



20 IELTS Task 2 Sample Essays (Vol 1)

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Preface

Hello and welcome, in this book you will find 20 Band 9.0 IELTS Task 2 Essays (6,238 words), they are taken from the 20 most common themes from the test and cover a variety of question types. We have written these essays so that you can copy the ideas and the structures for your IELTS preparation.

I hope you find them useful, we will be issuing other volumes in the future.

Good luck with the test.

Kevin A Dean

IELTS Sample Essays (Vol 1)

by Kevin & Payman

Essay 1

These days, more and more people are going to other countries for significant periods of time, either to study or work abroad. There are clearly many benefits to doing this, but people who live abroad can also face some difficulties.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living and working in a foreign country.

It has been argued that living abroad either for work or study has many benefits as well as drawbacks. This essay will argue that the main advantage is the chance to **experience a new culture** while the main disadvantage is the possibility of “**culture shock**”.

Firstly, living in another country from your own can be **highly beneficial** in terms of personal development. That is to say, **exposure to a new language** and way of life can indeed, as the saying goes, “**broaden your horizons**”. For example, to consider a study, over 90% of Erasmus students interviewed by their home universities in 2016 expressed that living and studying abroad expanded their minds and made them “**see life through another lens**”. This research is indicative of the general feeling that moving and living outside of your **comfort zone** opens a person’s mind to new possibilities.

However, there is a downside for some people who may be overwhelmed by the strangeness of their new environment and experience “culture shock”. This phenomenon often takes the form of loneliness and anxiety caused by the newness and **perceived strangeness** of the people, language, way of life, etc. For example, a survey of native teachers in China by the British Council in 2016 showed that more than 70% of those interviewed **felt out of place** and **unable to function in a foreign environment**. The implication here is that although living in a new country is exciting, there is a **definite chance** that, unless **adequately prepared**, many people may struggle.

In conclusion, although for many the chance to live abroad is exciting and **full of opportunities**, there is always the possibility that some may be **overwhelmed by the experience** and **suffer some psychological side effects**.

287 words

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Essay 2

One of the consequences of improved medical care is that people are living longer and life expectancy is increasing.

Do you think the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

As advances in medical care continue, **life expectancy** is increasing and more people are living longer than ever before. I believe the disadvantages of this progress clearly outweigh the advantages. The **ever-expanding population** will need more feeding and clothing, and also more elderly individuals will require **expensive medical care**, which, in contrast, they will have more time to spend with their families.

While greater life span sounds like a good idea in practice it will only **exacerbate current world problems**. The world can barely feed, clothe and house the 7 billion or so people on the planet currently. For example, the WHO (World Health Organisation) estimates that if world population rises by more than 10% of the current rate per annum, then **severe food and water shortages** will occur in the world's poorest regions. Also, just because life spans are longer, this does not mean that extended life is a happy one. Many elderly people **suffer from serious age related health complaints** such as arthritis, diabetes, lung disease, etc. For example, a recent survey by the UN (United Nations) showed that people aged 80 and above account for up to 70% of many developed nation's expenditure on medical care.

In contrast, living longer may give people more time to do the things they want to do after retirement, such as spending time with their families. However, as mentioned above, this is only if the elderly have **sufficient resources** and the good health to enjoy this extended life span. For example, as WHO figures show, in the UK (and other Western countries) the average state pension is often **below the rate of inflation**, making it difficult for old people to **have a comfortable existence** in their retirement. When this is taken into account with **failing health**, it is difficult to argue that living longer has any real benefits.

In conclusion, although the average life span is becoming longer than ever before, I believe that the pressure of an increasing struggle for resources that an expanding population can bring, **coupled with a serious decline in the quality of life** for the elderly, clearly outweighs any possible benefits longer life can bring.

359 words

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Essay 3

There has been a dramatic growth in the number of people studying at universities in the last few decades. While some people see this as a positive trend which raises the general level of education within the community, others fear that it is lowering the quality of education.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the increase in student numbers at university?

