


UNIT 6 Discursive Essays

- 1  You will hear four people on a radio programme discussing whether progress is good for us. Look at the following questions, then listen to the cassette and answer the questions.

- A Which speaker discusses possible solutions to a problem? ☐ Speaker 1
 B Which speaker gives a personal opinion on the subject? ☐ Speaker 2
 C Which speaker discusses various aspects (e.g. economic, social, etc) of the subject? ☐ Speaker 3
 D Which speaker presents a balanced argument discussing points in *favour of progress* as well as *against progress*? ☐ Speaker 4

A discursive essay is a piece of formal writing which discusses a particular issue, situation or problem.

There are three main types of discursive essays.

- i **For and against essays** present both sides of an issue, discussing points in favour of a particular topic as well as those against, or the advantages and disadvantages of a particular question. Each point should be supported by justifications, examples, and/or reasons. The writer's own opinion should be presented only in the final paragraph.
- ii **Opinion essays** present the writer's personal opinion concerning the topic, clearly stated and supported by reasons and/or examples. The opposing viewpoint and reason should be included in a separate paragraph before the closing one, together with an argument that shows it is an unconvincing viewpoint. The writer's opinion should be included in the introduction, and summarised/restated in the conclusion.
- iii **Essays suggesting solutions to problems**, in which the problem(s) associated with a particular issue or situation are analysed and possible solutions are put forward, together with any expected results/consequences. The writer's opinion may be mentioned, directly or indirectly, in the introduction and/or conclusion.

A good discursive essay should consist of:

- a) **an introductory paragraph** in which you clearly state the topic to be discussed;
- b) **a main body**, in which points are clearly stated in separate paragraphs and exemplified or justified; and
- c) **a closing paragraph** summarising the main points of the essay, in which you state/restate your opinion, and/or give a balanced consideration of the topic.

Points to consider

- Present each point in a separate paragraph. A well-developed paragraph contains a clear **topic sentence**, which summarises the contents of the paragraph, as well as a clear **justification**, explanation or example in support of the point presented.
- Well-known quotations (e.g. *As writer Somerset Maugham once said, "It is bad enough to know the past; it would be intolerable to know the future."*), rhetorical questions (e.g. *If people today are not concerned enough about tomorrow, will the future still be there for man?*) or thought-provoking statements (e.g. *The fact is that one's future is what one makes it. There is no such thing as chance.*) are useful devices to make your composition more interesting.
- **Before** you begin writing, you should always make a list of the points you will present.
- Do not use informal style (e.g. *contracted forms, colloquial language, etc*) or very strong language (e.g. *I know, I am sure ...*)
- Use appropriate linking words/phrases to show the links between paragraph, as well as to link sentences within paragraphs.

topic sentence

Many people, however, prefer living in flats because they feel safer.

justification

With increasing crime rates, people are afraid to live in a house, as they feel more vulnerable to burglars and other criminals. Therefore, they prefer the feeling of security that the proximity of neighbouring flats offers them.

- 2** Look at the essay plans below for the three types of discursive essays, then say what features the plans have in common and how each plan differs from the others.

For and Against	Opinion	Solutions to Problems
Introduction Paragraph 1 state topic (without stating your opinion)	Introduction Paragraph 1 state the topic and <u>your opinion</u>	Introduction Paragraph 1 state the problem and its cause(s)/effect(s)
Main Body Paragraphs 2 - 3 arguments for & justifications, examples or reasons Paragraphs 4 - 5 arguments against & justifications, examples or reasons	Main Body Paragraphs 2 - 4 viewpoints & reasons/ examples Paragraph 5 opposing viewpoint and reason/example	Main Body Paragraphs 2 - 5 suggestions & results
Conclusion Final Paragraph balanced consideration or opinion	Conclusion Final Paragraph summarise/restate your opinion	Conclusion Final Paragraph summarise your opinion

- 3** Look at the essay topics below, and say whether each topic asks for a “for and against” essay, an opinion essay or an essay suggesting solutions to problems. Then, choose *two* of the topics and make a list of the points you would include in an essay on each topic.
- “Animals should be treated with the same respect as humans.” Do you agree with this view?
 - “The generation gap is one which cannot be bridged.” Discuss.
 - Do you believe that equality for women means that women should also do such things as military service?
 - “One language spoken worldwide would lead to better international relations.” Discuss.
 - Genetic engineering poses a number of worrying problems, both moral and practical. Discuss some of these problems and suggest what could be done to overcome them.
 - “Celebrities should be allowed to keep their private lives private, without the invasion of the media.” Discuss.
 - “Fear and ignorance are the root causes of racial hatred.” Discuss this statement and offer some possible solutions to the problem of racial prejudice.
 - “The motion picture industry is threatening to destroy culture and tradition.” Do you agree?
 - “Too much money is spent on sport when it could be used to help the poor.” What are your views on this issue?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of our ever-increasing use of computer technology?

Formal style

- Discursive essays are written in formal style. This means you **should** use:
 - ✓ passive voice, impersonal constructions
(e.g. *It is argued that ...; It is a common belief that ...*)
 - ✓ a range of advanced vocabulary (verbs, adjectives, abstract nouns, etc)
(e.g. *heated debate concerning the controversial issue ...*)
 - ✓ formal linking words/phrases (e.g. *furthermore, however, nonetheless*)
 - ✓ complex sentences with a variety of links, dependent clauses, etc
(e.g. *Although it is widely accepted that compulsory military service, which provides an army with abundant manpower, is beneficial to a country's ability to defend itself, closer analysis of military efficiency suggests that it is advanced weaponry which plays a crucial role in ...*)
 - ✓ inversion, especially in conditionals
(e.g. *Were this true, we would ...; Never has this been more obvious ...*)
- You should **not** use:
 - ✗ short forms (e.g. *I'm, it's*) except when these are part of a quotation
 - ✗ colloquial expressions, phrasal verbs, idioms
(e.g. *lots of, put up with, be over the moon about ...*)
 - ✗ simplistic vocabulary (e.g. *Experts say they think this is bad, ...*)
 - ✗ a series of short sentences (e.g. *Many people think so. They are wrong.*)
 - ✗ simple linking words (e.g. *and, but, so*) except for variety

- 4** Read the following excerpts and find examples of each of the features of formal and informal style listed in the table above.

EXCERPT A

A matter of considerable controversy at present is the issue of whether works of art should remain in their country of origin, or rather the owners of such works should be allowed to sell them to collectors abroad, thus depriving the country's population of a vital part of its cultural heritage. Strong arguments exist in support of both sides of this debate, which implies that it is worth examining both points of view before reaching any conclusions.

Should such sales be permitted, it is argued that the country of origin would lose pieces of art which rightfully belong where they were created. In addition, works of art which were created to be viewed in a certain setting, or as part of a particular structure, lose a great deal of their artistic impact when removed from this context. **Venus de Milo**, an ancient statue of Aphrodite is a clear case in point: this conspicuous example of the Hellenistic sculptural tradition, carved in 150 BC and found on the Aegean island of Melos in 1820, is now decorating nothing more inspiring than a room at the Louvre Museum in Paris ...



EXCERPT B

People argue a lot nowadays about whether or not works of art from one country should be sold to another. I don't think they should be. If they are then the people in the country of origin lose out on the chance to see stuff that really belongs to them. This just isn't right. It's a problem, too, when you see works of art in the wrong place. I mean the Parthenon friezes look boring the way they show them in the British Museum. That's just not where they belong. But if you could see them at the Parthenon, they'd look great ...

Beginning and ending discursive essays

In the **first paragraph**, you should state the topic and/or your opinion, and you may include one or more of the following techniques.

- Make reference to an unusual or striking idea/scene/situation
e.g. *Imagine millions of people coming home from school or work every day to sit staring at a wall for four hours.*
- Address the reader directly
e.g. *You may think this is an exaggeration.* and/or ask a rhetorical question.
e.g. *Have you ever wondered what the world would be like without cars?*
- Start with a quotation or thought-provoking statement.
e.g. *"Television is an invention that permits you to be entertained in your living room by people you wouldn't have in your home."* David Frost once said.

In the **last paragraph**, you should state your opinion and/or give a balanced consideration of the topic, and you may include one or more of the following techniques.

