism is that tourists may unknowingly show disrespect for local culture. For instance, we generally cover our heads in a religious place. A tourist may not do so or take his shoes inside a temple. This may offend the local people. Sometimes, youngsters may be attracted towards the western culture, which the tourists bring with them and many may find this as a threat to the local culture.

Moreover, the tourist dollar may not be helping the local people. We all know that tourists stay in five star hotels and enjoy the best facilities. They may be taking two showers a day, whereas the local people may not have enough water to drink. This has been the case in Shimla, which is a very popular

hill station in Himachal Pradesh India. On top of that, when tourists buy souvenirs from local artisans, they bargain a lot. The poor artisans, who look up to tourists for their livelihood, end up earning the barest minimum. Finally, tourism creates pollution, which helps nobody. We are all suffering the consequences of global warming.

The solutions are not simple. We cannot discourage tourism. It is the backbone of many economies of the world. First of all, the tour operators should take the onus of guiding the tourists about the main things of local culture. Secondly, the tourists should stay with locals as paying guests. This would be a win-win situation for both. Local people would earn and the tourist would taste the local culture. Finally, ecotourism should be promoted. For example, if an elephant ride is possible, the tourist should avoid using car. After all, a good tourist is one – who takes away nothing but photographs, and leaves behind nothing but footprints.

Summing up, international tourism does have a downside to it, but many steps can be taken to lessen the negative effects.

89.	Some people think computer and Internet are important in children's study, but others think students can learn effectively in schools and with teachers. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.
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Some individuals opine that computers and the Internet have become an indispensable part of education and therefore schools and teachers do not play a significant role in education. Others say that for effective learning, schools and teachers are still required. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

It is an undeniable fact that teachers can never lose their importance. In learning and practice of more complex ideas, the computer is not adequate. It can tell if the answer is right or wrong but it cannot tell where the student went wrong. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught using computers. Moreover, teachers add their own knowledge gained through experience to that of books and other resources.

Furthermore, teachers can stimulate interest and it is an incontestable fact that interested stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. They can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills.

Schools are places where students learn many social skills apart from academic education. There are also practical subjects which students can learn best from the teacher. For example, experiments of physics and chemistry are best learnt by the teacher guiding you at every step in the school setting. What is more, teachers in schools give assignments and regularly check them. This helps the teachers to recognize the weak points of students and guide them accordingly. The Internet and computer cannot do all this.

On the other hand, it is also true that the Internet is an ocean of knowledge. You can get information about any topic on Earth from the Internet. But there is no authenticity of this information. What information to get, and from where to get requires a lot of expertise. Students still need the guidance

of the teachers at all stages of learning. Teachers can make even the dull and boring subjects seem interesting. So definitely students learn more from teachers.

To conclude, it can be said that, no doubt computers and Internet have become important in education but the role of schools and teachers can never be undermined.

90.	In the last century when a human astronaut first arrived on the Moon he said: "It is a big step for mankind". But some people think it makes little difference to our daily life. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Almost every day we read something in the papers about the latest exciting developments in the space race. Many people are of the view that all the money and energy spent on space exploration and research is a complete waste because it has no effect on our daily life. I, however, disagree. In the following paragraphs I shall discuss how space research has touched our lives in more ways than one.

The technology, that put men on the moon, launched space shuttles and will build a space station, has found its way into everyday life on Earth. Common secondary uses of space research are called spin-offs. The common smoke detector used in homes was first prepared for space-crafts as a warning system. Computer bar codes in retail stores, shock absorbing shoes used by tennis players and athletes, lightweight materials used for helmets and sporting materials and non-stick coating used in pans, were all first developed as part of space research.

Space technology has provided many benefits to the medical field as well. Pace makers used to treat cardiac as well as remote monitoring devices for intensive care patients, and portable medical equipment carried aboard ambulances are but a few applications of space technology providing daily benefits in hospitals, offices and homes. Artificial limbs of lesser weight are also a by-product of space research, and these are a blessing for the physically challenged.

Not only that, it is well known that global warming will soon transform our Earth into a boiling pot. Then it would be very essential to find alternative places to live. If we are able to find signs of life elsewhere in space, it would be a jackpot for mankind.

To sum up, space exploration and research has touched our everyday lives in numerous ways. So, it definitely is a big step for mankind.

91.	In some countries around the world men and women are having children late in life. What are the reasons for this development? What are the effects on society and family life?
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In the modern society, young people have a tendency of postponing their parenthood until late 30's or even early 40's. This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.

Many factors could be responsible for this trend. The most important reason is that in today's era of cut-throat competition, young people have to focus on their jobs and therefore have little time for their families. What is more, women of today have become more career oriented and do not wish to

be held back by family responsibilities. Obviously under such circumstance, committing to a serious relationship or starting a family, which means tremendous responsibility and dedication, is not a preferable choice. The cost increase of raising a child is another barrier to late parenthood, and this is especially obvious in major cities around the world.

This change of lifestyle can have some negative effects on the society as a whole. Firstly, low birth-rates can result in an ageing population and a lack of labour force in the future. A greying society is a dependent society and is a burden on the shoulder of the government. Medical care services can be in high demand and medical cost can rise significantly.

The families too cannot escape the brunt of such a situation. The most disturbing effect is that chances of congenital anomalies rise significantly if a woman bears the first child after the age of 40. The families with mentally or physically challenged children can never be happy families. Another effect can be that the age gap between parents and children is too much and so chances of generation gap are strong.

Summing up, there are many reasons, which are responsible for people marrying late and having babies late in life and this definitely is detrimental for the societies and families. Therefore, young people should learn to give importance to both, a career and a family life.

92.	In some countries the number of people using bikes as main transport mode is decreasing, even though it is so beneficial. Why is this so? How can people be encouraged to use more bicycles?
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It is indubitable that the bicycle is being used less and less as a preferred mode of transport, despite the fact that it is advantageous. This essay intends to analyse some reasons of this phenomenon and also suggest ways to motivate people to use more bicycles.

There are many reasons for not using the bicycles in today's world. The first reason why people have abandoned the bicycle for the faster modes like car and motorbike is that life has become busy and everyone has so much to do and so little time. Other modes of transport are more time effective. Secondly, the roads are so full of heavy traffic that bicycles are not safe. If it were safer to ride bicycles, many people would commute short distances on bike. Another reason for not using the bike is the unfavourable weather. The hot and humid summer months make it impossible for anyone to use the bike. Of course, no one wants to reach the office smelling of sweat. Last but not least, people want to show off their status, and riding a bike does not solve this purpose.

There are many ways to motivate people to use the bike. The onus is on the government to make cycling safer and more inviting. Investment needs to be done in a vast network of cycling paths. For example, in Denmark, there are 19000 km of cycle tracks, as a result of which many people ride bikes. These cycle tracks are clearly marked, have smooth surfaces, separate signs and lights for those on two wheels, and wide enough to allow side-by-side cycling and overtaking. Perhaps, that is why, there are more bicycles than the number of people in Denmark.

Furthermore, people could be made aware of the benefits of cycling. Bicycle is a cheap and green mode of transport. Media, such as the TV, could be used for this purpose. Our celebrities, who act as the role models for many, could be a lot of help. If they start using the bicycle, many youngsters would follow them and do the same. For example, a few months ago, Vidya Balan, India's famous film star,

was seen on TV saying that whenever she has to gift something, she gifts a sapling. Since then, I have started giving a sapling to my friends on their birthdays.

To sum up, there are many reasons why people do not use the bicycle now, but some effective steps could be taken by the governments to promote the use of bicycles.

93.	Some people believe that the radio is the best way to get news, while others believe that TV is better for this purpose. Discuss both views, and give your opinion.
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People receive news from different sources. This essay shall compare two popular media from which people receive news – the radio and the television. I believe that both have their own importance as far as getting news is concerned, but TV certainly has an edge over the radio.

Radio, can be accessed in a variety of situations. You need to sit in front of the TV sets to watch it, but in case of radio you can put it in a pocket and listen to programs of your interest while jogging at a park, driving, commuting to and from work, having meals or even lying on the bed with lights off and resting.

Furthermore, the news script is also different as a radio newsreader has to describe the whole event through words and not to pause long whereas news reading script for TV newsreel is punctuated with long pauses when footage of some event is shown. For example, if a cricket sports match is going on, a radio commentator will have to speak a lot more than what a TV commentator will have to speak. This is very helpful to those people who cannot take a break from work, but still want to know what is going on in their favourite match.

On the other hand, TV seems overwhelmingly outplaying radio on various counts. Firstly, it combines both sight and sound, which are the two major human senses for communication, and is therefore more influencing. For instance if you hear a news item about an accident, you may forget it soon, but if you have seen horrifying images of the same accident on TV news, you may not forget the impact on your mind for a long time to come.

Secondly, with the advent of the latest technology, the TV has become as portable as the radio. The smart phones of today have apps such as 'Hotstar', which enable people to watch news on the go.

To conclude, both these media are not equivalent and interchangeable with each other, as they have unique characteristics. The television, however, has a slight edge over the radio because of its visual impact.

94.	All over the world, people watch foreign films much more than locally produced films. Why? Should the government provide financial support to local film industries?
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Foreign films such as the Hollywood blockbusters are released all over the world and are enjoyed more than the locally produced films. This essay shall look into the reasons of this phenomenon and also discuss whether the government should provide financial aid to support the local film industry.

The popularity of Hollywood films and foreign films in general can be attributed to the fact that they use the most modern technology. For instance, the amazing visual effects and acoustics of the Hollywood movie Avatar won global audiences. What is more, these films are produced by big companies that have the money and the means to generate huge publicity for them. Today, we all know that marketing is what decides the fate of a product – be it a film, a book or a gadget. So it is not surprising that these films tend to do well overseas. In contrast, the locally produced films are usually produced by small production houses and on top of that they often have familiar storylines that may not interest some people. That probably explains why most people watch foreign films more than locally produced ones.

Another significant reason for watching foreign films is that people are curious to know about foreign lifestyles and culture. Today, we do not belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. So, people are exposed to different cultures and watching foreign movies satiates their curiosity of knowing about them. Recently, I watched a Japanese movie, 'Okurobito' which means 'Departures' from which I learnt how the Japanese do the last rituals when a person dies. This movie fascinated me a lot and I came to know about Japanese traditions. Some people also watch Hollywood movies to learn English, which has become a global language and watching English movies is a good way to learn English.