The number of university students has dramatically increased in recent decades, some argue having more educated people is beneficial to the whole community while others are afraid this trend will lower educational quality. This essay will argue the main advantage of this increase is **a more knowledgeable populace** that will develop the economy, while the main disadvantage is **the lowering of the value of a university degree**.

Firstly, having more **people graduate with university degrees** is of obvious benefit to any community. It could be argued that **a more educated citizenry** will naturally lead to **higher levels of innovation and productivity** with consequent increases in the economy. For example, if we consider the situation in America, a recent survey by Harvard Business School indicated that over 80% of young people involved in startups and creating their own **online businesses** had at least a BA degree. The implication from this survey is that, in most cases, **a high level of education** seems to be the norm for most entrepreneurs.

However, a possible drawback to high graduate numbers could be **the lessening of the value of a degree**. If employers take education and a degree qualification as **a measure of a person's suitability for employment**, then if everyone has a degree, it would be difficult for a candidate to stand out. For example, a recent survey (2016) by the Employers Federation (UK) revealed that 80% of employers were now looking for other qualities in job candidates rather than a degree. If this is so, then **high numbers of graduates** will have no reason to have taken their degree in the first place.

In conclusion, as **tertiary student numbers** are growing, the benefits of education to the economy of this increase need to be considered **in the light of** a possible downgrading in **status of value of education** in the job market.

309 words

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Essay 4

Universal free healthcare should be abolished as a person should be held responsible for their own health and wellbeing.

What are the advantages and the disadvantages of free healthcare?

It has been argued that it is the individual citizen who should be responsible for their own health and not the state and that therefore, a free system of healthcare available to all is not required and should be abolished. This essay will show that the main advantage of free healthcare is that everyone, **whatever their income status**, has access to a **basic level of care**, whereas a major disadvantage is that such a system **inevitably finds itself being abused**.

A free health system applies equally to rich and poor alike. Therefore, people on low incomes can have **medical attention** when it is needed without worrying about whether they can afford it or not. For example, before the NHS (National Health System) in the UK was created after WW2, it is estimated that over 100,000 people died annually due to **being unable to pay for treatments** for some serious illnesses. As a result of the creation of such a free system, no one need **suffer unnecessarily** because of **the lack of money**.

However, as such a system depends upon **free and open access**, there is the possibility of it being abused. There have been many stories in recent years of “**health tourists**”, foreigners **having expensive treatment** for which they are not **entitled**. For example, the NHS itself estimated in 2015 that over 50 million pounds **per annum** was going on these foreign visitors and not being repaid. The consequence of this is that funds which should be spent on UK patients is being diverted elsewhere and not to where it should be intended for.

In conclusion, although free healthcare, regardless of income, is **undoubtedly a significant advantage** to poor citizens, the potential for **misuse of the system** and its valuable resources by **undeserving foreigners** is possibly its biggest disadvantage.

299 words

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Essay 5

Due to technological advances, many people now have the opportunity to work remotely via the internet.

Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Advances in technology such as the Internet mean that many people are able to work away from the traditional office whether at home or abroad. I firmly believe the benefits to this outweigh the drawbacks. This essay will show that **having the freedom to choose your own hours and location of working** clearly outweighs the main disadvantage, which is a **tendency to procrastinate**.

Freedom is clearly **the major plus point of remote working**. As long as you get your work done, it does not matter what hours you worked to achieve this. For example, research by the University of York showed that 85% of bosses had no preference as to their **remote employees' working hours**, so long as their projects were completed on time and **within budget**. Additionally, being able to choose your working location is a significant benefit to remote workers. Given the choice, not many people would choose cold, rainy England over **an exotic beach location** to work in. The website nomadlist.com reported that aside from cheapness, 95% of their subscribers said that the reason they became remote workers was so they could leave their home country and live abroad in a warmer climate.

However, **the tendency to waste time** and work inefficiently could well be a significant disadvantage to the freedoms mentioned above. Despite this, it could be argued that those who take this option must be **resourceful and strong-willed** to leave their country for a new environment. In this case, their **personal levels of motivation** should be sufficient to ensure they **stick to their work ethic**. In conclusion, the advantages of **personal freedom** clearly outweigh the potential disadvantage of **timewasting** and **ineffective working practices**.