- Finish with a quotation
- Ask a rhetorical question
- Give the reader something to consider
e.g. *Perhaps then people will re-discover what it is like to actually communicate with each other.*

5 Match the following beginnings and endings. Then, say which technique has been used in each.

BEGINNINGS...

- 1 You may live in a comfortable house in a clean neighbourhood with all the amenities. You would probably not be so lucky in one of the cities where urban growth has been allowed to get completely out of control. This problem is virtually destroying a number of large cities, particularly in developing countries, and a solution must be found before it is too late.
- 2 "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" is the biblical phrase we use to refer to capital punishment, the killing of criminals in order to punish them for their crimes. But whether the neat balance suggested by the phrase is reflected by the actual practice is a moot point, and whether one human has the right to kill another in any circumstances remains a much-debated question.
- 3 While most people agree that a woman has the right to work as a heavy-machine operator and a man to become a midwife, is this supposed open-mindedness being put into practice? There is plenty of evidence to suggest that workers are still being judged by their gender and not by their skills, and this is a situation which needs to be dealt with.

...ENDINGS

- A On the whole, I believe that those cities suffering as a result of urban growth could solve their problems, given financial support. Sadly, however, the chances of this happening are slight, especially in developing countries. Should we not, therefore, be thinking about encouraging people to return to rural areas in order to shift the balance of populations?
- B To sum up, gender should not be an issue in any workplace, since a powerfully-built female is just as capable of hard manual labour as a kind and gentle male is of childcare. The only obstacles are those which exist in our own minds; as the American therapist Dr F. S. Perls once said, "We have to lose our minds to come to our senses."
- C All in all, it is easy to understand the reasons behind the continued existence of capital punishment in a number of countries. In spite of this, however, I cannot personally condone it, since to my mind the act itself is simply legalised murder, the ultimate crime.

6 Look at the quotations and the essay subjects below. Which quotation would be most relevant to each of the topics, and which type of essay does each topic require?

A. *"You're either part of the solution or you're part of the problem."* (Eldridge Cleaver)

B. *"A mother never realises that her children are no longer children."* (Holbrook Jackson)

C. *"One machine can do the work of 50 ordinary men. No machine can do the work of an extraordinary man."* (Elbert Hubbard)

D. *"Education is what survives when what has been learnt is forgotten."* (B.F. Skinner)

E. *"It is the familiar that usually eludes us in life. What is before our nose is what we see last."*

(Professor William Barret)

- 1 "Too much emphasis is placed on educational qualifications." What are your views?
- 2 "Teenagers have an important contribution to make to society." Discuss.
- 3 "It is everyone's responsibility to protect the environment." Discuss.
- 4 "People today take material comfort for granted." Do you agree?
- 5 "As technology advances, humans are becoming redundant." Discuss the problem and suggest what might be done to remedy the situation.



Useful Tips for Discursive Essays

- When writing a discursive essay, you **should**:
 - ✓ use formal, impersonal style (see *Formal Style*, p. 56)
 - ✓ use topic sentences to introduce the subject of each paragraph
 - ✓ write well-developed paragraphs, giving reasons/examples
 - ✓ use generalisations (e.g. *In most developed countries, education ...*)
 - ✓ use sequencing (e.g. *Firstly, Secondly, etc*) and linking words/phrases (e.g. *however, although, etc*)
 - ✓ make references to other sources (e.g. *Experts have proved that ...*)
 - ✓ use quotations, either word-for-word or in paraphrase, being careful to identify the source (e.g. *As Winston Churchill said, " ...*)
- You should **not**:
 - ✗ use short forms, informal/colloquial language, etc (see *Formal Style*, p. 56)
 - ✗ use very emotional language (e.g. *I absolutely detest people who ...*)
 - ✗ express personal opinions too strongly (e.g. *I know ...*); instead, use milder expressions (e.g. *It seems to me that ...*)
 - ✗ use over-generalisation (e.g. *All politicians are ...*)
 - ✗ refer blindly to statistics without accurate reference to their source (e.g. *"A recent study showed ..." — which study?*)
 - ✗ use clichés (e.g. *Rome was not built in a day.*)
 - ✗ use personal examples (e.g. *In my school ...*)

7 Read the two models and give reasons why model A is good and model B is bad.

"Money is not the most important thing in life." Discuss.



A Money is certainly something which is often discussed in today's world. Hardly a day goes by without the subject of money being raised in most people's lives. However, it is highly debatable whether it is more important than other considerations, such as health and happiness, which some people consider to be of greater significance.

To begin with, it is often argued that having money enables people to exert influence over others. Wealthy businessmen, for example, are often the most highly respected members of society, and business tycoons are often consulted by world leaders, who then make policies which affect the whole population. As a consequence, money can be seen as the single most important factor in daily life.

Secondly, from the point of view of the individual, money is vital for survival. Western society is structured in such a way that, without money, people are deprived of the means to obtain proper nutrition and health care. Furthermore, in some cases where state benefits are inadequate, the inability to pay heating bills can indeed become a matter of life and death. This is clearly illustrated by the fact that, according to Social Services, the majority of deaths due to hypother-

mia each winter occur among low-income groups.

On the other hand, many people claim that one of the factors in which is undoubtedly of greater importance than money is health. Izaak Walton said, health is "a blessing that money cannot buy. What is more, money is of little consolation to those who are suffering from health problems. Despite the fact that money can pay for the best medical care available, this is no guarantee of a longer life.

In addition, most people would agree that personal happiness easily outweighs money in importance. Even if an individual is extremely rich, this does not necessarily lead to happiness. In some cases, the contrary is true and vast wealth brings with it a whole range of problems and insecurities. Genuine happiness cannot be bought and is usually independent of financial status.

On the whole, although there are those who would rank money as the single most important thing in life, the vast majority would agree. Money, they argue, has an important part to play but perhaps the world would be a more harmonious place to live in if this were kept in proportion and society put more emphasis on moral issues.

B In recent years life has greatly improved. The standard of living is higher and all people can afford to buy things they couldn't in the past. I truly believe that life today is better than in the past because many things make people happy.

To begin with, unless people are healthy, a person's life is unbearable and not worth living. When my father was seriously ill in hospital, I clearly remember how nothing mattered to any of us, and we then learnt that the people we love are more important than money.

Then there's the question of your boyfriend or girlfriend. I don't think it matters if they're rich — although it would be nice! What is more important is whether you see eye to eye. I once went out with a really rich guy but we didn't get on and I finished with him. This shows that money isn't everything.

Also, statistics show that different people can be unhappy. Rich people can be just as unhappy as poor people. So why do some people always say that money is everything? I know they're wrong to think that. Money can't buy happiness.

But it's nice to live a life of luxury. Why take the bus when you can take a taxi? And why not send your children to the best schools and pay for the best doctors? There's no doubt about it, it's a good feeling being rich and powerful.

So, money is great — while it lasts! But you can't beat having a good time. So if you've got money, make the most of it and if you're happy, enjoy yourself.

The Discussion Clock

- When considering a topic you may refer to the discussion clock, which will help you think of ideas when planning your essay.
- Referring to the discussion clock is a useful "brainstorming" technique, as it helps you examine a topic from various viewpoints and decide on ideas/points to include in your essay.
- Keep in mind that a topic may not relate to all the aspects presented in the discussion clock.
- Remember that for each viewpoint you have thought of, there is usually an opposing argument. Think of the opposing arguments when planning your essay.

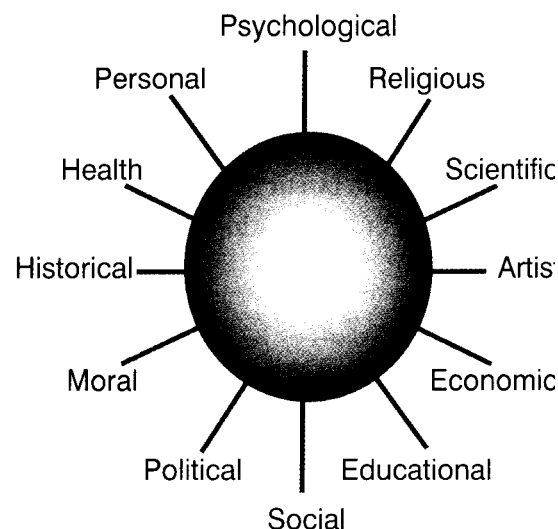
8 Match each of the following viewpoints with the corresponding opposing argument.