I firmly believe that the government should invest in the local film industry. To begin with, films are the carrier of a country's culture. Supporting the local film industry will enable to spread its culture and this seems an essential approach to help a country be more powerful in the world? Secondly, the boom of this industry would, to a large extent, produce an increasing number of job positions and consequently, the unemployment rate in this country might substantially decrease, which will contribute to its economy. Recently, our Bollywood movies such as 'Dabang' and 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan' have done business worth crores and this has definitely boosted our economy.

Summing up, people watch foreign movies because of their better technology and to satisfy their curiosity of foreign culture. The government should definitely promote local film industry for spreading our culture and for boosting the economy.

95.	Nowadays education quality is very low. Some people think we should encourage our students to evaluate and criticize their teachers. Others believe that it will result in a loss of respect and discipline in the classroom. Discuss on both sides.
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It is a highly debated issue whether students should evaluate their teachers after each course. Some people believe the system has many advantages to the students and the teachers. Others argue that it would lead to poor discipline in the classroom. Indeed, evaluation of teachers by students has both pros and cons.

There are many drawbacks in student assessment. First of all, students are very young and, compared with their teachers, are less knowledgeable both in theory and practice on a subject. Therefore, they are unable to evaluate their teachers' performance in a sound way. Secondly, student assessment would lead to poor discipline in the classroom. If each of the students is allowed to comment on the teacher's performance, then there would be chaos in the classroom. Thirdly, in order to gain a better evaluation, teachers would seek to please the students and not bother about the content of their lectures. This would harm the students' academic performance in the long run.

However, advocates of student assessment have their reasons. Firstly, this kind of feedback can be used to improve teachers' performance. Teaching methods can only be successful if they are student-centered. Therefore, listening to the students' constructive suggestions, teachers will have a better idea of what students' needs are and can then adjust their teaching to meet them. Secondly, the process of writing evaluations will help the students think in their own way independently. Students should be encouraged to learn by even challenging their teachers' thinking. Thirdly, it would help the administrators. Teachers who provide good educational services could be retained and others could be laid off. So, all teachers would strive to do their best. This would be a win-win situation for all.

In my opinion, student evaluations of teachers would be beneficial to both teachers and students. Of course, the evaluations must be done responsibly, but when the students feel that their views are important and are listened to, I think they will do their best to contribute to the improvement in education.

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| 96. | Development in technology causes environmental problems. Some people believe the solution in these problems is everyone accepts a simpler way of life, while others say that technology can solve these problems. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. |
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It is irrefutable that progress in technology leads to environmental problems. Some individuals are of the opinion that if people live a simple life and do not use the things that technology has brought us then these problems can be solved, whereas others opine that only technology can solve these problems. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss both viewpoints. I, however, side with the latter view.

Some people say that if humans stop using technology and lead a simple way of life, then only we can save the environment. They argue that it is the luxuries people use, which damages the environment. If people don't use air conditioners, automobiles and other such things that technology has brought us, then naturally there would be less pollution and natural resources like fossil fuels would be saved and all this would save the environment.

On the other hand, there are people who say that technology alone could save the environment. They opine that now we have come so far ahead in technology that there is no going back. We cannot ask the people of the jet age to go back to the age of the bullock cart.

There are a lot of advances going on in technology, which are helping the environment a lot. One prime example is finding solutions to water problems in developing countries such as Africa. Here, desalination plants have been set up to get clean drinking water from sea water – an almost inexhaustible resource. Furthermore, Japan is working to build a working space solar power system by 2030. By drawing on the colossal energy of the sun, it could meet the entire world's electricity requirements indefinitely without nuclear or GHG emissions. If successful, the impact on the world would be monumental. It would mean energy for schools, hospitals, and homes. It would mean another industrial revolution.

Summing up, technology alone can solve the world's environmental problems. We are finally entering an era where engineering and technology are making the world a better place. It would be highly impractical to ask people to adopt a simpler way of life.

97.	Many people think arts like painting and music cannot directly improve people's quality of life, and therefore the government should spend money on other things. Do you agree or disagree? OR Governments should focus their spending on public services rather than on arts such as Music and Painting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Some people argue that arts like painting and music fail to directly improve people's quality of life and consequently government should allocate money on other things like infrastructures to promote people's quality of life. However, I disagree with this view. In this essay, I will explain why I think that arts, such as music and painting is as essential for people as other public services.

The advantages of spending money on arts cannot be overlooked. The arts clearly make people's lives better. To begin with, the arts give us immense joy and relaxation. Consider listening to a beautiful song sitting on the sofa after a whole day's work; it really relieves the tiredness and we feel rejuvenated. Paintings, photographs and other pictures add colour to our lives and often inspire people to create works of art of their own. I am not only thinking of artistic works produced by renowned artists, but also those produced by children for their parents to attach to refrigerators using magnets.

Furthermore, the arts like music and painting are part of our culture and give identity to the country. Arts also bring people together. By appreciating arts, individuals from different parts of the nation could feel connected and related. Moreover, arts like music and painting can help us express our emotions. It is a basic human need to be able to express ourselves. Art is what differentiates us from animals. As humans, most of us need an outlet for our creative and emotional needs and the best way to express this is through arts like music and painting.

Many people feel that the government should spend money only on certain things, such as defence, health and education. Whilst I agree that these things are important, I think that governments should be able to find a little money to spend on arts, not only because they raise our quality of life, but because they can remind us of our heritage and show the world what kind of a country and people we are.

To sum up, our government is responsible for improving the quality of people's lives both physically and spiritually, therefore proper amount of money should be allocated wisely on arts. Only by this can we progress our society in a more balanced and more sustainable way.

98.	The number of TV programs is growing day by day. Some people say that it is good as it gives people more choices, while others say it affects the quality of TV programs. Discuss both and give your opinion.
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Television has become the most pervasive of all media, and there is no doubt that the number of TV programs has also grown by leaps and bounds in the last one to two decades. Some individuals opine that this situation is good as it gives us a plethora of choices, whereas others believe that this is leading to a deterioration of the quality of TV programs. This essay intends to look into both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

On the one hand, people have a lot of choices because of too many TV programs. For example, if we look at the number of daily soaps, there are quite a few running on many different channels and people can select any one or two according to their taste. Even the reality shows related to music, dance, adventure and many other things are also far too many and people watch whichever they can relate to or whichever they are interested in.

Secondly, some reality shows have given an opportunity to the common man with talent to come forward and show his talent to the world. For instance, in recent years, singing contest programs such as 'Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa' and Indian Idol have uncovered many talented singers. This, is definitely a good practice for the Indian TV.

On the other hand, it is indubitable that there are too many such talent shows on television, which are similar in concept as well as content. Fierce competition between satellite channels for audience ratings has led to a large number of copycat programs. The excessive production of such programs that are quite similar to each other is a huge waste of resources and a waste of audience time. To exemplify, since the overwhelming success of Sony TV's 'Indian Idol' in 2005, talent shows have hit major TV stations across India. These programs have attracted a large number of viewers. However, at the same time, the similarity of such shows has made TV quite inanimate. Vitality of the cultural industry comes from originality and creativity. Program producers must realize that people need a richer and varied choice.

Furthermore, too many programs have resulted in choice overload. It is virtually impossible to keep up with everything that's worth watching, and at some point, viewers need to decide what they have to watch and what they can ignore. Even the popular programs may not always be on top, and they might gradually become paltering while quality declines.

To sum up, even though there are choices because of an abundance of TV programs, an excess of TV programs is definitely not good. We need fewer, quality programs, which make our leisure time worthwhile.

99.	Figures show that some countries have an ever-increasing proportion of the population who are aged 15 or younger. What do you think are the current and future effects of this trend for those countries?
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Some demographic surveys have shown that the proportions of young people are rising rapidly. This may be because of any reasons such as illiteracy and poverty or wars or any other reasons. This essay shall delve into the immediate and long-term outcomes of this trend on those countries.

The most important current impact of such a trend would be on the national economy. For instance, goods and services would need to be imported, which would lead to an unstable economy. In addition to the effects on economy, there would be social implications also. The young population has lot of energy, which must be channelized in the right direction, or it would lead to crime and violence in society. The government will have to invest a lot on educational institutes, as more children need more schools and colleges. In addition more spending on health would also be needed.

If careful management of such a situation is done by the government, for instance, by providing good education and health facilities, then the future outcomes could be quite positive. The long-term result would be that the education and health infrastructure would be well developed. The society would be

younger and more vibrant. The culture of those countries would be more fast-paced than the traditional culture.

However, in case the present time is not managed nicely, then the future effect would be different as there would be more people within the country needing employment. Then there might arise the problem of unemployment. Unemployment invariably leads to petty crime and violence.

Summing up, the long-term effects of having more young people, depends on how the situation is handled today. If handled well, the culture and lifestyle of these countries would be transformed if the population would be younger. Fresh opportunities and challenges would both be on the way. The trend would cause multiple possible effects and these countries should strengthen the education and health infrastructure to overcome its negative influence.

100.	In some countries, more and more adults are living with their parents after graduating from college, university, or even after finding a job. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?
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It is irrefutable that the economies are struggling all over the world. As a result, the youth of today is finding it very difficult to find good employment and become financially independent. This has consequently led to an increase in the number of adult children returning home to live with their parents. I believe that the advantages of children staying with parents, after completing their college or university education, are more than the disadvantages. I will put forth my views in the upcoming paragraphs.

The first and foremost advantage of working adult children staying at home is that they contribute towards the household income and share the expenses. This reduces the burden on the earning members of the family. Not only this, it also helps them reduce their own expenses and helps them save money. Rather than struggling to pay rents and take care of other expenses, they can invest money or save money for future home.

Furthermore, there is a better bonding and stronger family ties in a family that stays together. Even though life has become hectic and there is not enough time to spend with family and friends, it is very comforting to know that there is someone at home that they can share their problems with. This helps them deal better with stressful situations in life and at work. It is also said that if children stay longer with their parents, they are more likely to support and take care of their parents in old age, due to the strong family bonds.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages as well, which cannot be overlooked. Living with the parents after completing their education, may make the children more dependent, rather than independent. They depend on someone to do the daily chores, like washing clothes, cooking food, cleaning dishes, and so on. They might not also become financially responsible. Also, if the parents have a retirement plan, they have to put it on hold, till the time the children are staying at home.

To sum up, it can be said that living at home can be very beneficial for both the adult children and the parents, provided the children contribute towards the household resources, in terms of expenses and sharing work at home.