278 words

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Essay 6

Governments should spend money on railways rather than road.

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

It has been argued that governments ought to allocate more of their national budget to rail rather than on the roads. I agree with this statement for two reasons, firstly trains are faster, and secondly they are more **environmentally friendly**.

Firstly, investing in a **modern railway network** will mean that it will be easier for people to travel around their country faster. This is because train passengers do not have to deal with the **congestion** most road users experience every day, which increases **average travel time**. Also, trains can achieve **much higher speeds** than cars due to this fact. Consequently, people will spend less time commuting and will have more time available to use as they wish. For example, the British Government recently **unveiled** plans to connect cities in the North of England with London via **a high-speed rail network** which will reduce travelling times to the capital by half, allowing thousands of people in the Midlands access London more easily.

Additionally, locomotives tend to be **less harmful to the environment** than cars. This is due to the fact that a train can carry hundreds of passengers which prevents the use of hundreds of **internal combustion engines**, thus reducing the **amount of carbon emissions**. If this is repeated every day over many different routes, **the reduction in the carbon footprint** would be significant. For instance, according to a recent news report, Ho Chi Minh City will soon open its first **underground metro service** aiming to reduce the number of cars and motorbikes on the road. It is hoped that one of the main benefits to the city will be **a marked reduction in carbon dioxide levels** due to **the reduction in traffic**.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that the State should divert more funds to **railway systems** and spend less on **road transportation** as this will **improve journey times** and also be **less harmful to the environment**.

317 words

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Essay 7

It should be necessary for parents to attend a parenting course to learn how to bring their children up.

Do you agree or disagree?

According to some, **attendance at a parenting course** should be compulsory for all parents to teach them **how to raise their children**. I disagree with this idea, and will argue that there is no “one” way to **bring up a child**, and also that for many people their own parents will be there to **offer advice and help**.

It would seem **intuitively correct** that new parents should take some kind of training as they begin to **raise a child**. The idea **in principle** would seem sound; however, this raises the question of how and what parents should be taught as if there were only one “correct” way to bring up children. Many parents these days **reject traditional approaches** to parenting, regarding them as old-fashioned and either homeschool their children or raise them “**gender-neutral**” as a more **modern, progressive method** to **suit today's world**. For example, according to the Guardian newspaper in 2017, the number of parents in the UK who homeschool their **offspring** has risen by 40% over the last decade.

Also, the proponents of this idea seem to ignore the obvious and **best qualified advisors** for new parents, their own parents, the grandparents of the child/children in question. As parents themselves have **the knowledge and experience of childcare**, and the bonus of having an **emotional and familial bond to the child**. This **practical and emotional knowledge** is not something that any classroom course could teach. For example, not surprisingly, the same survey by the Guardian showed that more than 90% of new mothers would not consider asking anyone other than their own mother for parenting advice.

In conclusion, despite the idea of **a parenting class** having some merit initially, I would argue that for most people such a course would be rejected. As they have their own ideas for child raising, and would no doubt **seek advice from their parents** before any stranger in a classroom.

317 words

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Essay 8

Nowadays airlines provide more benefits to the rich, often achieving this by reducing areas used by the economy class to provide more comfort to the first class passengers.

To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.

It is common these days for many airlines to **provide a better quality of service** to its **wealthier passengers** often at the expense of space in economy class. I agree this is the case, and will argue that as **air travel** is a business, you essentially get what you pay for.

It is true that first class passengers get a **higher level of service** while travelling by plane. They often have **greater leg room, better spaced out seating**, free drinks, and other **perks**. To take leg room as an example, it has been confirmed by World Air magazine that many planes are designed to **restrict leg space** and seating in Economy class cabins by 40% less to **afford the greater luxury to First class**.