Viewpoints

- 1 From a political point of view, space exploration enables superpowers to demonstrate their level of technical advancement.
- 2 From a scientific standpoint, space exploration has been responsible for rapid developments in materials and processes which have also been of benefit to people on earth.
- 3 From an economic standpoint, the investment of time and money in space exploration could, in future, repay humanity many times over. The discovery of resources in outer space could be of great benefit to our planet.
- 4 Regarding the social implications of space exploration, there are those who argue that the potential that other planets hold for colonisation could prove to be the salvation of the human race.

Opposing Arguments


- a However, it can be argued that the money would be better spent on alleviating the problems of developing countries.
- b Nevertheless, many sociologists argue that colonies in space would create more social problems than they would solve.
- c On the other hand, some political analysts claim that the Space Race has led to unnecessary competition between nations and a consequent failure to cooperate and collaborate on international issues.
- d Opponents argue that space technology is of limited use to society and that the research could be used more profitably to try to solve some of the more pressing problems which we face.



9 Read the points below, and looking at the discussion clock identify the aspect each viewpoint relates to.

- 1 As far as is concerned, allowing cigarettes to be advertised is extremely damaging, since cigarette smoking causes cancer and heart problems, as well as affecting unborn babies.
- 2 From a standpoint, it may be argued that the individual faces such problems as depression, anxiety and attempted suicide, as a result of the pressures of modern life.
- 3 From a(n) viewpoint, popular sports create jobs for a large number of people in addition to generating income for the state.
- 4 As for the aspect, allowing children at school to express themselves more freely would help them to develop their creative talents.
- 5 With regard to matters, the use of computers gives students a chance to increase their knowledge and develop their research skills.

Q. For and Against Essays

- 1 What is genetic engineering? In what fields is it used today? What achievements do you know of that have been made in genetic engineering?
- 2  You will hear part of a TV discussion programme about genetics. Look at the points in favour of and against genetic engineering, then listen to the cassette and tick the points which the speakers mention.

FOR

- 1 choosing sex of our children ☐
- 2 creating ideal people for any job ☐
- 3 curing diseases ☐
- 4 providing food for everyone ☐
- 5 new species of plants created ☐

AGAINST

- 6 morally wrong to alter humans ☐
- 7 dividing world into rich and poor ☐
- 8 loss of national characteristics ☐
- 9 unpredictable consequences ☐
- 10 creating too large a population ☐

Now read the theory and the plan below and listen to the cassette again. Then, using the linking words and phrases below as well as your notes give a one-minute talk on the advantages and disadvantages of genetic engineering.

One major advantage of, A further advantage of, In addition, On the other hand, Moreover, Finally

A "for and against" essay is a formal piece of writing in which a topic is considered from opposing points of view. You should present both sides in a fair way by discussing them objectively and in equal detail.

A good essay of this type should consist of:

- a) an **introductory paragraph** in which you clearly state the topic to be discussed, without giving your opinion;
- b) a **main body** in which the points for and against along with your justifications, examples or reasons are presented in separate paragraphs; and
- c) a **closing paragraph** in which you state your opinion or give a balanced consideration of the topic.

Note: Opinion words (*I think, I believe, In my opinion, etc.*) can only be used in the closing paragraph where you give your opinion on the topic.

Points to consider

- Before you start writing your essay you should make a list of the points for and against.
- Each paragraph should start with a topic sentence which summarises the topic of the paragraph.
e.g. In addition, many people feel reading is a relaxing and worthwhile activity.
- Do not use informal style (*e.g. short forms, colloquial language, etc.*) or strong language to express your opinion (*e.g. I know ..., etc.*). Express your opinion in a non-emotional way (*e.g. It seems that, I therefore feel, ..., etc.*).
- Well-known quotations relevant to the topic you are writing about will make your composition more interesting. For example, if you are writing an essay on education, a quotation you may include is: *"Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance."* (Will Durant)

Note: Although these are "balanced" arguments, if you feel that either the *for* or *against* side is stronger and should be supported, this side should be presented in paragraphs 4 & 5, thus leading the reader to your conclusion.



Introduction

Paragraph 1

state topic (summary of the topic **without** giving your opinion)

Main Body

Paragraphs 2 & 3

arguments for & justifications, examples, and/ reasons

Paragraphs 4 & 5

arguments against & justification, examples, and/or reasons

Conclusion

Final Paragraph

balanced consideration/ your opinion directly or indirectly

- 3** Read the model below and write down the topic of each paragraph in the outline plan on the right. Underline the linking words. What aspects of the 'Discussion Clock' (page 59) do the points included relate to?

"Censorship is necessary in modern society." Discuss.

Censorship is an issue which frequently generates a great deal of heated debate, with supporters maintaining that it is vital in order to protect society, whilst opponents claim that it is an unjustifiable restriction of public access to information.

Firstly, all countries have secrets which must be safeguarded for reasons of national security. For instance, if an enemy country were to acquire such highly sensitive information, the effects could be catastrophic. Consequently, governments have to have the power to restrict access to information concerning areas such as the armed forces or particular aspects of foreign policy.

Secondly, it is often argued that censorship is necessary to prevent the broadcast and publication of obscene material which is considered offensive or harmful to public morals. Many people feel that, without censorship the public would be constantly subjected to material that the majority would find offensive. For this reason, the government has a duty to impose certain restrictions on the mass media by censoring films and texts which contain explicit scenes of sex, violence or foul language.

In contrast, opponents of censorship point out that when it is abused by governments, censorship becomes an instrument used to misinform society and maintain power. In order to control the flow of information which reaches the public, repressive regimes try to put constraints on the media, thus denying citizens the right to information owing to the fact that governments believe it may lead them to seek greater freedom.

Furthermore, it is generally felt that mature adults are able to make informed choices about what they watch, read and listen to and should, therefore, be permitted to make their own decisions. For example, some comedians make use of offensive language and taboo subjects in their performances. Critics of censorship argue that the only people who will watch or listen to such material are adults who have made a conscious decision to do so. Thus, it is claimed, it is unjust to censor material like this since it is not forced upon people who may subsequently be offended by it.

All things considered, it can be concluded that a certain degree of censorship is always necessary. The best course of action would be to attempt to achieve a balance between the requirements of the country and the public on the one hand, and individuals' rights on the other.

*** Introduction -**

Summary of the topic

*** Main Body -**

.....

.....

.....

.....

*** Conclusion -**

.....



Useful expressions and linking words/phrases

- **To list points:**
Firstly, First of all, In the first place, To begin/start with,
Secondly, Thirdly, Finally
- **To list advantages:**
One/Another/A further/An additional (major) advantage of ... is ...
The main/greatest/first advantage of ... is ...
- **To list disadvantages:**
One/Another/ A further/An additional (major) disadvantage/drawback of ...
The main/greatest/most serious/first disadvantage /drawback of ...
Another negative aspect of ...

- **To introduce points/arguments for or against:**
One (very convincing) point/argument in favour of ... / against ...,
A further common criticism of ... / It could be argued that ...

It is	often	claimed/suggested	
	widely	argued/maintained/	that ...
	generally	felt/believed/held	

some/many/ most people/experts/ scientists/sceptics/ critics	claim/suggest/argue/feel that ...		
	maintain/believe/point out/agree/hold that ...		
	advocate (+ing/noun)/support the view that ...		
	oppose the view that ...		
		in favour of/against ...	
	are	of the opinion that/convinced that ...	
		opposed to ...	

5 Fill in the gaps using words from the table.

- 1 Some people support the that the wealthier countries of the world should support the less developed countries.
- 2 One major of public transport is that it can get crowded during busy periods.
- 3 Environmentalists limiting the use of cars in the city centre.
- 4 Another negative of keeping pets is that veterinary bills can be extremely expensive.
- 5 It is widely that nuclear weapons should be banned worldwide to eliminate the threat of nuclear war.
- 6 A advantage of owning a mobile phone is that one can contact others from almost anywhere.