101.	How important is it for individuals and countries to think about the future, rather than to focus on the present?
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It is pivotal to keep the future in mind and not fritter away everything to enjoy the present. One should always remember that the present would one day transform into the future, and when it eventually does, it should be safe and secure. The same holds true for nations. This essay shall discuss, why it is so important to be prepared for the coming time.

The most important reason to keep the future in mind is that the mortality rate has come down and the span of life is generally longer, but the period of earning is comparatively limited. Nobody knows how long he would live, but the age of retirement is generally fixed. One cannot work indefinitely. Therefore, during one's earning span, one has to put aside enough money for the later years, when it will be impossible to work anymore. Further, the requirements in old age are sometimes more than a person's needs during the period of his youth. Deteriorating health translates into higher medical bills and hospital charges. Being weak and infirm, one needs to spend more on commuting. He will need to hire assistants to help in the house.

Next come the needs of the family. One has to provide for the education and marriage expenses of the dependent members of the family, like children and even grandchildren. One has to pay one's insurance premiums, and even for the day-to-day needs of the younger members of the family, till such time as they are employed and earning. Moreover, one may incur extra expenditure on leisure activities. People generally travel more after retirement to meet their relatives and friends who may be settled and staying far away from them. There would also be the usual expenses on house maintenance and repair, and the payment of personal and property taxes.

The countries should also think about tomorrow. Cities should be planned nicely. Good educational institutes and health centres should be there in all areas. If only today is looked into and no planning is done for tomorrow then crime and violence would increase in society and everyone would suffer. Relations with other countries should also be maintained. After all we all live in a well-connected global village today.

To sum up, it is imperative that people and countries plan wisely for the future. If one has saved enough, one can sit back and enjoy peace and comfort in one's later years and even witness the smile of joy on the faces of one's children. If he has saved not, then the journey ahead would be painful indeed.

102.	Young people who commit serious crimes should be punished in the same way as adults. Do you agree or disagree?
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The rising crime among youth has led to the debate whether they should be tried in court as adults or treated differently because of their age. The reasoning given is, 'old enough to do the crime, old enough to do the time.' However, I do not agree with this policy. I believe that trying juveniles in criminal court may actually result in bigger problems.

Firstly, although adolescents are old enough to understand the difference between right and wrong, they are too young to make the right choices yet. The teenage brain can be likened to a car with a good accelerator but a weak brake. Studies have shown that adolescents are more likely to act on impulse and engage in risky behaviour. They are less likely to think before they act, or pause to

consider the potential consequences of their actions. These brain differences don't mean that they shouldn't be held responsible for their actions. It just means that they should be sent to juvenile courts and put in reformatory schools, so that they get a chance to realize their mistakes and become good citizens.

Secondly, if tried in an adult court, they may even be sent in prison. As you all know, adult prisons are very harsh. These prisons expose these young kids to hardened criminals who may act as professors of crime for them. Statistics show that juveniles tried and prosecuted in adult courts are more likely to re-offend than those who were tried in juvenile court.

There are people who opine that a young person who does a serious crime knows very well that what he is doing is wrong and so should be held responsible for his actions. There were heated debates on this topic, when in August 2013, a juvenile court in India sentenced the boy to three years detention in a juvenile home after finding him guilty of charges including rape and murder. Another big question was raised in those debates regarding the official age when a person steps into adulthood. In most countries it is 18, but, is proposed to be brought down to 15, which sounds more practical.

To sum up, children can and do or commit terrible crimes, and it is true that the reform and rehabilitation of child offenders under the juvenile justice system is not only in the best interests of children, but also the short and long-term interests of society. So, juvenile delinquents should not be punished like adults. However, the age for defining adulthood could be brought down slightly.

103.	News media is important in our society. Why is it so important? Do you think its influence is generally positive or negative?
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News media is indeed very significant nowadays. This is because without the news media we would be totally in the dark and cut off from the rest of the world. Its impact is largely positive, although there is a negative side of the news media as well.

There are many benefits of media. To begin with, the usefulness of the media in almost instantly providing information about events around the world is undeniable. It is because of the media, that today we don't belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. Furthermore, media also shapes our opinions. It is a link between the government and the people. Our conceptions of our elected officials spring from television images and newspaper stories. Most of us will never meet prime ministers or presidents, but anyone who is regularly exposed to the media will know about them. When it is time to cast our vote, we make our decision based on the media coverage of candidates.

The media are also influential in the way they facilitate the spread of culture and lifestyle. Today, the popularity of Indian culture is an example of the media's enormous impact. It is the media, which highlights the good points of our own culture through programs such as 'India's got Talent'. What is more, the reality shows of today have given exposure and fame to the common man with talent today. Indeed, with technological advancements such as the Internet bringing even more forms of electronic media to our homes and workplaces, it is likely that media's influence will grow even stronger. Finally, the media also helps in providing justice to the common man. Who has not heard of the Jessica murder case and the case of Nithari killings? Were it not for the media, Jessica's parents would have never got justice.

On the other hand, the media too has its downside. The paparazzi can invade the privacy of famous people. Sometimes violence and vulgarity is shown, and at times it can shape our opinion in negative ways. For that my counter argument is that once the person becomes famous then his private life becomes public and he has no right to crib about the paparazzi. Moreover, people can choose what they want to see and technology has provided them the tools to block those channels, which they don't want their children to see. Finally, God has given us brains to judge what is right or wrong. The media is just doing its job by providing us with the latest information.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the influence of media on our lives is largely positive.

104.	Many animal species in the world are becoming extinct nowadays. Some people say that countries and individuals should protect these animals from dying out, while others say we should concentrate more on problems of human beings. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
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In the past few decades, animal extinction has become rampant because of human activity. Therefore, some people opine that it is imperative to save these dying species, whereas others believe in focusing more on human problems. This essay shall look into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

Conserving endangered species is essential, as they are part of our ecological chain. The removal of a single species can set off a chain reaction affecting many others. For example, the grey wolf was once on the verge of extinction, but has now been restored to Yellowstone National Park. These grey wolves control the growing population of elk, which had been over consuming the trees that grew along streams. These trees are now cooling the stream water, which is benefitting native trout. These trees are also the habitat for migratory birds. Beavers now have willow branches to eat, and beaver dams create marshland habitat for otters, mink, and ducks. So, it can be seen that saving one species has led to benefit many other species, which would have otherwise also gone into extinction.

Another benefit of conserving endangered animals is their contribution to the field of medicine. Each living thing contains a unique reservoir of genetic material that cannot be retrieved or duplicated if lost. More than a quarter of all prescriptions written annually in the United States contain chemicals discovered in plants and animals.

Furthermore, many species of animals are benefitting agriculture. Farmers are using insects and other animals that prey on certain crop pests, as well as using plants containing natural-toxins that repel harmful insects. They are a safe, effective, and less expensive alternative to synthetic chemicals. Therefore, each and every species has its own unique value and so should be saved.

On the other hand, in some nations, especially developing countries, human beings are still suffering from poverty, famine, epidemics and natural disasters. If the limited government budget is allocated to animal conservation, many people will face huge difficulty making a living. Therefore, many people believe that protecting basic human rights should be the top priority of these countries.

In conclusion, protecting wildlife is of great significance, as it is a vital cornerstone of the survival and future development of mankind. However, the funds allocated for animal conservation should not come at the cost of basic needs of humans.

105.	Some people say that schools should reward students who show the best academic results, while others believe that it is more important to reward students who show improvements. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
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People are divided on the issue of rewarding students for academic achievements. Some support the idea of rewarding pupils who are the toppers, whereas others opine that it is better to reward those who show major improvements. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, opine in encouraging both categories of students with rewards.

There are several reasons, why the students with the best academic performance should be granted an incentive. The core of this argument is that rewarding them will motivate all other students to study hard and achieve the best results. Exams are like a competition, and the winners deserve to be recognized.

However, it's undeniable that in the same class, there are various student levels. The toppers are very few, and are in most cases capable of working hard as well as doing smart study. They know how much effort is required in which areas. All students are not so gifted. The mediocre students, despite spending lots of time and effort, are still incapable of competing with those having higher IQ. Therefore, it is imperative to acknowledge their effort also. The policy of rewarding them would encourage a wide range of students who persevere and make improvements in their results.

I believe that encouraging all achievers is a must. The achievement of the toppers, is visible to all, and should be remunerated with reward. However, the onus is on the teachers to identify the students who show the maximum improvements and encourage them by bringing them into the limelight. For example, if a student gets 40% marks in first trimester exams, but manages to reach 60-70% in second trimester, then he should be given due recognition for his hard work. This would be a better motivation for a wider group of students.

To conclude, it is necessary to reward all achievers – the toppers, as well as the ones showing good progress in their study.

106.	Some people believe that studying literature is important for individual character building while others think it is a waste of time. Discuss both points of view and provide your own opinion.
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Broadly speaking, "literature" is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. People are divided on the issue of the importance of study of literature. Some say that it is worthwhile to study literature, whereas others are opposed to its study. This essay shall look into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The most important advantage of the study of literature is that it has cultural value. Cultures are built on stories, which may be historical, mythical or religious. Historical stories, allow us to learn about history in an easier way. The stories told in works of literature illustrate how it would feel to live through famous battles, famines, times of prosperity and times of depression. For example, a book 'Pinjar' by Amrita Pritam, can help us understand what women faced when India was going through the freedom struggle.

The second advantage of the study of literature is that it expands our horizons. When we read a piece of literature, we get to read about a life experience through the eyes of someone other than ourselves. We get to walk in the shoes of a character whose life is different than our own. Such reading offers us the opportunity to feel the feelings of the characters described, allowing us to understand things through a fictional world.

Last but not least, literature expands our vocabulary. Having a large and wide-ranging vocabulary is essential for a number of reasons. The larger our vocabulary is, the more in depth and thoughtful discussions we can have on important topics and issues, both in and outside of the classroom. The best way to become exposed to new words, is to read. Due to the descriptive nature of a story, any novel will include plenty of words we have perhaps never seen or heard before. When we see those words in context, we learn their meanings passively and don't have to work hard on learning them. We probably don't even realize we are building our vocabulary.

On the other hand, there is a school of thought that the study of literature has little or no utilitarian value. Those people opine that studying the practical skills such as business and technical education is what is needed in today's era. We belong to a time when there is cut throat competition, and so students should not waste time on the study of literature. They should focus on subjects, which would help them earn a better livelihood today.