However, this should not be seen as **unequal or unfair treatment** on the part of the airline companies. We need to remember that these companies are a business and have to maximise profits, often by First class passengers who pay a lot more in comparison to economy class. The **maxim** "You get what you pay for" would apply here, for example, if you want more leg room or better service, then you have to be prepared to spend more money. When I fly back to the UK from Europe, I always fly Economy as I cannot afford First Class, I might not like it but I do not **complain about First Class comforts**. Airlines are not a charity – after all, we do not **have equal rights** when it comes to a business.

In conclusion, First Class passengers enjoy more cabin room than Economy Class flyers for a simple reason, they pay more for a ticket. The solution is simple, if you want more leg room, **save up** and go First Class.

295 words

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Essay 9

Employers sometimes ask people applying for jobs for personal information, such as their hobbies or interests, or whether they are married or single. Some people say this information may be relevant and useful, others disagree.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It has been argued that employers asking **potential employees** to **disclose personal information** is a **useful practice**, while others would disagree. I believe this questioning is irrelevant, and this essay will discuss how some personal details may help to choose the right candidate, while conversely other more **private information** is no one's business.

Certain employers believe that **knowledge of a candidate's hobbies or leisure interests** may help them choose an employee. This may be true in some areas of work, where matching the role of the company to the **job seeker** is important. I agree that if a candidate's hobbies involved drinking or taking drugs, then they might not be suitable to work at a bank or government office where **discretion** and **sound, sober behaviour** is vital. For example, it is **common hiring practice** for many US companies to **scrutinize potential employees' social media pages** for **evidence of insobriety and riotous behaviour**.

However, other information such as marital status or sexuality is not only irrelevant but **intrusive**. Whether married or single, shy or straight, or whatever a person's **domestic arrangements** might be is not the employer's business. **I strongly disapprove of** such **prying into people's private lives** which **have no bearing on** whether a person **is capable of doing a particular job** or not. For example, in the UK since 2011 it has been illegal to ask for marital status on job applications in all areas of business.

In conclusion, despite employers' asking for this kind of information, whether it be to find the most appropriate candidate or is **unnecessarily intrusive**, my personal opinion is that all that matters when choosing an employee is their education and experience, nothing more.

280 words

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by Kevin & Payman

Essay 10

Some parents think that childcare centres provide the best services for children of preschool age. Other working parents think that family members such as grandparents will be better carers for their kids.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is believed by some working parents that the best way to **care for preschool children** is to take them to childcare centres, while others argue that the child's relatives, especially grandparents, would be better carers. This essay believes that **professional carers** are the best option for taking care of young children, and will discuss both views before coming to a reasoned conclusion.

The merits of attending childcare centres are twofold, firstly, if children attend such a centre, they will be **under the supervision of well trained professionals** who have experience in taking care of such young children. Also, at the centre the youngsters will be **in the company of other children** and can **make friends** and learn and play **in a social atmosphere**. For example, all carers and **care assistants** in the UK have to pass **rigorous screening and training programmes** in subjects such as first-aid, and teaching and **child psychology**. This training is designed to create **a safe and protective environment** for the children.

However, some parents think that relatives rather than strangers are the best people to **trust** their children **with**. They say that the bond of a grandchild and grandparent is a natural and loving one that no stranger can **replicate**. For example, research by the University of Manchester in 2015 suggests that a child who is **cared for by** family members is 80% less likely to have **anxiety-related issues** at primary school in later years. This would suggest that **a safe and familiar family environment** is **of prime importance** in a **child psychology**.

In conclusion, although both views have merit, it could be argued that **the twin advantages of** being watched over by trained professionals and **the obvious social benefits of learning and playing with other children** are of more importance than the **psychological comfort** grandparents can provide.

303 words

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Essay 11

Computers are being used more and more in education these days. Some people say that this is a positive trend while others argue that this move will lead to negative consequences.

Discuss both views and state your opinion.

In the modern classroom, **technological devices** such as computers are being increasingly utilised. Some argue that this is a positive trend, while others believe it is a negative one. My own view is that computers are **an indispensable tool in education**. This essay will consider the **ease of access to information** that computers can bring, and secondly, consider how **an overreliance on technology** may **harm students' critical thinking** abilities.