4 Complete the following sentences without changing the meaning of the sentence before.

- 1 It is widely maintained that recycling some products reduces the amount of damage we do to the environment.
Most people advocate
- 2 Some people still oppose the view that mothers can be career women too.
Some people feel
- 3 One argument against nuclear testing is that it has long-lasting effects on surrounding areas.
Sceptics point out that
- 4 It is generally held that harsher punishments for criminals would result in a decrease in the crime rate.
Many people support
- 5 Critics often argue that the use of computers is reducing levels of literacy.
A further common



Useful expressions and linking words/phrases

● To add more points to the same topic:

in addition (to this), furthermore, moreover, besides, apart from, what is more, as well as, not to mention (the fact) that, also, not only ... but also/as well, both ... and, There is another side to the issue/question/argument of ...

● To make contrasting points:

on the other hand,	it may be said/argued/claimed that, ...
however, still, yet,	others/
but, nonetheless,	many people
nevertheless, even so,	oppose this viewpoint (strongly) disagree ..., claim/feel/believe this argument is incorrect/misguided

although, though, even though, while, whilst, whereas, despite/in spite of (the fact that), regardless of the fact that

Opponents of ... argue/believe/claim that ...

The fact that ... contradicts the belief/idea that ...

While it is true to say that ... , in fact ...

While/Although ... , it cannot be denied that ...

6 Join the sentences using the words/phrases given in brackets.

- Pets can prove to be good companions. They teach children a sense of responsibility. (**not only**)
- Many people nowadays decide to open their own business. A slump in the economy has resulted in the closure of many small business. (**even though**)
- Computers are time-saving devices. They can do things which people could hardly do before. (**apart from**)
- Living in the countryside can be beneficial for your health. Some essentials are not so easily available in the country as in the city. (**despite**)
- Voting gives you a voice in the decisions of the government. It gives you a feeling of belonging to a larger community. (**not to mention that**)

7 Complete the following sentences, then replace the phrases in bold with other similar ones.

- Regardless of the fact that** country life can be much healthier than city life,
- Efforts have been made to reduce discrimination between men and women; **nonetheless**,
- In spite of** making some attempts to end wars worldwide,
- Many people feel that the testing of products on animals is cruel, **while**



8 Read the items below and say whether the second sentence presents an additional or contrasting point. Then, join the sentences using words/phrases from the table.

- Alternative medicines treat the symptoms of a disease. Conventional medicines treat the underlying cause of a disorder.
- Alternative medicine makes use of natural products rather than drugs. Alternative medicines are not tested on animals.
- Conventional doctors have recognisable and respected qualifications. Conventional treatments are widely available to everyone.
- People trust conventional treatments because they are tested scientifically. People are often suspicious of alternative methods which sometimes rely on a "trial and error" technique.
- Alternative treatments cause few or no side-effects. Conventional treatments can cause severe side-effects.

Useful expressions and linking words/phrases

- **To introduce examples:**
for example, for instance, such as, like, in particular, particularly, especially,
This is (clearly) illustrated/shown by the fact that...
One/A clear/striking/ typical example of (this) ...
The fact that shows/illustrates that ...
- **To emphasise a point:**
clearly, obviously, it is obvious, naturally, of course, needless to say, indeed
- **To express reality:**
In fact, the fact (of the matter) is, actually, in practice, it is a fact that, in effect
- **To make general statements:**
as a (general) rule, generally, in general, on the whole, by and large, in most cases
- **To make partially correct statements:**
to a certain extent/degree, to some extent/degree, in a way/sense, this is partly true (but), to a limited extent, there is some truth in (this), in some cases, up to a point
- **To explain/clarify a point:**
in other words, that is to say, this/which means that

9 Fill in the gaps using words/phrases from the list. Some words/phrases can be used more than once.

up to a point, especially, indeed, this means, needless to say, in general, in fact, the fact that, obviously, example

- 1, people have mixed feelings about the effects tourism has on a country.
- 2 Most people believe that computers always make life easier, but, the opposite is sometimes true since they often cause problems when they break down.
- 3 testing products on animals is cruel, but it is difficult to find a suitable alternative.
- 4 A typical of the benefits of country life is the fact that there is very little pollution from traffic.
- 5 more and more zoos are closing down shows that fewer people agree with keeping animals in captivity and, therefore, do not want to visit them any longer.
- 6 Using public transport can be a nuisance, when buses and trains are late during rush hour periods.
- 7 Advances in medical science mean that cures have been found for many diseases. people live longer nowadays.
- 8, most people agree that more effort should be made where the recycling of materials is concerned.
- 9 More and more women are going back to work after the birth of their children and they have to find someone to look after the children during the day.

Useful Language and linking words/phrases

- To express cause:** owing to, due to (fact that), on account of, on the grounds that, given that, because, as, since
- To express effect:** therefore, thus, as a result/consequence, consequently, for this reason, if ... were to happen the effect/ result would be ...
- To express intention:** to, so as to, in order to, so that, with the intention of (+ -ing)

10 Join the sentences using the linking words in the list below.

due to, in addition to, on the grounds that, therefore, with the intention of

- 1 The government has launched a campaign to promote new business in rural areas. They hope to draw people away from the large urban centres.
- 2 Television is a highly entertaining medium. It can also be an excellent educational tool.
- 3 Freedom of expression is one of the basic, inalienable rights. People should be allowed to publish books containing all their beliefs and ideas.
- 4 Consumerism is becoming more and more a part of modern societies. This is because of advertising and the mass media.
- 5 Many people object to smoking. This is because passive smoking can be extremely harmful to one's health.



Useful expressions and linking words/phrases

Conclusion expressing balanced considerations/opinion indirectly

In conclusion,	it can/must be said/claimed that ...
On balance,	it seems/appears that ...
All things considered,	it would seem that ...
Taking everything into account/consideration,	it is likely/unlikely/possible/foreseeable that ...
To conclude,	it is clear/obvious that ...
To sum up,	there is no/little doubt that ...
All in all,	the best course of action would be to ...
Finally/Lastly,	achieving a balance between ... would be ..
	it is true to say that ...
	although it must be said that ...
	it may be concluded/said that ...

All things considered, the obvious conclusion to be drawn is that .../
 There is no absolute answer to the question of ...
 In the light of this evidence, it is clear/obvious/etc that ...

In conclusion,	clear/apparent			evidence
All in all,	it is plain/obvious	from the	above	points
To sum up,	evident		foregoing	arguments

Conclusion expressing opinion directly

In conclusion,	it is my belief/opinion that ...
On balance,	I (firmly) believe/feel/think that ...
All things considered,	I am convinced that ...
Taking everything into account/consideration,	I am inclined to believe that ...
To conclude,	I (do not) agree that/with ...
To sum up,	
All in all,	

Taking everything into account, I therefore conclude/feel/believe (that) ...
 For the above-mentioned reasons, therefore, I (firmly) believe that ...

NOTE:

- A "for and against" essay can end in a **balanced consideration** in which you restate that there are points **for** and **against** the topic using appropriate expressions from the table.
- Alternatively, it can end by expressing an **opinion**, in which case you state, directly or indirectly, that you are either in favour of **or** against the topic, using expressions from the table.

12 Read the conclusions below and say whether they express a balanced consideration, or the writer's opinion directly/indirectly.

- 1 To conclude, although it must be said that a sense of responsibility is one of the most important qualities which can be instilled in young people, it should not be forgotten that there are other, equally important qualities.
- 2 For the above-mentioned reasons, therefore, I firmly believe that if people are taught a keen sense of responsibility towards themselves and others, then they will have the best possible start in life. The way I see it, taking full responsibility for one's own actions is central to leading an honest life.
- 3 To sum up, it would seem that, once young people know how to take responsibility for their actions, they are better equipped to learn about life. While there are other important qualities, a highly-developed sense of responsibility provides the ideal foundation for personal development.
- 4 On balance, it seems that a sense of responsibility has a role to play in a young person's development. Nevertheless, when placed alongside other human qualities, such as honesty and integrity, it is by no means the most useful.

11 Replace the phrases in bold with other similar ones.

- 1 **All things considered, I believe that** corporal punishment should not be reintroduced into our schools as it is a cruel method of disciplining students.
- 2 **Lastly, it may be concluded that** freedom of speech is a basic right of every individual, regardless of race or creed.
- 3 **To conclude, I am convinced that** all the governments of the world should embark immediately on a joint policy of total disarmament.
- 4 **To conclude, it is clear that** in the light of the many miscarriages of justice in the past, capital punishment is not ethical or humane, and should be abandoned entirely.
- 5 **In conclusion, it is my opinion** that school uniforms are an unfortunate necessity and therefore should not be abolished.