To sum up, the study of literature is very essential even in the practical world of today. We need to study literature to understand the world and its people better.

107.	Some people think that children should obey rules or do what their parents and teachers want them to do, but others think that children controlled too much cannot deal with problems well by themselves. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
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Young children are beginners. They have lots to learn and one of the biggest lessons they must learn is how to behave or act in an acceptable manner. So, they need rules. When young children have rules, they know what is expected of them. However, the extent to which children have to follow rules is a very sensitive issue. In this essay I shall discuss the benefits of imposing rules on children and the negative consequences of having too much restriction.

Firstly, rules of behaviour create responsible and respectful children who in turn mature into respectful adults. They know the value of respect for elders. They know the importance of relationships. They know about their cultural values as well. This forms a stable society, which is virtually free from vices such as prostitution and drug abuse. It would be wrong to say that having rules mars the problem solving ability of children. They, in fact, face difficulties in a more mature and disciplined way. They are not lured by peer pressure and refrain from acting on impulse.

However, if too strict rules are imposed on children then they may become rebels. They may start doing just the opposite of what is told them to do. What is more, they may show abnormal behaviour. They may fall into bad company or resort to drugs because of frustration. Finally, imposing too strict rules destroys the individuality of children. They may withdraw into a shell. This may suppress their creativity and as a consequence, they may not be able to deal with problems well by themselves.

What is important is that parents and teachers should learn where rules are needed and where it is necessary to give room to the children. Having absolutely no rules and letting children do whatever they wish to do would also be wrong. They are not mature enough to solve all problems and they have to be taught their limits.

To conclude, parents and teachers should impose rules on children but they should know where to draw the line. They should be flexible and modify the rules according to the circumstances.

108.	Nowadays, older people who need employment have to compete with younger people. What problems does this cause and what are the solutions.
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It is undeniable that a growing number of young adults are faced with increasing competition from the elderly in the workplace. This essay will endeavour to explore the negative effects caused by this hot competition between the young and the old job-seekers, and then present some suggestions to alleviate these potential problems.

The most troubling effect would be on the young, unemployed graduates, who may feel unmotivated and frustrated. Senior job candidates have rich experience, and therefore they tend to outshine young adults. Young employees are relatively restricted in terms of work experience and communication skills, because of which employers prefer to recruit older people with higher working efficiency rather than those who have just graduated from the university. Without a decent job and salary, it is extremely difficult for young people to make a living, as a consequence of which, some of them might resort to crime to fulfil their desires.

Another negative implication could be on the senior workers. They might find it daunting to keep up with the latest advancements in technology. In manufacturing industry, for example, the use of advanced machines is quite common. But, how to operate the equipment could be a tough challenge for older workers, whereas it may be simple and easy for their younger counterparts. Therefore, the elderly employees might suffer both physically and psychologically, even if they secure reasonable jobs. Finally, if senior employees constitute the largest proportion of the company's staff, then, it could lead to a decline of productivity and efficiency of the enterprise.

These problems can certainly be solved. Considering the severity of this problem, it is imperative for the government to encourage self-employment for fresh graduates, so that young people still have huge room for employment even though they are eliminated by the job competition. Governments should encourage businesses to create more jobs for less experienced young employees who will then have the opportunity to accumulate experience. Further, the governments should allocate more money to pension system, which can basically guarantee the basic needs of most elders, so that they do not have to look for jobs. At the individual level, the elderly should plan ahead for their retirement and enjoy their retired life, instead of competing for the limited job vacancies. This would be a win-win option both for the aged and the young.

To sum up, competition between both age groups for the jobs will continue to be more intense, but some steps at government and individual level can help to lessen the severity of the situation.

109.	Some people say the most important thing about being rich is that it gives you the opportunity to give back or help the poor. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
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It is indubitable that money is very important for helping others. However, I disagree with the given statement that it is the most essential thing in terms of a chance to help the needy. I believe that there are numerous ways of helping the underprivileged, and monetary aid is certainly not the best forms of aid.

My first argument to support my viewpoint is that giving money to the poor would be a very short sighted approach. It would satiate their needs for some time, but ultimately they have to be made capable of standing on their own. Providing education and job training is better way of helping them. For example, my friend's mother, teaches children of the slum area every evening. She is herself not very rich, but she is helping in better ways than money can do.

Secondly, it is not always the financial help, which is needed by people. A timely helping hand when a person is suffering is better than helping with money. For instance, in natural calamities, such as earthquakes and floods, the immediate need of people is food and medical care. Many college students volunteered to carry food and medicines to the needy, when there was a flood in some areas of Punjab, a few years ago. Fresh medical graduates also went and stayed there and helped people with immediate medical care. In times of crises, such help outstrips any help that money can provide.

Opponents would argue that only the rich are in a position to help the poor, as people need money for even the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. Even providing education and job training to the destitute, needs money. They have a point, but I still believe that the help in terms of personal effort provided by those who are, themselves, not so affluent is equally good.

To sum up, if one is rich, he is in a better situation to help others who need money and all the things which money can provide. However, I reiterate my view by saying that to help others, one need not be rich as help can be provided in many better ways than with money.

110.	Some people think that increasing communication usage of computers and mobile phones by young people has had a negative effect on their reading and writing skills. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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I agree with the given statement, which says that modern communication technology is leading to the deterioration of reading and writing skills. I believe that both writing and reading skills have suffered a setback, due to computers and smart phones powered by the internet.

To begin with, modern day technology has an overall negative effect on students' writing skills because it encourages cyber slang. Cyber slang is a term used to describe shortcuts, alternative words, or even symbols used to convey thoughts in an electronic document. This is because most digital media limit the number of characters a person can use at a time, students device ways to get the most out of their limited space. However, the problem arises when this slang finds its way into formal writing. For example, abbreviations, such as 'lol', 'C U L8R' and 'bcoz' seem OK when used on Facebook and What Sapp, but are grossly wrong when used in school essays. Moreover, the autocorrect feature fixes their mistakes, so they don't even realize that they wrote something wrong. In future, this generation will

need good, solid reading and writing skills in their jobs and professional lives, but they will find it difficult to get rid of these habits.

Secondly, due to technological development, reading habits are fast vanishing into thin air. Students now spend more hours browsing the net, playing games on their handsets and writing non-stop SMSs to their contacts. Reading a book or any other piece of written material has become an archaic idea for most school children and adults. Students are rarely interested in reading for pleasure and enjoyment instead they read only to pass examination. The declining interest in reading culture among our children, especially those in primary and secondary schools, is a cause for alarm. Unfortunately, reading is not a subject and is just regarded as a tool facilitating many other types of learning. Therefore, lack of reading culture among our youth nowadays, has greatly affected quality of graduates being produced. Consequently, the influence of electronic media on the reading habits of pupils has become an issue of concern.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the communication technology of today is definitely hampering the reading and writing skills. The onus is on the parents and teachers to teach children to teach children of today, the right ways to use this technology so that its negative effects are minimized.

111.	Some people think history has nothing or little to tell us, but others think that studying the past history can help us better understand the present. Please discuss the two views and give your own opinion.
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History refers to all the things that happened in the past, especially the political, social, or economic development of a nation. Literally, everything, including a nation, a city, a town, a subject, a business, and even a product, has its unique history. Some individuals are of the opinion that studying the past history is useless today but others believe it is very essential to know history to better understand the present. I intend to discuss both sides of the argument in this essay. Personally, I side with the latter view.

Undoubtedly, the present is the continuation of the past. Therefore, studying the past history can enable us to better understand what is going on around us. For example, if we are equipped with relevant knowledge of history, it will be easier for us to understand the evolution of mankind. It would also tell us how we progressed and reached where we are today. We would also know how technology developed step by step. History can serve us as a guide because of which we would not repeat the mistakes of yesteryears. We also get inspiration from the great men of the past through history.

Those opposed to the study of history argue that the past was very different from the present, and we cannot apply that knowledge to the present. For example, they say that the French Revolution and the Freedom Struggle of India have no need to be learnt because those situations will never arise again. What they forget is that this knowledge makes us realize the importance of liberty and self-governance.

Opponents of the study of history also claim that history has nothing to do with professionals, such as architects and accountants. However, I believe they would be better in their professions if they know something about the history of architecture or that of accountancy. As a matter of fact, you are supposed to demonstrate some evidence of historical ability if you want to pursue almost any career.

To sum up, studying the past history can not only deepen and widen our knowledge, but also help us develop the power of analysis. Thus, we are able to look at what is happening at present from a historical perspective and better understanding. It has been rightly said by Cicero "History is the witness of the times

112.	Some people think sports and games are important for society, while others believe they should be taken as leisure activities. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
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It was man's desire for a healthy pastime and a method of self-evaluation and competition that gave birth to sports. Sports have been part of humanity from the earliest chapters of history. Some individuals are of the opinion that sports and games play a significant role in society whereas others say that they should be just taken as playtime activities. This essay intends to delve into both views. I personally side with the former view.

One important effect of sports on society is the fact that they draw people together. Whether it is members of a team, or fans rooting for a certain team, sports have always bonded people of different backgrounds together with a common goal. Even thousands of years before professional sports, sport events were places where people could gather and socialize with other people from the same city while they watched events. Even though times have changed since then, sports still have the same unifying effect over people.

Secondly, all positive traits for a healthy mind and a healthy persona can be gained from sports. People who do sports remain physically fit. Healthy people make a healthy society. People's work efficiency also increases and so it benefits the society as a whole. Sports also teach us how to handle failures with dignity, while enjoying victories to the maximum. Also, it trains people to handle crunch situations, where stress can try and pull them down. Sports can also be chosen as a career. Sportspersons are heroes of national and regional importance who are looked up to. They are role models for many and are imperative people who do the nation proud throughout the world.

On the other hand, there are people who assert that sports should be only taken as leisure activities. Sports should only play the role of stress-buster. They believe that when and commercialization comes into sports, then a win-at-all-cost attitude also comes up which does more harm than good to the society. Players resort to unethical means to win such as taking steroids or even harming the opponents in any way. Moreover, if sports are taken too seriously, then supporters of the losing team resort to hooliganism. Who can forget the Heysel disaster of 1985, in which Liverpool fans charged at rival Juventus supporters, which caused a wall to collapse, resulting in 39 casualties?

To sum up, sports have a great role to play for societies, but we should not let the ugly claws of commercialism creep into the field of sports.