It cannot be argued that computers and the Internet have **revolutionised** the learning process. Instead of **trawling through books** in a university library, **the first point of call** for students **seeking information** is now the Internet. For example, the two main **academic search engines**, Google Scholar and Web of Knowledge, will **in a matter of seconds** provide a student with **a comprehensive list of books and journal articles** to consult. This is **of obvious and substantial benefit to** the student who often has a limited amount of time to find and read materials pertaining to their subject.

However, although this **access to information** is convenient, it **may well** affect a student's **critical thinking and analytical skills**. Many teachers would argue that students today tend to **accept** what they read online **as the truth**, and often use references from the internet in their university coursework. For example, a recent survey by the UK teachers union, NUT, revealed that 85% of teachers over the last year had experience of students quoting Wikipedia as **a reliable academic source** in their essay submissions. This would suggest, in the UK at least, that although students have access to more information **than ever before in history**, they do not seem to have the ability to view it objectively and critically.

In conclusion, **an increasing reliance on technology** in education has certainly made a student's academic life easier; however, this may well be **at the expense of academic rigour** and objective analysis on the part of students. Taking both sides into consideration, I believe that technology in the form of computers and the Internet has had a positive effect on the learning process, despite the fact that some students may need additional training in how to choose and **assess the information** available online.

365 words

IELTS Sample Essays (Vol 1)

by Kevin & Payman

Essay 12

More developing countries are given aid from international organisation to help them in their development plans. Some people argue that financial aid is important but other suggest that practical aids and advices are more important.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It has been argued that **giving aid to** developing countries is the best way to help them develop, whereas others would argue that although financial assistance is important, **practical aid and advice** is more important. In my view, the best way to ensure that a country's development goals are met is international organisations donating money. This essay will consider **the lack of finance**, which many less-developed countries have, and **the arrogance of suggesting** that foreign advice is more valuable than that the home country can provide.

Firstly, as many developing countries are **by definition** less **well-off** than their "Western" counterparts, it is often **a lack of available finance or credit** that stops many nations **building their way out of poverty**. That is to say, many infrastructure projects that would help **develop a nation**, such as schools and railways, all need more money than **a developing country** might have available. I would agree that international money could be a big help **in this regard**. For example, a recent survey in 2015 by the UN suggested that a shortage of funds was the reason behind the **abandonment** of over 50% of "development" projects in South East Asia.

However, it has also been argued that **aid and advice from outside sources** are more important. This seems to suggest that **less developed countries** are **lacking in** talent and/or practical knowledge in reaching development goals. To my mind this view is **incorrect and stereotypical** and which seems to believe **in the superiority of** "Western" knowledge **over** the "inferiority" of the East/Global South. A recent study by the UN showed that this idea is a fallacy by pointing out **the high number of graduates** (over 80%) in the UK universities doing their Master's Degrees were from non "Western" countries.

In conclusion, although some would argue that **foreign advice** is more important than **foreign financial aid**, I believe that the opposite is true. The "West" is not the only source of knowledge **in practical matters** and it is often **a shortage of money** rather than skills that causes less well-off nations to **fall behind** in terms of development.

351 words

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by Kevin & Payman

Essay 13

In the developed world, average life expectancy is increasing.

What problems will this cause for individuals and society?

Suggest some measures that could be taken to reduce the impact of ageing populations.

In the “western” more developed parts of the world, more people are **living longer and longer lives**. This will **inevitably** result in problems for individuals, such as having to **find sufficient income for existence**, and for the wider society, as in having **an ageing population** which needs younger workers to pay taxes to support them. To solve these problems, I believe **the mandatory retirement age** needs to be increased, and citizens should be encouraged to **have more children** possibly via **tax incentives** and **government financial support**.

Firstly, **the average state pension** in many countries is insufficient to maintain a reasonable standard of living. Therefore, if more people are living longer and claiming state pensions, then the average citizen will have less income from the state and may well **find themselves in real poverty**. This will have **a knock-on effect** on the wider society as poor pensioners will be **claiming more state benefits** to live on, which will in turn be **a drain on other expenses** such as schools, and hospitals etc. For example, the US State Department recently reported that to **fill this deficit** in the coming years, taxes for those still in work would have to **rise by** an extra 20% per household.