- 13** Read the main body of the for and against essay below on the topic: *"Discuss the view that advertising promotes excessive consumerism."* Then read the beginnings and endings and say which of the techniques on p. 56 has been used in each one. Finally, replace the bold type words or phrases in the main body with ones similar in meaning.

BEGINNINGS...

- 1 Whether it is on TV, radio or hoardings at the side of the road, advertisements have become a part of our lives. advertising simply a means of informing the public or does it encourage consumers to purchase products they do not really need?
- 2 Advertising is a powerful and persuasive medium. You may feel this is an intrusion in your daily life, and resent the pressure on you to spend money. Others, however, enjoy the variety which this highly creative industry brings to everyday life.
- 3 Advertising is an effective way of selling new products, and many people argue that its effectiveness brainwashes people into unnecessary spending. Others, however, disagree. As Jeremy Tunstall says, "Advertising can't sell any product: it can only help to sell a product the people want to buy."

One of the main arguments for advertising is that it generates wealth for a country. That is to say, taxes paid on goods sold, help governments to pay for essential services **such as** education and health care. **Moreover**, the number of jobs created for producing, marketing and servicing these goods helps to reduce the unemployment problem, which is also a great advantage for a country's economy.

What is more, advertising raises money for a huge number of sporting events and artistic performances which would otherwise not be held. Without sponsorship from companies who advertise their products, these events would disappear due to lack of funding. **In other words**, although consumerism is promoted through advertising, it is beneficial to **both** the consumer **and** society.

On the other hand, advertisements can cause

people to be dissatisfied with what they already have, and make them want more. Being exposed again and again to products which one cannot afford produces frustration and dissatisfaction. **Furthermore**, not all parents are in a position to afford the goods which their children see advertised and want to possess. This often leads to feelings of inadequacy, **especially** among the less well-off.

In addition to this, advertising creates materialism and causes people to place too much importance on material goods. The fact that people are prepared to work long hours, or even turn to crime **in order to** gain the goods on offer, shows that advertising persuades people to go to great lengths to keep the same standard of living as those they see around them. It is a fact, though, that neither crime nor the stress caused by overwork can benefit society.

...ENDING

- A To sum up, it is true to say that** advertising does provide some benefits. **However**, do you not agree that the drawbacks of a greedy, materialistic society far outweigh the advantages, and we need to be careful that we do not lose sight of what is most important — a spirit of co-operation rather than competition?
- B To conclude, it must be said that**, while advertising may create jealousy and inequality in society, without it we would lose a valuable source of revenue which is used for the benefit of the majority. What would our lives be like without advertisements?
- C In conclusion, I believe that** advertising exists to generate wealth by encouraging people to spend unnecessarily. It fosters greed and breeds dissatisfaction while distracting us from focusing on more vital things. As Marion Harper said, "Advertising is found in societies which have passed the point of satisfying the basic animal needs."

- 14** Read the four topic sentences below and match each with the corresponding paragraph. Does each topic sentence adequately summarise the argument it presents? What would a suitable introduction and conclusion be for this essay?

"Living in a foreign country cannot be better than living in your own."
Discuss.

- a Furthermore, people who move to a foreign country may be regarded with suspicion and treated unfairly.
- b On the other hand, living abroad can be a way to escape a variety of problems presented in one's country of birth.
- c One argument in favour of staying in one's native country is that the problems of adapting to a new way of life cannot always be overcome.
- d Finally, it may be said that by living in a foreign country, people are able to establish a greater understanding between nations.

- 15** Which of the following are arguments in favour and which are arguments against the topic: ***"School plays a more important role than the family in shaping one's personality."*** Discuss. Suggest examples/justification for each argument. Finally, write the composition in about 350 words.

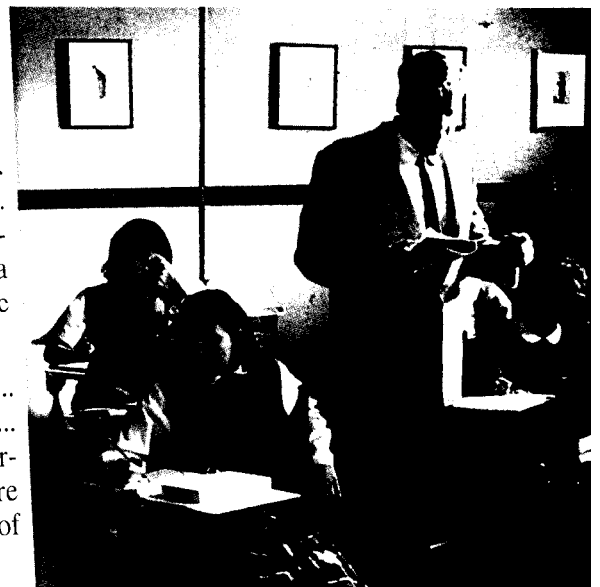
- 1 Moreover, so much of the school day is devoted to competition and preparation for examinations that there is little time left for personality development.
- 2 On the other hand, most children have a closer relationship with their parents than with their teachers.
- 3 An additional argument in support of school is that young people are exposed to a wide variety of subjects.
- 4 One point in favour of the role of schools is that it is at school where children first learn to socialise.
- 5 Furthermore, children usually spend five years of their lives at home before they even go to school.
- 6 What is more, the average child spends as many as eight hours a day in school.

1
The fact of the matter is that, even in cases where the language is the same, there are other changes, such as cultural differences, which an outsider might find difficult to adjust to. Even the weather can force some people to return to their country of origin. For example, take an Inuit and an Amazonian Indian. They would almost certainly find it impossible to adapt to the extreme climates of each other's native homes.

2
In countries with a large number of immigrants there are often social problems, and immigrants stand out as being "different" and even inferior. As a consequence, the host country may react in a variety of ways, from open hostility and racism to depriving the immigrants of the right to equal pay.

3
For example, war, political or religious intolerance, and natural catastrophes are among the reasons for people seeking a new home in a foreign land. In such cases, people are often able to start a new life abroad with greater freedom and a higher standard of living.

4
That is to say, by working and living among foreigners, some of the barriers between countries can be broken down, helping to create a more peaceful world. Needless to say, better diplomatic relations would be of benefit to all.

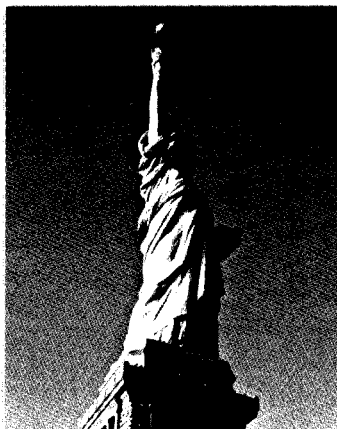


PLANNING & ORGANISATION

- There is an alternative paragraph plan you may use when writing for and against essays. When following this plan you present **both** an argument in favour **and** the opposing viewpoint in the **same paragraph**.

In such essays the arguments for and against must be equal in number. For the introduction and conclusion you should use the techniques suggested on p. 56.

- 16** *"Greater freedom does not necessarily lead to greater happiness." Discuss.* Read the model and say which arguments have been presented in each paragraph. Do the topic sentences clearly summarise the content of each paragraph? Finally, underline all the useful expressions and linking words or phrases and replace them with ones similar in meaning.



Introduction

Paragraph 1

State topic (summary of topic without stating your opinion)

Main Body

Paragraph 2

first argument for & against

Paragraph 3*

second argument for & against

Conclusion

Final Paragraph

give balanced consideration/ your opinion expressed directly/indirectly

* You may include more paragraph in the main body if you wish to include more points

Over the years, mankind has recognised the need for personal and social freedom, and this is perhaps one of the most important social advancements ever made. However, whether it has led to increased personal happiness is highly debatable; many people would argue that greater freedom has led to increased social disorder and personal dissatisfaction.

Firstly, it is true that people are now more at liberty to choose how to live their lives. For example, in the Western world at least, the choice of where to live, what career to pursue and which religion to follow has never been greater. In addition to this, people have more leisure time in which to enjoy a wider range of recreational activities. On the other hand, it can be argued that this increased freedom can lead people to take things for granted and expect too much from life. As an example of this, the greater choice of material goods available has resulted in people quickly growing bored with their possessions. Consequently, no sooner have they acquired something new than they tire of it. They find short-term happiness in material goods and entertainment, but boredom and frustration soon send them looking for fresh distractions.