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| 113. | Some people believe famous people's support towards International aid organizations draws the attentions to problems, whereas others think celebrities make the problems less important. Discuss both sides and give your opinion. |
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Charity organizations are responsible for aiding the needy and taking care of the victims of natural disasters. Some individuals are of the opinion that if celebrities provide assistance to global charity organisations, people become more attentive towards these issues, whereas others believe that celebs can lessen the severity of the situation. This essay intends to delve into both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

It is irrefutable that international charity groups can get publicity through celebrities. Famous singers, movie stars and sports professionals can endorse the activities or campaigns of international charity organisations. If the stars advocate for charitable organizations, these charities attract more people to participate. Stars enhance the reputation and credibility of the charities.

Furthermore, when celebrities are called upon for helping NPOs (Non-Profit Organisations) or Charities, they themselves become aware of these problems, and themselves too come forward in donating for such causes. Their selfless donation could fulfil their social responsibilities towards the have-nots and consequently bring their own self a great sense of satisfaction.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that in some instances, celebrities can cause more harm than good because of their bad reputation. For example, some celebs take part in charity work just to improve their image. This can make the messenger (celeb), more important than the message. For example, if some stars are doing publicity for the anti-drug organization, but they themselves have their own history of drug use or crime, then obviously the public would look at that charity with suspicion. Secondly, sometimes, when the famous people are seen working for some charity then people start thinking that enough is already being done, and that their help is not needed. This can be detrimental in the long run.

To summarise, international aid organizations can attract more citizens' attention on problems if celebrities give the right support and set up good images. I believe that all famous people should do their utmost to fulfil their social obligations, to do some public service activities for those charity organizations, which can be an effective way to serve this purpose.

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| 114. | Some people think that the government should establish free libraries in each town. Others believe that it is a waste of money since people can access the Internet at home to obtain information. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion. |
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Some individuals opine that the public should be provided free libraries, whereas others say that these days access to the Internet can provide all kinds of information and so we can do without free libraries. This essay shall look at both viewpoints. However, I personally believe that to enhance the quality of life, it is better to make the most of both - modern web-based and traditional library resources.

In today's era of modernization, the advantages of using the Internet are only too obvious. Online resources can be obtained from all over the world 24 hours a day, seven days a week, while a library's publications cannot provide up-to-minute information, the way the web sites can. Some sites feature rare books, documents and special collections that traditionally have been only available in libraries. Almost at no cost and merely a few clicks away, the public can read newspapers, magazines, journals

and encyclopaedias, no matter when or where. Furthermore, the Internet offers a complete multimedia experience such as texts, video, audio, and graphics, all at once, but such advantages often cannot be expected from town libraries.

On the other hand, money spent on public libraries is certainly worth it. To start with, knowledgeable librarians can be of practical help when it comes to offering professional advice about where to find information on particular topics. Now that anyone can create a web site, reliability of information on the Internet is not guaranteed, and as such there are cases in which the Internet is no substitute for the library. Secondly, libraries can house printed copies that date back many decades, whereas the Internet provides the current information only. In addition, computers in libraries also offer free Internet connection and other electronic resources, which all people may not have in their homes to access the Internet.

Furthermore, libraries are places, which provide the ambience to sit and study; an atmosphere is created where one feels like studying. Such places are needed to increase the reading habits among the youth of today. Additionally, the elderly, who are not so tech-savvy, can come and sit there to satiate their hunger of knowledge. A variety of magazines and newspapers can be provided in a section of the library, so that people can keep abreast of what is happening all around.

To sum up, traditional libraries and virtual or online libraries should complement each other. We cannot do away with libraries just because of the online resources available today.

115.	Nowadays, many families have both parents working. Some working parents believe, other family members like grandparents can take care of their children, while others think childcare centres provide the best care. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
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It is irrefutable that both parents are working nowadays, and as a result children have to be raised by either child-care centres or grandparents. This essay intends to compare both options. I, however, believe that day-care centres are better than grandparents for the pre-school years of children.

To begin with, most parents choose to leave their children with grandparents for 'positive' reasons, such as the 'caring environment' rather than simply because they can't afford formal childcare. Looking after the grandchildren also keeps the grandparents energetic and vibrant. Grandparents bathe, feed and even read books to the child. This leads to a sort of symbiotic relation in which both grandparents and grandchildren are benefited. In other words we can say that it is a win-win situation for both. Grandparents don't suffer from loneliness and depression, which is very common at that age and children are also well looked after.

Day-care centres, on the other hand, have an edge over care given by grandparents in many ways. A study found that grandparents may struggle to provide the educational and social experiences infants need. Children looked after by grandparents at the age of nine months were considered to be less sociable with other children at age three than those who had been in a child-care centre.

Moreover, grandparents can make terrible child-care providers if they're in poor health and feel forced to provide childcare to their grandchildren because their children seem to have few other options. In such cases, the results can be nothing short of disastrous. Early childcare is a challenge, which may be simply too much for some grandparents to cope with, at this point in their lives.

To sum up, although grandparental care is good in many ways for grandchildren, the advantages of day-care centres are more than those brought about by grandparents.

116.	As housing is a basic need for people, governments should provide free housing for everyone who can't afford it. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Homelessness is a big problem faced by the developing and under-developed countries. However, I do not agree that the governments have the obligation to provide free homes to everyone, as it would not be a practical and sustainable solution to homelessness and would irritate the taxpayers. I would like to support my opinion with my arguments in the following paragraphs.

First of all, if government started providing homes to all the people, it would imbalance the economy. The government has so much on its shoulders. Providing basic education and healthcare and maintaining other infrastructure of the country, is also the onus of the government. Moreover, the taxpayers would not be happy about it as their money, which they pay as taxes, would be helping some people who may be unemployed just to get government benefits. If people knew they would get free housing, they would stop working hard and become complacent. Such a policy would not be good for the economy of any country.

The government should provide free housing only if homelessness is because of its inefficiency. It is a well-known fact that the economy of any country depends on internal and external factors. A government can be held responsible for the internal conflicts that might be causing homelessness. However, no government in the world can effectively control external affairs. For example, a lot of people lost jobs due to the economic crisis in 2008. Consequently, they became homeless. In fact, the US recession caused job loss in countries like India and China. It affected India's booming outsourcing industry. And because it was an external factor, the government in India couldn't be held responsible for this situation. So, it is not possible for any government to provide free housing to one and all.

Undoubtedly, it is the responsibility of the governments to improve the living standards of the poorer sections of the society. In India, for example, the government has launched several schemes to provide housing and employment to people. Although the country still faces these problems, the situation has considerably improved in recent years. This is a clear indication that political willpower and proper governance can improve the economic status of a country and its people.

To sum up, it is difficult for governments to provide free housing to all its citizens. Of course, the governments have a role to play in easing the problem of homelessness, but cannot, and should not provide free housing to all.

117.	Today, the life expectancy of people is much higher than before. Some people think that older people should continue to be involved in the workforce. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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It is irrefutable that average lifespan of human beings has increased with the advancement in medicine, leading to new discoveries and treatments, every day. I agree with the given statement that

the elderly people should continue to work till a later age. I shall support my point of view in the upcoming paragraphs.

Firstly, looking at it from a country's economic point of view, increasing the retirement age will help decrease the government's burden on providing benefits for the elderly. For developing countries this is very beneficial, as the workforce will contribute towards the country's economy and the government will need to spend lesser on providing the retirement benefits to the senior citizens, such as senior citizen discounts, healthcare benefits, travel benefits, etc.

Moreover, working till a later age will be very beneficial to the elderly, at an individual level. They will not need to depend on anyone for their needs. Also, they'll be busy and involved in work, which will help tackle the old-age problems of loneliness and depression. These days the family members do not have the time to spend with the old members of the family, which leads the elderly to feel isolated. Increasing the retirement age will, to a great extent, reduce this problem.

The opponents of this view believe that the old are not physically fit for much of the stressful work. Some also say that since they have worked all their lives, it's the time for them to enjoy the later years of life, away from the pressures of work. I, however, believe that to enjoy in the later years too, money is needed. So, even if they work for fewer hours, it is a necessity.

Overall, an increase in the retirement age, will benefit the country, society as well as individuals. Voluntary retirement offers can be set up for those who wish to retire early, due to their health or other circumstances.

118.	Today, the life expectancy of people is much higher than before. Some people think that older people should continue to be involved in the workforce. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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It is true that longevity has led to an increase in the ability of people to work for longer years. On the face of it, increasing the retirement age seems to be a logical outcome of the increase in the lifespan. However, I disagree with the statement that older people should continue to be a part of the workforce. I shall support my point of view in the following paragraphs.

The proponents of this view suggest that if we can live longer, we can work longer. No doubt people are living longer than in the past times, due to the advancement in the discoveries in medicine, however, after a certain age the physical capability of a human reduces. Also, many people suffer from health ailments. That is the time they need to relax and enjoy, after working for decades. They should be utilizing that time in travelling and pursuing their interests and hobbies, which they couldn't because of their hectic work life.

Moreover, those who work throughout their lives in physically demanding and challenging jobs, it might not be possible for them to work in old age. Also, some studies have shown that the increase in life expectancy has a direct relation with the income. Those who earn well are healthier than the low paid workers. This is because the better salaried people normally do not have physically demanding jobs and can afford better treatments.

Another major disadvantage of increasing the retirement age is an increase in the unemployed youth. Unemployment among the younger population leads to bigger problems, like increase in the crime

rate, violent behaviour, drug addiction, and so on. That is a bigger menace, which needs to be curbed before it goes out of control. Increasing the retirement age will definitely not help with the issue of unemployment of the youth. In fact, it will only worsen it, especially in developing countries, like India and China.

In conclusion, an increase in the retirement age should not be made without careful consideration of what consequences it might have on the future generations and the entire workforce of the nation. Considering that the youth is the future of any nation, an increase in the older workforce is definitely not a good solution to any country's economic and social problems.

119.	Some countries pay extremely high salaries for people. Some people believe that the country must not do that and make a limit for the salaries. Do you agree or disagree?
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Wealth inequality is a problem faced by many countries across the world. This is because a few people get astronomically high salaries. Therefore, some people say that there should be an upper limit on the salaries. I, however, disagree with this notion. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, I believe that those who are the top have achieved that place with their effort and so they deserve what they are getting. Wealth is not the culprit. There should be no negative associations with the word wealth in the context of people having it. The current President of United States, Barack Obama is a typical example of a person who has achieved his dream. He succeeded in transcending his social class, his race etc. and became the president of United States. Thus capitalism provides everyone with a fair chance to reach great achievements in their life if they seize the opportunities.