However, a possible solution to this issue could be to **raise the national retirement age** from 60/65 to 65/70 for women and men. This would allow people to work longer and save more for their retirement without **relying on state handouts**. Additionally, if there were government support for families to have more children, then **the birth rate** could be increased and **the ratio of old to young** would be reduced over the coming decades. For instance, the US Department of Family Planning estimates that by reducing young parents’ income tax by 20% per child, this would encourage **a significant increase in birth rates** over the next 20 years.

In conclusion, **an ever-increasing ageing population** presents many problems such as **pensioner poverty** and **a fall in expenditure on other essential services** apart from pensions. However, if a long term view is taken, **raising the retirement age** and **giving tax breaks** for families may **mitigate these problems** in the future.

362 words

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Essay 14

A rise in the standard of living in a country often only seems to benefit cities rather than rural areas.

What problems might this difference cause?

How might these problems be reduced?

It has been argued that **rising living standards** appear to only be **of benefit to** cities and not to the **general countryside**. This **imbalance** may well result in more people moving to cities for a better life **causing overcrowding** and other issues. While a possible solution might be for **government intervention** to **redistribute wealth** to all its citizens.

It cannot be disputed that most people want a better life for themselves and their families. Therefore, when jobs and better living standards become available, **it is to be expected** that people will move to where they will best be found. However, in the case of the difference between town and country, when **mass migration** occurs to a city, there are **the inevitable problems of overpopulation**: rising rents, **unsafe and unsuitable accommodation**, less places for children at school, rising crime, etc. For example, to take one of these problems into account, a recent survey by Tsinghua University reported that over the last five years 20% more people moved into Chinese cities from the countryside resulting in a 40% rental increase in average apartments.

However, this mass migration from country to city **could be eased by state redistribution of finance to redevelop rural areas**. If governments were to pay for companies to move to the country, or to encourage universities to establish themselves outside of the cities, then many people would not need to relocate. For example, this policy has been **put into effect** in rural parts of India in recent years as a report by the New Delhi Business Institute showed that investment by the state in the countryside has meant **a 50% reduction in migrant numbers**.

In conclusion, although rising living standards are beneficial in general, if they only benefit certain sections of society this will inevitably cause mass migration from country to town. One way around this problem could be targeted at state spending to reduce **people's need to relocate**.

320 words

IELTS Sample Essays (Vol 1)

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Essay 15

Paying with a credit card is a common habit nowadays. Credit cards make it easy to buy now and pay later.

What are some problems caused by credit card overuse and what can be done about these problems?

Many people **make purchases** with credit cards nowadays as it is easy to **buy now and pay later** for goods or services. The main problem with this is that it can lead to **high levels of personal debt**; however, a possible solution might be for banks to **make rigorous checks** on customer finances before issuing these cards.

Having easy and ready access to credit cards can lead to **a person being in debt**. Many banks do not check personal finances before **issuing credit cards** and some people have several cards from different banks. This ready money can lead to some people **spending irresponsibly** as they often **pay off one card** by taking out another from a different bank, thus adding to their debts. For example, a survey by The Bank of England in 2015 showed that out of 10,000 bank customers, over 75% admitted to having two or more credit cards and **having personal debts of several thousand pounds**.

To solve this problem, banks should have **a joint database of all customers** to show who has applied for a card and they should also **set a strict limit on** the amount of credit for each person. This sharing of information will stop people having multiple cards which they cannot afford. For example, in some countries (China, Russia and Turkey) strict checks are made on citizens' finances with **a minimum amount of money** needed in an account before a card could be issued and only one card per citizen is **authorised**.

In conclusion, although easy credit **is blamed for** rising debt levels, this is **a relatively easy problem** to solve if **stricter banking regulations** were enforced. If all banks shared customer data and agreed to cooperate with each other when issuing credit cards, this might be a suitable solution to this problem.

301 words

IELTS Sample Essays (Vol 1)

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Essay 16

More and more people are reading electronically these days.