Secondly, social and moral attitudes have become less rigid. This has allowed for a greater variety of lifestyles and more freedom in human relations. This is illustrated by the fact that pupils and teachers now treat each other as equals, and parent-child relationships are now much more relaxed. Nevertheless, some people believe that this increase in freedom has resulted in the escalation of social problems. They argue that the current lack of discipline has given rise to a breakdown in the traditional family and the decay in educational standards as well as the rise in juvenile delinquency. Thus, it may be said that society is becoming more and more dangerous because of the very fact that people are more open-minded than they were in the past.

To conclude, there is evidence both to support and refute the view that greater freedom does not necessarily lead to greater happiness. On the one hand, people have more opportunities to raise their standard of living. On the other hand, the many examples of protests, strikes and criminal activities which are a feature of modern society are a sign that although people may be free, they are not necessarily happier.


- 17** Read the following arguments and match each argument in favour of using animals for entertainment with the corresponding argument against. Then, following the paragraph plan on page 68, say which arguments you would include in each paragraph. Finally, write a clear topic sentence for each paragraph.

Arguments for using animals for entertainment.

- 1 Zoos can be educational and also help to increase the numbers of endangered species through controlled breeding programmes.
- 2 Animals used in television programmes, advertisements and films are very appealing and attract large audiences.
- 3 Circus animals are loved, well-treated and only perform for short periods.
- 4 Racing animals have a very short working life and are well-treated throughout.

Arguments against using animals for entertainment.

- a Animals are forced to perform unnatural acts for the pleasure of the public.
- b Keeping animals in cages so the public can see them is unnecessary because documentaries produced today take away the need for such places.
- c With new technology and special effects, there is no need to use live animals as realistic models can be used instead.
- d Racing animals have gruelling training schedules and are often placed in unnecessary danger.

- 18**  First, think of as many points for and against early retirement as possible. Then listen to the cassette and fill in the gaps in the boxes below. Were your arguments the same as those you heard? Finally, write the paragraph plan you would use if you were to write an essay on the topic:

"Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of early retirement."

FOR

- time for and
- opportunity to
- more free time and friends

AGAINST

- people get
- difficult to live
- waste of

DISCUSS & WRITE


- 19** Read the following composition topic and answer the questions below.

"Should countries encourage tourism?" Discuss.

- What are the two sides of the question?
- Which of the following arguments are for and which against?
 - 1 The desire to attract tourists to a certain area often encourages governments to improve local facilities.
 - 2 Over-development leads to ugly, crowded tourist spots and environmental damage.
 - 3 The impact of tourism may destroy the local way of life.
 - 4 Many people claim that tourism is an important source of income.
 - 5 A country's economy may become so dependent on tourism that it is weakened.
 - 6 Tourism allows people to experience other cultures.
- What aspects of the discussion clock do these arguments deal with?
- Can you think of any additional arguments?
- Which paragraph plan would you follow to write this essay?
- Which arguments would you include and in what order?
- Which techniques would you use to begin and end your essay?
- Which useful phrases and linking words could you use?

- 20** Now, using the information from your answers to the above questions, write the essay in about 350 words.

b. Opinion Essays

- 1 What are your views on the question, "Should people convicted of minor crimes do community service rather than go to prison?"
- 2  Read the viewpoints and reasons mentioned in the table below, then listen to the cassette and match each of the viewpoints with the appropriate reason. Then, identify which aspects of the Discussion Clock on p. 59 the points relate to. Finally, using the notes, give a one-minute talk on the subject, using words from the following list.

I firmly believe

The reason for this

In addition

For example/instance

Furthermore

Because

Finally

VIEWPOINTS	REASONS
1 Community service saves taxpayers' money	a Punishment includes providing care for the aged, maintaining parks, etc
2 Benefits other members of the community directly	b They keep their jobs, live at home with their families, etc
3 Prison turns minor offenders into hardened criminals	c Prisons are expensive to run, while community service costs little
4 Minor offenders doing community service remain part of normal society	d To survive prison life, they must become like other prisoners

An opinion essay is a formal piece of writing. It requires your opinion on a topic, which must be stated clearly, giving various viewpoints on the topic supported by reasons and/or examples. You should also include the opposing viewpoint in another paragraph.

A successful opinion essay should have:

- a) **an introductory paragraph** in which you state the topic and your opinion.
- b) **a main body** which consists of several paragraphs, each presenting a separate viewpoint supported by reasons. You also include a paragraph presenting the opposing viewpoint and reason why you think it is an unconvincing viewpoint; and
- c) **a conclusion** in which you restate your opinion using different words.

Points to consider

- Decide whether you agree or disagree with the subject of the topic, then make a list of your viewpoints and reasons.
- Write well-developed paragraphs, joining the sentences with appropriate linking words and phrases. Do not forget to start each paragraph with a topic sentence which summarises what the paragraph is about.
- Linking words and phrases should also be used to join one paragraph with the other.
- Apply techniques presented on p. 56 to begin and end your essay.

Introduction

Paragraph 1

state the topic and your opinion clearly

Main Body

Paragraph 2

viewpoint 1 & reason, example

Paragraph 3

viewpoint 2 & reason, example

Paragraph 4

viewpoint 3 & reason, example*

Paragraph 5

opposing viewpoint & reason/example*

Conclusion

Final Paragraph

summarise/restate opinion

* You may include more viewpoints, and thus more paragraphs in the main body

- 3 Read the model below and complete the paragraph plan on the right, identifying the topic of each paragraph. Has the opposing viewpoint been included, and if so, in which paragraph? Then, replace the linking words or phrases in bold type with other synonymous ones.

Throughout this century, the role of women within society has changed, and the majority of people feel that this change is for the better. More women work than ever before, and it is accepted in Western culture that many women now have careers. Nonetheless, **in my opinion** there is still a great deal of sexual discrimination against women within society, and the belief that sexual equality has been achieved is not altogether accurate.

To begin with, many women find it very difficult to return to work after having children. The main reason for this is that there are rarely any provisions made for childcare in the workplace and, in these cases, women are forced to find someone to look after the children while they are at work. Obviously, this can prove to be a time-consuming and expensive process, yet it must be done if mothers are to be able to resume their careers.

"Although the position of women in society today has improved, there is still a great deal of sexual discrimination." Do you agree?

Secondly, the traditional views of the position of women within society are so deeply ingrained that they have

not really changed. **For instance**, not only is the view that women should stay at home and look after their family still widely held, but it is reinforced through images seen on television programmes and advertisements. **An example of this** is that few men are ever seen doing housework on television, since this is traditionally thought of as "a woman's job".

Thirdly, since families often need two incomes in order to enjoy a good standard of living, a woman finds herself doing two jobs: one at home and one at the office. So, it could be said that a woman's position has, in fact, deteriorated rather than improved, with the result that women carry the burdens of equality but get none of the benefits.

In contrast, there are some people who claim that the problem of sexual discrimination no longer exists. They point out that women do, after all, have legal rights intended to protect them from discrimination. **In addition**, a few women are now beginning to reach top positions as judges, business leaders and politicians, while a number of other previously all-male professions are opening their ranks to women. **Nonetheless**, these examples are not the norm and discrimination is still very much with us.

Taking these points into consideration, I would say that the position of women has improved only slightly. **While** rules and laws have changed, it is the deep-rooted opinions of people within society which are taking a longer time to evolve. **Needless to say**, until these attitudes have changed, sexual discrimination will remain a problem which we all need to face and fight against.