Secondly, it is the people who decide the high salaries of a select few. For example, let us presume that many people want to see high quality cricket. So, a person like Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has a talent for cricket and has honed his cricket skills, would be much in demand. People would be ready to pay for the service he offers (excellent cricket) and consequently his high wage will be justified. On the other hand a mediocre cricket player would not be paid at all since there is no demand to see mediocre cricket.

Finally, this discrepancy in salaries ultimately benefits the whole society. The strongest motivational force, a human being can feel towards work, is a potential reward for their efforts. Therefore, those who work hard and contribute most to society should justly also gain the most in form of increased wealth. If those who work will benefit equally as the ones who do not, there will be no reason to work and the overall productivity will be lowered, which is bad for society. Incentives are therefore necessary since it increases the overall standard for the whole society in form of material wealth. Even the worst off may benefit more than they would have, if the productivity had been low e.g. through charities etc.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion by saying that the extremely high salaries are justified and there should not be a limit on it. A system which, values individuality, rewards ability and risk-taking, ultimately prospers. Poverty and social dysfunction cannot be fixed by taking from the haves to give to the have-nots. To improve the situation, the poor must be motivated to work hard and do something.

120.	A large amount of advertisements nowadays are now targeted at children. Many people say this has negative effects on children and should therefore be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Advertisements are ubiquitous nowadays and especially advertising targeting children, who are considered vulnerable target by companies. Many people are worried about this phenomenon. However, we cannot ban advertisements because they serve a lot of useful purposes as well.

Admittedly, in sensitive areas such as the toy industry, some censorship should be there to limit children's access to excess advertisement. This is because children under a certain age lack abilities to make wise judgment as to what they really want. They are attracted by colourful pictures on advertisement and swayed by misleading information. So, they pester their parents to buy those things and this can upset the budget of many families. Even the advertisements of fast foods are bad for children. Children cannot understand that the slim-trim models advertising Mac Donalds burgers hardly ever eat such foods themselves. They are attracted to fast foods and these are very detrimental for their health. Finally, children try to copy the stunts, which can be disastrous for them.

On the other hand, advertising provides us with information on new products. If it were not for electronic and print advertising, many products would not be bought. In this way, advertising provides an important service to manufacturers and some consumers. Additionally, it fuels the advertising industry, creating jobs for thousands of people. In this respect it has become the backbone of many economies of the world.

Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, when Amitabh Bachhan tells people to bring their children for pulse polio immunization, people listen. Then there are ads against female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come. This is because through satellite TV we can see ads from all over the world. When we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the traditional clothes of Japan.

To conclude, it is imperative that regulations be imposed on advertisers who target children or who make false claims. However, advertisement is indispensable in this highly competitive market and produces much more positive effects than negative ones to the society as a whole. So, we should not ban advertisements.

121.	The use of mobile phone is as antisocial as smoking. Smoking is banned in certain places and so mobile phones should also be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
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Although smoking and the nuisance of mobile phones are both antisocial activities, I disagree with a ban on cell phones. I believe that smoking does not have any good side to it and therefore, its ban is justified, whereas the cell phone has its own set of advantages and so should not be banned.

To begin with, smoking causes harm to the smoker as well as the non-smoker who is in the propinquity of the smoker. Studies have proven that the passive smoker is even more at risk of lung cancer than the active smoker. This is because he inhales the second-hand smoke, emitted by the smoker. Similarly, in public places, the cell phone can distract other people and divert their attention. For instance, in libraries, people can be easily distracted through ringtones of incoming calls or people talking over the phone loudly with their loved ones. Even in public places like hospitals, cell phones

can easily interfere with the medical equipment and also irritate the patients waiting to see the doctor. Moreover, its usage in religious places can spoil the peace of those paying obeisance.

However, despite all the abuses of cell phones, one cannot deny the uses of mobiles. They are one's easily available help in case of an emergency. They also keep loved and near ones well connected. No matter where one goes, cell phones are the only hope of keeping families connected without any hassle. The SMS is also a convenient way to keep in touch with your loved ones when no one has the time for writing long letters. Mobiles are also a great source of entertainment. You can listen to songs, play games, and get live cricket scores, market-updates and even the headlines. They are convenient, easily accessible and of great use.

Moreover, these modern devices are very important in this commercial and financial society. Therefore, the total banning of pagers and mobile phones in public places is not practical. It will cause inconvenience and the people would not be able to catch up with the modern trend of communication. Cell phones have become vital tools in today's world and blocking them in public places will result in a gross violation of personal freedom.

To sum up, mobiles were invented for our convenience and not to create nuisance. If used judiciously, wisely and with public etiquette, mobiles can be of great use. Comparing the cell phone to smoking and banning the cell phone would not be practical.

122.	Due to developments in science and technology, lifestyles of people across the world are becoming more and more similar to each other. Do you think this a positive or a negative development?
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Science and technology have ushered in an era wherein more and more people are connected to each other. This also means that in many ways people around the world are becoming very similar. This situation is both – a positive as well as a negative development, which I shall discuss in this essay.

There are many benefits of these global similarities. To begin with, people have become aware of other cultures and so are adopting the good points of all cultures, as a result of which, a global culture has arisen, which is being embraced by people around the world. Secondly, there is more efficient trade between different countries around the globe, thereby improving the economies of developing countries.

There are also many reasons why some people think it to be a negative development. They say, that because of this cultural homogenization, national identities are being lost. We eat the same food, watch the same TV programs, listen to the same music and wear the same clothes. People have also started speaking one language, English, in many parts of the world. In fact, English has become the lingua franca today. They opine that the world is beautiful and enchanting because of its diversity. If the diversity is lost, it would become boring.

However, I feel that this is a very narrow definition of national identities and nations are as different as they were ever in the past. Cultural identity is based on far more than just the films we watch or the clothes we wear. For example, take my own culture of India and compare it to the west. We may wear any clothes, but we never take the names of elders and we always call them with respect. In the west, it is quite OK to call anyone by name. In fact, they appreciate it more. I believe that after knowing

about other cultures, we learn to respect our culture even more. So, some very deep-rooted national identities will always be there, even if on the face value it is apparent that people are similar.

To conclude, there are more advantages of similarities among nations. People are becoming tolerant of each other and are adopting the best of all cultures. Total loss of national identities can never take place as all cultures have their inherent strengths, which can never fade away.

123.	Some people think we need to give aid to all poor countries. Others, however, argue that we should not give international aid to countries with corruption in their system. Discuss both views and provide your own opinion.
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International aid refers to money, equipment or services that are provided by a country or international organization for countries that need them, known as recipient countries. People are divided on the issue of giving aid to poor countries. Some say that it reflects the goodness of mankind, whereas others tend to believe that the recipient countries, which have venality in their system, can mispend the aid money. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

Aid on humanitarian grounds is extremely imperative. Members of the global community have the responsibility to provide relief to each other, especially to those have-nots and those victims of natural disasters and civil unrest. This aid is essential to the homeless and useful in helping recipient countries return to their normal state after major disturbances. For example, with the humanitarian relief obtained worldwide, victims of natural disasters (such as tsunami, draught, flood) throughout the world can recover rapidly and rebuild their homeland.

Humanitarian relief is also an instrument to promote peace and security. The deep-rooted hostility between some countries can result from the gap in the standard of living between these countries. When aid is given, it opens up the possibility of cultural, economic and social interaction between countries, and thereby easing tension. Recipient countries can thus participate in the global economy, which is a crucial step in warding off poverty.

Admittedly, monetary aid is sometimes misused or miss-spent, but these cons can never overshadow the benefits. Misuse can be tackled by tight regulations and scrutiny. In general, the abuse of international aid is an isolated event, so its effect should not be overstated.

In conclusion, the role of humanitarian relief is not just to deliver prompt assistance to people in need, but also to strengthen ties between countries. Although fraud and corruption occur every now and then, they can be addressed in strict ways.

124.	Some people say that the best way to improve road safety is to increase the minimum legal age for driving cars or riding motorbikes. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Some people believe that the ideal way to ensure road safety is to raise the minimum age for getting a driving licence. I believe that this may help, but it is certainly not the best method, and other solutions should be considered as well.

Proponents of the given statement say that an experienced and highly skilful driver usually needs long training and practice. Therefore, drivers who are under the age of 18, in most cases, fail to have sufficient time to perfect their driving techniques. Moreover, teenage drivers are more likely to have collisions on the road, compared to drivers in other age groups because they like to take risks to get the excitement of driving. This is because young drivers, especially those who are in adolescence, tend to overestimate their driving abilities and underestimate the dangers on the road. Nevertheless, apart from controlling the legal age strictly, I believe that other measures must be taken to prevent deaths and serious injuries.

Firstly, the government should set higher standards for testing drivers' ability to drive and prolong the training time since better prepared drivers and riders can reduce the number of mishaps on roads. Besides, eating, drinking or talking on the phone while driving should be strictly prohibited as these activities might distract the driver's attention and cause some untoward consequences. Additionally, for those disqualified drivers, who have caused some accidents, a retest should be mandatory.

Finally, the stricter age limitation for drivers is especially suitable for those senior drivers who have a failing eyesight or problems with night vision. Although senior drivers might be adept at driving a car, their energy, eyesight and reaction time sometimes cannot make them cope with some unexpected traffic conditions.

In conclusion, although raising the lowest legal age can prevent some road mishaps, other considerations are equally important in tackling the issue.

125.	Most countries do not recycle their waste like paper, glass, and aluminium cans. Why does this happen and what steps can be taken to encourage recycling?
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Many people opine that recycling is the most wasteful activity: a waste of time and money, a waste of human and natural resources. However, environmentalists vigorously refute this. This essay intends to look into the reasons why people don't recycle and also suggest ways to encourage them for recycling.

There are many reasons why people don't recycle. Firstly, people don't want to put in the extra effort. Some places have no pick-up and so they find recycling inconvenient. Secondly, the lack of space is an issue for many. People don't want to see garbage and with little storage space for recycling bins, the trash is an eyesore. Thirdly, people think that it does not make a difference, so they don't bother to do it. They also find it too hard to do. Since there are so many facets to recycling glass, plastic and paper. It's hard to decipher which kinds go where.

Furthermore, people feel that recycling consumes energy. They talk about the fuel needed to drive those recycling trucks around carrying old newspapers from place to place. The cost involved in the recycling industry is much more than trash disposal at times. What they don't know is that even taking this into account, there is a net benefit from recycling compared to landfill or incineration. The benefits to society from recycling compensate for any difference in cost. According to a current UK survey, the recycling of paper, glass, plastics, aluminium and steel was estimated to save more than 18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year through avoided primary material production.