What problems might this cause?

How might these problems be resolved?

As technology develops, more people are choosing to read e-books and online news than **traditional paper versions**. The main problem of this trend is that it will inevitably put people out of work, while a possible solution might be to retrain sections of the workforce into e-publishing.

Although reading via smart phone, laptop and tablet might be very good news for the environment, it is not so good for the print workers. That is to say, the many thousands of people who work in printing paper books and newspapers are **surplus to requirements** in this modern age of e-reading. As a consequence, they will lose their jobs. A recent survey by the NUPW (National Union of Print Workers) in 2015 showed that an estimated 60% of print jobs were expected to go over the next five years, based on current trends.

As it is impossible to put technology “**back in the bottle**” as it were, one solution **to offset these job losses** and the harm they would cause the economy, would be to retrain print workers in the e-publishing field. There are many possibilities for retraining, such as graphic design, proofreading, coding, etc, all of which would keep people in employment in the same general area. For example, the publishing house, Cambridge University Press, recently announced it planned to create 500 new jobs via retraining at its Cambridge office for **electronic printing**. Although only one example, it shows the potential for jobs if every **traditional publishing house** followed suit.

In conclusion, as e-reading **is set to continue** into **the foreseeable future**, this could well cause **redundancies** in the printing industry unless some retraining of print workers begins. If responsible employers **have the foresight to initiate** retraining in the workplace, this situation might be resolved.

294 words

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Essay 17

People prefer to go shopping in the supermarket rather than small shops or local markets.

Why has this happened?

Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

An increasing number of shoppers are doing their shopping in supermarkets instead of small local shops. It can be argued that the main reason for this is **the cheaper price of the goods for sale**. In my opinion this is a positive step, which will **benefit less well-off people** and allow them to eat good food cheaply.

Firstly, many more people shop at large supermarkets due to the price differences as opposed to local shops. Supermarkets have **more spending power** and can **pass on any savings in price to their customers**. Especially for food, supermarket chains can **buy in bulk** from farmers **for a considerably lower price**. For example, the UK retail chain Tesco only pays farmers 10 pence per litre for milk and can **make a fair profit margin** on reselling whereas local shops cannot pay this price and would charge customers more.

Secondly, I believe that for some customers **this lower price policy** is extremely beneficial. Poor people cannot afford good quality food **at high street prices** so being able to do their shopping for less is **a major benefit for** them. Eating well is a pre-requisite for good health so this can only have positive consequences for less well-off people. For example, research from the University of York suggests that people who purchase from big markets as opposed to local shops can **save up to 40%** on their weekly shop.

In conclusion, the increasing number of shoppers at supermarkets are doing so due to the price difference when compared to local shops, which can only be a positive development for those people who are **on low incomes**.

270 words

IELTS Sample Essays (Vol 1)

by Kevin & Payman

Essay 18

There are many people who go to live in different countries.

To what extent should people be allowed to move freely between countries and live where they choose?

What are the benefits and drawbacks of this?

There are **a number of people** who choose to **move around the world** and live in different countries. I believe that **freedom of movement** between countries should not be allowed unless based on certain criteria. I also believe that the advantages of limited migration can be seen in **allowing skilled workers to come to a country**, whereas the disadvantages are the **changing in demographics** in a given nation.

International freedom of movement seems to **intuitively** be a good idea. However, if this were allowed, then millions of people from **less well-off parts of the world** would seek to migrate to the "West". This would obviously **pose many problems for** infrastructure, integration, etc. For example, it would seem sensible then to have some criteria before allowing such freedom, such **as a points-based system** for language, skills, family members in the country, as in Australia and Canada.

The advantages of **managed immigration** then, are that migrants with certain skills such as doctors, IT engineers and other professionals can fill the "skills gap" in whichever country they move to. This is **of significant benefit to** the receiving nation and is the reason why countries such as Canada and Australia have such a system. However, the downsides of **uncontrolled immigration** as mentioned above are **the very real issues of infrastructural pressure**, as in housing and schools. For example, in the UK, it is estimated that a city the size of Liverpool would need to be built every year to accommodate the estimated 300, 000 migrants who move there year on year.