• **Introduction** -

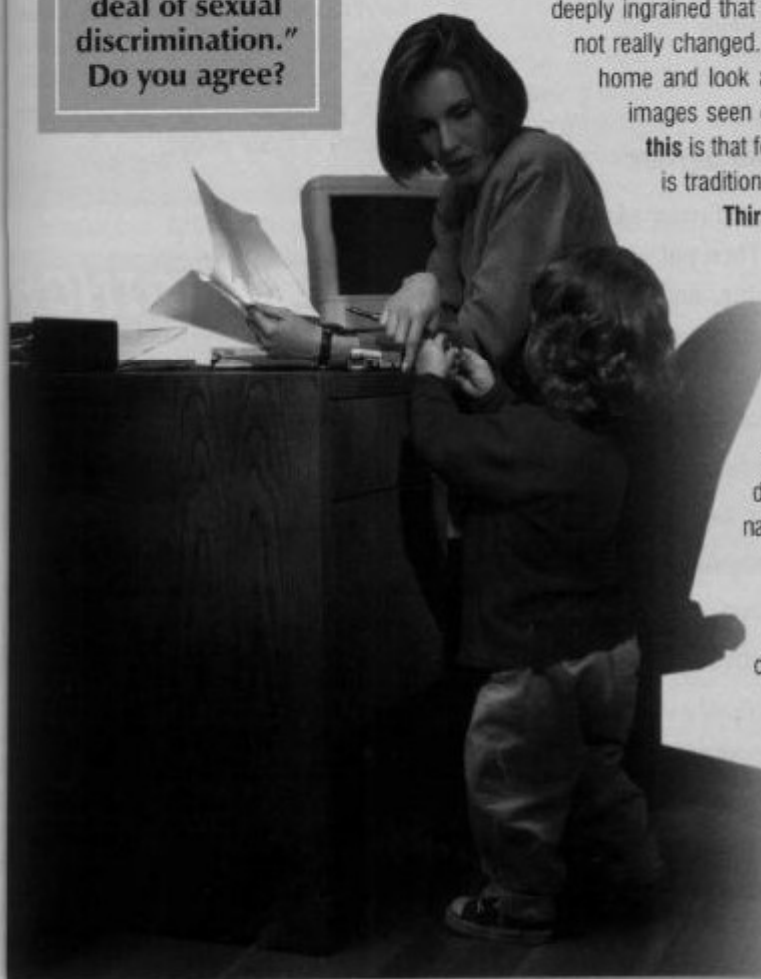
summary of the topic -
clear statement of opinion

• **Main Body** -

-
-
-
-

• **Conclusion** -

.....
.....



Useful Expressions for Giving Opinions:

- To my mind/To my way of thinking, ...
- It is my (firm) belief/opinion/view/conviction (that) ...
- In my opinion/view ... My opinion is that,
- I (firmly) believe ... I (definitely) feel/think that ...
- I am (not) convinced that ... I am inclined to believe that ...
- I (do not) agree that/with ... It seems/appears to me ...
- It strikes me that ... As far as I am concerned, ...

4 Look at the following skeleton sentences and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement. Then, give your opinion on each, using expressions from the above table and expanding the sentences.

- 1 television / have / negative effect / society
- 2 carry out experiments / animals / be / morally wrong
- 3 wildlife parks, if / be / managed properly, / can help / protection / certain endangered species
- 4 real problem / be / lack / public awareness / and / not / lack / recycling facilities
- 5 more responsibility / one / have / less freedom one / enjoy
- 6 only alternative / some poor people / be / steal

5 *"It is important to follow fashion."* Do you agree?

Identify whether the arguments listed below are in favour of (F) or against (A) the statement in the essay title above. Then put a tick (✓) against each argument which you feel is convincing, and suggest a suitable justification or example. Finally, add any further arguments of your own.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A | 1 expensive to keep up with changing fashions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 not accepted by friends/peers unless fashionable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 certain fashions don't suit certain people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 good clothes thrown away when fashion changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 fashion helps people decide how to dress |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 fashionable clothes/etc often impractical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 dressing fashionably increases self-confidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 unfair to people who can't afford latest fashion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 everyone looks the same, like flock of sheep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 creates image that doesn't show one's character |

6 *"Traditional values are irrelevant to modern society."* Do you agree?

Look at the following beginnings and endings for the essay, and say which have been taken from an opinion essay and which from a for and against essay. In what ways do they differ?

BEGINNINGS...

- 1 Has modern society changed so much that the values of the past no longer have any place? In my view, society will always need values, and the society we live in today would function better if traditional values were retained.
- 2 Imagine you were given the chance to step back in time. You would probably be struck by the difference in values between then and now. On the one hand it could be said that those values belong to a bygone age. There are those, however, who feel that society today would benefit from the application of some of those values.

...ENDINGS

- a) To conclude, traditional values are clearly necessary for the proper functioning of society. However, it cannot be denied that society is evolving, and values should also change with the times. If this were to happen, perhaps people would no longer look back nostalgically to the past and talk about the "Good old days."
- b) To sum up, I strongly believe that, whatever changes may occur in society, we must fight to maintain our traditional sense of right and wrong. As Pope Paul VI said: "We must see to it that enthusiasm for the future does not give rise to contempt for the past."

- 7** Read the main body of the essay below on the topic: "State benefits should be available to all." Do you agree? Then, read the beginnings and endings and say which of the techniques on p. 56 has been used in each one. Next, list the viewpoints presented and the justifications or examples given for each. Finally, replace the bold type words or phrases with other synonymous ones.

BEGINNINGS...

- 1 A man wakes up and sees well-shod feet rushing by within inches of his face. His filthy sleeping bag is damp, and the sodden cardboard box which shelters him is about to collapse. Yet, he cannot afford a real home and state benefits are not available to him. This situation is not uncommon although, in my opinion, such unfortunate people should all be eligible for financial aid.
- 2 Have you ever wondered what it must be like to wake up on a cold pavement, knowing that you will have to spend the day wandering from place to place, penniless, and hungry? For thousands of people in the western world this is an everyday experience - although in my opinion, it does not have to be that way if the state administers benefits properly and fairly.
- 3 George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "The greatest of evils and the worst of crimes is poverty." The question is why the homeless, the disabled and the elderly should be treated like criminals by the state rather than be given the help and services they rightfully deserve. I believe that all people in need should be given help and support by the state.

In the first place, I think it is wrong to deny state benefits to any person in need. **It seems to me** totally unfair that a homeless person should be denied state benefits simply because he or she has no fixed address. **In effect**, the homeless person is being punished for being homeless, **whereas** state benefits would allow that person to find and maintain a home.

In addition, it is not only the homeless who suffer from lack of state aid but the handicapped are also neglected. **Although** all disabled people are entitled to state benefits, many are unaware of the range and variety of benefits they could be receiving in order to improve the quality of their lives. **This is a result of** the complexity of the state system and the lack of clear information about benefits. **It appears that** these people are suffering for the simple reason that the state does not care enough to make information freely available to those who are **clearly** in need of financial help.

Furthermore, the elderly are another sector of society who suffer both from lack of information and lack of concern. It is often the case that medical benefits are denied simply because a person is not visibly or dramatically ill, **whereas** in fact this person is in need of additional benefits **in order to** maintain a reasonable level of health. Such people **obviously** deserve to receive all the benefits they are entitled to.

There are those who argue, on the other hand, that many people receive state aid although they do not deserve it. **It is true that there** is such a problem. Certain people take advantage of the system by registering for benefits in more than one country, or claim to have dependents who do not even exist. **It is my belief that** it is the responsibility of the state to impose tighter controls so that only those who are truly in need of benefits receive them.

...ENDINGS

- A While it cannot be denied that state benefits are sometimes wasted on those who do not deserve them, it is my firm belief that, with proper controls, all those who are truly in need should receive financial help from the state. I believe that the homeless, the disabled and the elderly should all be given the chance to lead productive and healthy lives.
- B All in all, I believe that all deserving people should receive state benefits so that they have the chance to lead productive and healthy lives. If you suddenly found yourself out of work and homeless, wouldn't you expect the state to help you get back on your feet again?
- C To sum up, it would seem that benefits should be available to all who deserve them, and that clear information should be made available to all who may be in need of help. It is the responsibility of the state to give all its citizens the chance to lead productive and healthy lives.

- 8** Read the following extracts and the table of “Do’s” and “Don’ts”. Find an example of each point in the extracts, and write this in the table.

“The mass media have an adverse effect on moral standards.”
Do you agree?

A Newspapers, in one form or another, have been in existence for centuries, their purpose being to spread news. Public radio and television services, on the other hand, have only been available in the UK since 1922 and 1932 respectively, and were introduced with the intention of informing, educating and entertaining. While radio seems to have largely maintained its standards, newspapers and TV have, in my opinion, totally abused their position of power, resulting in a serious decline in moral standards. As Richard Hoggart said, “They are full of a corrupt brightness, of improper appeals and moral evasions ...”.