People can be encouraged in many ways. To begin with, they should be awarded about the benefits of recycling. Integrating recycling into the high school educational system could also help. An economic incentive to recycle should be there. In a study it was seen that offering reward for recycling can clearly contribute to increasing recycling rates, and almost a quarter of adults would be encouraged to recycle more frequently if they received a financial benefit. Moreover, some day could be dedicated to recycling. For example, America Recycles Day (ARD) is a day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and buy, recycled products. ARD is celebrated annually on November 15. Thousands of events are held across the U.S. to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and to encourage Americans to sign personal pledges to recycle and buy products made from recycled materials.

To sum up, recycling is the need of the day, but many people do not recycle for various reasons given above. However, effective steps could be taken to encourage people to recycle.

126.	In many countries, mainly tourists, but not local people, visit museums and historical sites. Why does this happen, and what can be done to attract more local people to visit these places?
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Museums and other historical sites seem to be less attractive to local people than to tourists. This essay intends to delve into some reasons why this is occurring, and put forward some solutions to kindle the interest of local people in visiting these places.

The first reason is due to the fact that the local people take these places for granted. They think that these places are not running away anywhere, and so they will see them sooner or later. What happens is, that the time seldom comes, when they take the time out of their hectic schedule to see these places. On the other hand, tourists who come there are on a holiday, and their main motive is visiting these historic places and museums. For instance, recently, I visited Hyderabad as a tourist and went to see Ramoji Film City, which is the biggest Film City in the whole world, spread over 5000 acres of land. My relatives who are staying in Hyderabad have never been there once. When I told them that it is a must-see place, they decided to visit it with their children.

Secondly, nothing new is added to these places over the years and so local people who have been there once, do not wish to frequent these places again and again. These places do not intrigue the locals so they do not feel motivated to visit regularly. In other words, the renewals of existing exhibits, or the organization of new programs and events are few and far between. Furthermore, museums and historical sites are not cheap to visit. In fact, to get admission to these places, visitors are often required to buy expensive tickets.

In order to spur up more interest of local people in coming to museums, a number of ways can be employed. School trips could be organized for children to enjoy these places with their friends. Passes for entry to these museums and historical sites could be arranged for local people so that it doesn't cut a hole in their pocket every time they visit them. A day could be fixed every month when the entry to the museum is made free. For example, on every first Tuesday of the month, the entry to the Houston Museum of Natural Science is free, so there is a great rush of local people on that day.

To conclude, many reasons can be given as to why local people lose their enthusiasm for museums and places of historical importance. However, the revival of these places is within our grasp should proper actions be taken.

127.	Some people think it is important for children to take lessons outside classroom, for example, by visiting places such as local companies or public buildings. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Many individuals believe in providing more innovative learning experiences to children by taking them to local commercial establishments or public buildings where they are exposed to a great deal of practical knowledge. I agree with their perspective. This essay shall discuss, how such practices have an edge over mere classroom learning.

To begin with, classroom learning can sometimes be monotonous, and therefore, such outings can make learning creative, fun-filled and more effective. Museums, galleries, zoos and farms can be of great interest and can provide learning experiences that won't be forgotten fast. There are even some evidences to show that pupils' grades improved if they spent more time learning outside the classroom.

Furthermore, field trips to local businesses can introduce pupils to the practical component of learning, which is not available in schools. This can give students the real hands on experience of the world of work. All students should have the opportunity to participate in internships and programs to enrich their education. This should not be separate from their education at school, but an extension of their academic learning.

Finally, relationships between teachers and students are often transformed by field trips. The absolutely critical aspect of such outdoor learning experiences is the development of the relationship between the young students and the teachers they are with. That can be life-changing, and a bond can form with a particular teacher or all the teachers.

To conclude, most children benefit greatly from such educational tours. Therefore, school authorities should encourage children to visit local businesses or public buildings in order to make education more creative and interesting.

128.	Some people believe that teaching children at home is best for a child's development, while others think that it is important for children to go to school. Discuss the advantages of both methods and give your own opinion.
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From home schooling statistics, it's clear that home schooling is becoming a more accepted method of education. However, some people still believe that nothing can be better for children than actually going to school. This essay intends to explore the benefits of both approaches. I, personally, side with the latter view.

The most important benefit of home schooling is individual teacher's attention. When home schooled, the child has the undivided attention of the teacher. Moreover, lesson plans can be tailored according to the ability of the child. In traditional school environments, classmates often learn at very different speeds. This helps slower learners stay on track with the class, but often leaves bright children bored and distracted. Home schooling also helps parents incorporate subjects that might not be included in the local school's curriculum, such as foreign language.

Perhaps, one of the best arguments in favour of home schooling is the guarantee of the child's safety. Bullying, fights and other school violence become a non-issue when the child is educated from home.

What is more, sleep is vital to the emotional and physical well-being of kids, especially teens and preteens. As home schooled children can accomplish in a few hours what takes a typical classroom a week or more to cover, they get more time for their much-needed sleep.

On the other hand, keeping the child out of a traditional school environment greatly inhibits his/her access to other children. Learning to make friends and exist within a group are important life lessons that children could miss out on through home schooling. Home schooled children may be less inclined to share, demand personal attention by acting out, or become socially awkward and anxious.

Additionally, school life is filled with plenty of exciting opportunities for children. These extracurricular activities can help children better adjust in society. While these cultural and other opportunities can be provided while home schooling the child, these are not the same as the child would experience in a group of his or her peers.

Finally, home schooled children are generally not provided with competitive opportunities. Traditional schooling events such as team sports and spelling bees encourage the child to do his very best. These things give children something to strive for, and to uncover natural aptitudes that might go untapped in home schooled environments.

To sum up, even though home schooling has its merits, nothing can be better than sending the child to a traditional school.

129.	Some people say that too much attention and resources are given to protect wild animals and birds. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
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In recent times, there has been a great hue and cry over the money and efforts being spent on conservation of wild animals and birds. However, I disagree with the given statement that 'a lot' is being done for them. I believe that whatever is done for them can never be 'too much'. It has been rightly said that – "Animals gone, Trees gone, Humans gone".

The most important reason for saving wild animals and birds, is that they are part of our ecosystem. Every species of wildlife plays a role to maintain the balance of life on Earth. Thus, the loss of any species can affect us directly or indirectly. For example, there are many bat species that are becoming extinct. Such bats help keep the insect population in control. If these bats die then the insects will increase a lot and destroy our crops. So, we will have nothing to eat. In addition, many animals, like rodents, help in the dispersal of plant seeds and in the pollination of plants. By protecting endangered animals we ensure not only their survival but also the biodiversity that is necessary for the ecological health of the planet.

Secondly, wild animals provide many valuable substances such as medicine and fur. The horn of the rhinoceros has medicinal value, and the fur of the mink is very valuable. Moreover, the recreational viewing of animals at zoos is also a source of revenue. Thus, the financial value of wild species is important to the economies of many nations.

Furthermore, wild animals have aesthetic appeal. They are beautiful creatures of nature and are a part of our bio-diversity. Their beautiful and mysterious life has enchanted mankind since the dawn of evolution. Scientists have been awed, by observing their behaviour. Such study has helped scientists

understand how the human body functions and why people behave as they do. Scientists have also gained medical knowledge by studying the effect of many drugs on these animals.

Finally, it is undeniable that animal species have been vanishing at a much faster rate for about a century now due to human factors such as pollution, commercial overexploitation, poaching and deforestation. Knowingly or unknowingly, we humans are doing so much damage to plants and animals that spending an exorbitant amount on saving them has become a necessity.

To sum up, the resources spent on these animals and plants, are well justified. Wildlife is Mother Nature's greatest treasure. To protect it, we must take every measure.

130.	The use of mobile phones should be banned in public spaces such as libraries, transportations, and shops. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
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Mobile phone etiquette has become an important issue, with mobiles ringing at funerals, weddings, movies and plays. Therefore, some people advocate their prohibition in public places. I, however, disagree with a ban on cell phones in all public places. I would like to suggest that in some places where "silence" is necessary, such as in concerts, meetings, and cinemas, the use of pagers and mobile phones should be banned. However, in public places such as restaurants or buses and public transports, where "silence" is not so strictly needed, the use of pagers and mobile phones can still be allowed.

Undoubtedly, using mobile phones in public places can distract other people and divert their attention. For instance, in libraries, people can be easily distracted through ringtones of incoming calls or people talking over the phone loudly with their loved ones. Even in public places like hospitals, cell phones can easily interfere with the medical equipment and also irritate the patients waiting to see the doctor. Moreover, its usage in religious places can spoil the peace of those paying obeisance.

However, despite all the abuses of cell phones, one cannot deny the usefulness of mobiles. They are very helpful in case of an emergency. They also keep loved and near ones well connected. No matter where one goes, cell phones are the only hope of keeping families connected without any hassle. The SMS is also a convenient way to keep in touch with your loved ones, when no one has the time for writing long letters. Mobiles are also a great source of entertainment. You can listen to songs, play games, and get live cricket scores, market-updates and even the headlines. They are convenient, easily accessible and of great use.

Moreover, these modern devices are very important in this commercial and financial society. Therefore, the total banning of pagers and mobile phones in public places is not at all practical. It will cause inconvenience and the people would not be able to catch up with the modern trend of communication. Cell phones have become vital tools in today's world and blocking them in public places will result in a gross violation of personal freedom.

To sum up, mobiles were invented for our convenience and not to create nuisance. If used judiciously, wisely and with public etiquette, mobiles can be of great use. Banning the cell phone would not be practical.

131.	It is now possible for scientists and tourists to travel to remote natural environments such as the South Pole. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?
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Remote tourism, or the name given to visiting undiscovered habitats, is becoming very fascinating for both scientists and tourists. While the exploration of such areas has its positives, I believe the associated drawbacks are far more severe.

On the one hand, the idea of more people travelling to remote locations is perceived favourably for a number of reasons. First, some people regard such remote voyages to pristine areas as exquisite adventures. On top of that, new jobs can be created and economic benefits can be derived. Furthermore, geologists may now tap these previously inaccessible sites as resources of fossil fuels. For example, in Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains, oil has been found and is now being drilled out. This is increasingly significant to human kind, as the majority of the current fossil fuel sources have been overexploited and there can be a global energy scarcity in the near future.