In conclusion, although many people migrate every year, I believe that **unmanaged migration** without certain safeguards will be **detrimental to** the host country; however, if properly controlled, the movement of skilled people can only benefit the new countries they call home.

298 words

IELTS Sample Essays (Vol 1)

by Kevin & Payman

Essay 19

It is often said "when in Rome, do as the Romans do".

Do you think people should adapt/accept the culture of the country they visit?

Do you think it is possible to learn a new culture without learning the language?

The well-known expression "When in Rome" **is usually taken to mean** that a person should respect and **adapt to** local customs when visiting a new place. I think that travellers should not only understand this but should research such customs before travelling, to avoid any **cultural misunderstandings**. I would also argue that as language and culture are **interconnected**, only **a superficial understanding of any culture** is possible without knowing the language.

When travelling, tourists should remember they are guests in that country and they need to **be sensitive to local customs and traditions**. Visitors have no **automatic right** to behave as they would at home, yet many tourists fail to find out what is acceptable in the places they visit. Many Westerners like to drink alcohol and to **dress in revealing garments** especially in hot weather; however, in some parts of the world this behaviour would be perceived as an insult to **the host population**. For example, a survey by hoteliers in Dubai in 2015 said that **overconsumption of alcohol** and guests **wearing unsuitable clothing** were the number one causes of complaint against tourists.

As well as respecting **cultural sensitivities**, another question is can an outsider really **understand a new culture** without also speaking the language? The answer is that without language, only **a shallow, superficial knowledge of any culture** is possible. For many tourists, this is perfectly fine as they are only **passing through** and **rushing from one tourist hotspot to another**. For example, as the Lonely Planet website survey shows, many expats and long-term residents choose to learn at least some of the local language as they want **a real "authentic" cultural experience** beyond **the surface comprehension** experienced by tourists.

In conclusion, respecting the **cultural practices** of the host country is very important, it is recommended that visitors should research what these are before travelling. Also, at least attempting to **master some of the language** is a must to **truly appreciate** another culture and its traditions.

328 words

IELTS Sample Essays (Vol 1)

by Kevin & Payman

Essay 20

Some universities now offer their courses on the Internet so that people can study online.

Is this a positive or negative development?

Several universities now have their courses **available online** as **an alternative option to campus-based classroom tuition**. I believe this is a positive step as **online tuition** should be cheaper and therefore available to more people, and also that remote learning will have **a similar broadening of access**.

Firstly, one of the main advantages of online learning is that of cost. Many online courses are considerably cheaper than attending **a bricks and mortar institution** as they are virtual and do not require a building, staff, and all the associated expenses a university has. For example, as a teacher I know that many would-be teachers take online TEFL courses as they are **a fraction of the cost of attending a university** or language school training course. **This switching from offline to online education provision with a concomitant reduction in cost** means that more people will be able access the education they need than previously.

Also, being able to **access a lesson online** means it can be available anywhere and at any time, regardless of the hour as the student does not have **to be physically present in the classroom**. This means that many people living **in remote parts of the world**, especially **the less developed areas**, can have **high quality educational content at their fingertips**. For example, the University of Bath conducted research in 2016 which showed that over 80% of online students were from Africa and South East Asia. The implications of this study shows that distance is not **a barrier to education** for the people in developing nations and indeed anywhere.

In conclusion, the increase in universities offering online courses is, I believe, **a significant beneficial development** as **cheaper tuition costs** and **the ability to access university courses remotely** are of obvious benefit for less well-off people, and students **in far-flung corners of the world**.

305 words

Conclusion

Well, that's the end. 20 essays covering different question types, opinion, discussion, advantages, two parts, etc. I hope these samples will give you some ideas as to how to write your essay in terms of structure, and good luck with your exam.

If you need any personal corrections or lessons, please see our website www.ielts9.pro.

Thanks

Kevin. A. Dean

About the Authors



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Payman has a passion for teaching English, and a track record of excellence. During his career, he has achieved vast experience of developing students' knowledge, skills, and attitude.

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