On the other hand, substantial disadvantages can be there because the burgeoning of tourism and geological research may heavily disturb the flora and fauna of the remotely located places. This is due to the callous attitude of the tourists and the authorities both. It is highly unlikely that tourists bring waste back to the departure point. Secondly, the journey to these inaccessible places is also perilous and tourists may suffer from any medical emergencies.

Furthermore, the work of geologists involves the analysis of ice-shelves hundreds of meters thick, and the drilling for and the hauling of oil and gas afterwards. These activities may also consequently have a disastrous effect on the natural habitats. As a result, what used to be a pristine land can eventually be polluted?

In conclusion, travelling to secluded places can definitely be advantageous for not only researchers but also normal travellers. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the drawbacks to the ecosystem are of greater concern.

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132.	Some people believe that courses of performing arts (e.g. dance, music, drama etc.), should be funded by government. Others believe that these should be funded through other ways (e.g. businesses or student's family). Discuss both views and give your opinion.
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People are divided on the source of funding for courses of performing arts. Some opine that government should provide financial support to talented students who intend to pursue a career in performing arts such as dance, music or theatre. However, many people believe that taxpayers' money should not be wasted for this purpose, and students should look for sponsorship from other sources like corporates or their own families. This essay intends to examine both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The major reason for state funding for students of performing arts is that this education contributes to making a well-rounded student. Arts education has been proven to help students increase cognitive development, inspire motivation and discipline, develop confidence and inventiveness, and hone communication and problem-solving skills. So, children do well in other subjects also. For example, in a study it was seen that students who study the arts continued to outperform non-arts students on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Another big advantage is that it encourages the pursuit of extra-curricular activities. Children get a chance to show their creative expression. When such hidden abilities are exposed in school time, then those with exceptional talent can be encouraged to adopt it as a profession later-on in life. Secondly, these subjects are excellent stress-busters. Performing arts break the monotony of tough academic studies. Last but not least, such performing arts help to keep our culture and tradition alive. For the reasons given above, it is believed that government funding on such subjects is justified.

On the other hand, those who are opposed to state funding contend that since it is mostly students themselves who benefit from art education, they should seek aid from other sources such as corporate funding and their own parents. For instance, like any other professionals musicians, dancers and actors also earn large sums of money from stage shows and other public performances. They also believe that since enormous amounts of money is required to fund art education, it would become an unnecessary liability for government, as it has more important priorities to deal with.

To sum up, funding of performing arts courses, should be done by government, as these courses keep our culture and tradition alive, complement academic study, bring out hidden talent and break the ennui of tough academic studies.

133.	Nowadays, people get information through news and papers, but meanwhile are uncertain about the truth of these news. Should we believe the journalists? What qualities should a good journalist or correspondent have?
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News and newspapers are an indispensable part of our everyday life, because they keep us connected with the outside world. This essay shall discuss whether or not we should believe the journalists, and also explain the characteristics of a good journalist.

We have to believe the journalists because they are our only source of information. But, we should take it all with a pinch of salt. Sometimes they may spread ill-founded news just to sell their papers. On the whole, they are doing great service to us. They are a link between the government and the people. They shape our opinions. They make us feel part of this global village by keeping us in touch with it, and at times they even provide justice. For example, in the Jessica murder case, it was because of the efforts of these journalists that a politician's son got punishment and Jessica's family got justice.

A good journalist should have many qualities. First of all, he should promote the truth, and not rumours of ill-founded news. Only authenticated news should be given. Secondly, he should be unbiased and not favour any group or political party. He should not hurt the sentiments of any particular community. This is very important in a pluralistic (multicultural and multi-religious) society like India. He should also have excellent communication skills.

Furthermore, a good journalist should be versatile – he has to cover varied fields such as sports, business, entertainment and politics. He should always be on his toes, because you never know when the sky is going to fall. Finally, he should be bold and brave because he has to handle tough situations. For instance, during the 26th November terrorist attack at Mumbai, it was these journalists who brought us the first-hand news.

Summing up, we have to believe the journalists because they bring us the latest news, and a good journalist should be a multifaceted personality.

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| 134. | Some people think that the amount of noise people make has to be controlled strictly. Others, however, say that people are free to make as much noise as they wish. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. |
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Noise pollution is a matter of great concern nowadays. Knowingly or unknowingly, every one of us contributes to noise pollution, because most of our day-to-day activities generate some noise. Some people are of the opinion that there should be some restriction on the level of noise from human activities. Others do not believe in such regulations. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

The most important argument in favour of noise control is that loud noise may adversely affect people in many ways. Noise above a certain level can cause hearing loss. Occupational noise exposure, is the most common cause of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). For example, repeated exposure to noise pollution at a construction site can cause NIHL to construction workers, an effect that cannot be reversed.

Furthermore, there are the emotional or psychological effects such as irritability, anxiety and stress. Lack of concentration and mental fatigue are significant health effects of noise. It has been observed that the performance of school children is poor in comprehension tasks when schools are situated in busy areas of a city and suffer from noise pollution disturbance. Therefore it is imperative that some check should be there on noise production.

There are some people who oppose such laws against noise generation. They assert that some amount of noise is inevitable. The sources may be domestic, natural, commercial or industrial. People believe that making noise at times is their basic right to express their emotions. They want to cheer and shout for their favourite team and dance to the beat of loud music when happy. They take any regulation on noise, as infringement of their basic rights.

To sum up, suitable action has to be taken to attenuate the noise levels and control noise pollution. It is high time we all realize that noise pollution is a slow poison.

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| 135. | Health experts believe that walking is a good exercise for health. However, people are walking less nowadays. Why is this happening? How can people be encouraged to walk more? |
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Regular physical exercise is a vital part of maintaining our health and wellbeing. Yet, we are walking much lesser per day than our parents and grandparents used to do. This essay intends to look into the causes behind this phenomenon, and suggest some ways to motivate people to walk more.

There are many reasons why people shun walking. Firstly, everyone is very busy nowadays. There are too many pressures and people have become workaholics. Another reason is that everything is spread out. We live far from the places we need to go. We have to drive to work. We have to drive to the grocery store. We have to drive our children to school. More time spent driving, means less time spent on other activities, including walking. On top of that, we don't walk because the car is right there. In short, we drive because we no longer have to walk. Finally, most people who want to walk but don't, is because it is not safe to walk. Modern cities are not built with the pedestrian in mind.

To encourage people to walk, it has to be made safer. People need to feel that walking is a safe, pleasant and convenient way for short journeys. If walking feels like a dangerous hassle, no one would like to walk. Why would somebody choose to walk the half-mile to the shops, if they have to wait at three or four separate 'red man' lights to cross one road, while their neighbour who took the car gets to cross the same junction in one go? The onus is on the governments to redesign the cities and have pavements on sides of the roads for people who wish to walk.

Furthermore, people have to be made aware of the potential health benefits associated with regular walking. Walking is good for our brain, our fitness, our memory, our longevity, our blood pressure, and our general health. This can be done through the media such as the TV and the Internet. Parks can be made and maintained by the authorities to encourage people to go for morning and evening walks.

To sum up, there are many reasons why people don't walk, but effective measures can be taken to motivate people to do so.

136.	The leaders or directors of organizations are often older people. But some people say that young people can also be a leader. Do you agree or disagree?
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When a company has to select someone for an executive position, mostly the senior employees are considered. Most youngsters are not usually thought of as leaders. However, I believe that in today's world, the young are better equipped to handle the top managerial posts. Therefore, I agree with the latter statement, which says that young people can also be leaders.

On the one hand, the senior leaders have practical experience, which is equal to the age of the young leaders. This experience gives them an edge. They can prove their viewpoint with case studies and practical examples of their previous professional life. Therefore, the young leaders can't counter their edge in this area.

On the other hand, the younger lot of today has flair in digital technology, because of which they are fast learners. They take no time to learn the things, which their seniors have learnt in quite a long time. There is no doubt that given the right opportunity, they can rise to the occasion. Secondly, because of the Internet, the young leaders can reach out farther in the global arena. Here, I would like to cite an example of my uncle, who had been running his business of readymade garments for the last 20 years. His business was doing fairly well, but has grown exponentially ever since he handed the reins to his son two years ago. Today, they are the biggest exporters of readymade garments from the whole of Punjab. His son used his digital network to spread his business.

Secondly, an organization's success today depends on a variety of talents and skills. There are technological issues, global issues, financial issues, human resource issues, legal issues, and more. Nobody is born with all such talents. The young are willing learners and dare to bear hardships. They are also not afraid of taking risks. The older workers, in contrast, like to play it safe. In the competitive era of today, it is impossible to survive without the ability of taking calculated risks.

To sum up, I reiterate my opinion saying that it is imperative to assign top-level managerial tasks to younger people, as they own infinite potential and can benefit the company in the long run.

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| 137. | In many countries, more and more people are competing for a place to study in universities. Why does this happen? Do you think this is a positive or negative development? |
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More high school students than ever are competing for seats in the freshman classes of universities. This essay shall analyse the reasons for this phenomenon. I believe this is largely a positive occurrence.

The first explanation for why it is harder to get into four-year colleges now than ever before seems to be supply and demand. The number of students graduating from high school is rising steadily each year. For example, in 1997 there were 2.6 million high school graduates in USA, but today, the number has grown to 3.3 million.

Secondly, a university education is increasingly seen as key to economic success in our society, as a result of which more students are seeking to attend four-year colleges, including students from under-represented minority groups whose college participation rate used to be low. Another major reason is the marketing efforts made by the universities. Colleges want to attract talented, and diverse groups of applicants from which to select their freshman class, and they often go to great lengths to do it. This, coupled with the ease of application process through the Internet, enables more students to apply.

This is a positive development because students plan well in advance for getting into the University of their Choice. They focus on doing well in school to get good grades. Secondly, more students going for higher education can never be a negative development. The universities also make efforts to better their standard so as to lure the top cream of students. More and more universities are coming up which are hiring the best faculty. For instance, in my small hometown, Lovely Professional University opened about a decade ago, and today it has about 30,000 students from across the globe. It is also true that it is hard for students to get into colleges because they only want to get into colleges that are hard to get into. As word spreads about the competition for college admission, students respond by applying to even more colleges to increase their chances of acceptance. In doing so, they end up contributing to the very problem they are trying to solve for themselves.

To sum up, there are many reasons for the increasing competition for university entrance, and it is advantageous for students in the long run.