Perhaps the most serious offender is television, as today’s broadcasters seem to have completely abandoned the issue of ethics. This is more than apparent in the films and programmes which are intended to entertain, as they bombard the viewer with explicit language, sex and violence. Similarly, the news “informs” us using devastating images of grief, desperation and death. It is often felt that by exposing the public to such graphic depictions, television producers have contributed to our becoming immune to shocking behaviour and events which, in the past, we would have been upset or offended by.

Furthermore, newspapers, especially the tabloids, have come to depend on overly-explicit articles and pictures in order to guarantee sales. It is commonplace nowadays to see, for instance, photographs of celebrities’ most private moments or horrific scenes of death occupying the front pages of daily publications. The fact that these images are intended — and generally manage — to sell newspapers displays the craving for sensationalism which exists within society today.

In contrast, it must be admitted that the mass media have a lot to offer in the way of information and entertainment. The news and documentaries can be very informative and educational as long as the material is handled in a responsible manner. The problem is that, because people are willing victims of the media’s irresponsibility, the media continue to produce material which is unacceptable by all moral standards.

To conclude, it is clear that the public have a right to know and that producers should be allowed a certain degree of artistic licence, but should we not draw the line somewhere before we lose sight of our principles altogether?

B I definitely agree with this statement, and there are many reasons why. The media include newspapers, magazines, radio and television. All of these play an important role in society because they give us information and entertainment, and of course everybody is interested in them, so that makes them popular.

Every single day on the news, however, you can see horrible, bloody scenes with people screaming and crying. Perhaps there’s been a bomb or other disaster. We can see the injured people, and blood and of course it’s all real. I find this extremely appalling and disgusting. Of course, TV is interesting sometimes, especially documentaries and other real-life programmes. I also like comedies and cartoons, but nobody likes being shocked or horrified.

In my opinion, there are numerous examples. My little brother was watching a horror film one evening, and when he went to bed he had terrible nightmares. And there have been cases of children trying to do things their superheroes do, such as jumping off buildings. According to statistics, at least half of the young children have had such problems, which is pretty shocking.

A lot of stars have problems too. Reporters and photographers hound them everywhere and they never have a moments’ peace. But then, everything in life has its price. This of course is bad for moral standards because we shouldn’t know about these people’s private lives. I think this should be kept under control.

But the worst thing is when they show a private tragedy on TV for everyone to watch. I think this is terrible, and should be stopped.

DO’S

formal style

introduction states topic clearly

clear topic sentences

well-developed paragraphs

linking words & phrases

generalisation

quotation

examples

DON’TS

informal style a) colloquial expressions
 b) short forms

introduction fails to state topic clearly

unclear/irrelevant topic sentences

emotive vocabulary

over-generalisation

blind use of statistics

personal examples

use of clichéd expressions

9 "Cars enslave us rather than liberate us." Do you agree?

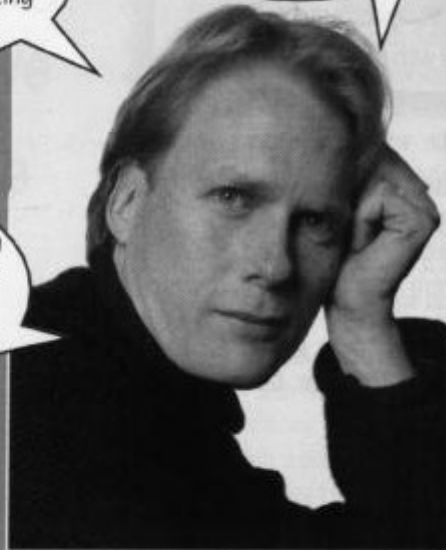
Give your opinion with reasons. Then read what these two people believe and match the viewpoints they express with their reasons.

2 Also, people who own cars are always worried about their cars being stolen or damaged.

1 In the first place, you must work much harder in order to afford a car.

3 I'm also of the opinion that the quality of life in our cities is made worse because of cars.

4 Cars enable you to go to places and do things that you couldn't otherwise.



a For example, there are traffic jams all the time which cause a lot of inconvenience, and the pollution gets worse every day, so the city is becoming a worse and worse place to live.

b To be exact, you can take off for the coast, or any other place, at a moment's notice and if there is no public transport to a place it doesn't matter.

c That is to say cars are not only expensive to buy but cost a lot to run, too. So, you have to work more hours if you want to have a car and still be able to live a decent life.

d In order to cope with this worry they have to install expensive alarm systems and, to make matters worse, car-owners have to avoid areas of the city where cars get broken into or stolen.



DISCUSS & WRITE

- Can you think of any additional arguments for and/or against the topic in Exercise 9?
- What paragraph plan would you follow to write this essay?
- Which arguments would you include and in what order?
- What techniques could you use to begin and end this essay?
- Suggest a suitable introduction and conclusion.
- Is the style in which the arguments are expressed appropriately formal? Why (not)?
- What useful expressions could you use?

10 Now, using the notes and answers to the questions in Ex. 9 and above, write a composition on the topic "*Cars enslave us rather than liberate us.*" in about 350 words, using appropriately formal style, useful expressions and linking words or phrases.

C. Essays Suggesting Solutions to Problems

- 1 You will hear two people discussing the problem of stress and what can be done about it. Look at the table below and match the suggestions with the results; then listen to the cassette and check your answers. Finally, use the linking expressions listed below to explain each suggestion and its result in your own words.

SUGGESTIONS	RESULTS
1 talk to friends	a feel more relaxed
2 take more exercise	b clear your mind
3 find an hour a day for yourself	c see things differently
4 make a list of your worries	d deal with problems individually

A useful suggestion ... would be to ...

Another solution is to ...

The problem could be solved by ...

If you were to ...

This would help you to ...

The effect of this would be ...

As a result, you would ...

You would be able to ...

- e.g. *A useful suggestion for anyone suffering from stress would be to talk to friends about their problems. This would help them to see things differently.*

An essay discussing problems and suggesting solutions is a formal piece of writing. You should state the problem and its causes clearly, then present your suggestions and the expected results or consequences these might have.

A successful essay of this type should consist of:

- an **introductory paragraph** in which you clearly state the problem, what has caused it, and the consequences;
- a **main body** in which you present several suggested solutions, each in a separate paragraph together with its consequences/results; and
- a **conclusion** in which you summarise your opinion.

Points to consider

- Each paragraph should start with a topic sentence which summarises what the paragraph is about.
- Appropriate linking words and phrases should be used to show the connection between paragraphs as well as to link sentences within a paragraph.
- Use the techniques shown on p. 56 to begin and end your essay.

Useful Language

- To express cause:** since/because, in view of/because of/owing to/due to (the fact that) ..., The reason that .../why .../for ... is that...
- To express effect:** thus/therefore/so/consequently, as a result/consequence, the result of ... would be ..., ...would result in ...
- To express purpose:** so that ..., so as/in order (not) to ..., with the purpose of/intention of (+ ing)
- To express possibility/probability:** It can/could/may/might ..., It is possible/probable/(un)likely/foreseeable/certain that ..., ...is (un)likely to/bound to/certain to/possible/probable ..., The likelihood/possibility/probability of (-ing/noun) is ...



Introduction

Paragraph 1

state the problem and its cause(s)/consequence(s)

Main Body

Paragraph 2

suggestion 1 & result

Paragraph 3

suggestion 2 & result

Paragraph 4

suggestion 3 & result

Paragraph 5

suggestion 4 & result*

Conclusion

Final Paragraph

summarise your opinion

- * You may include more suggestions, and thus more paragraphs in the main body.

- 2 Read the model below and complete the paragraph plan on the right. Then identify which aspects of the Discussion Clock (p. 59) have been mentioned. Finally, underline the linking words/phrases and replace them with synonymous ones.

"What could be done to improve the lives of the elderly?"

For many elderly people the latter part of their life is not a time to relax and enjoy retirement, but rather a difficult and unhappy period, owing to financial worries, failing health and loneliness. As life expectancy increases, the average person lives well beyond the age of retirement. As a result, the elderly make up an ever-increasing percentage of society, which makes it more important than ever for a real effort to be made in improving the lives of senior citizens.

One way to deal with the situation would be to ensure that the elderly have enough money on which to live.

Obviously, when a person stops working, they still require a source of income to cover their basic needs such as food, accommodation and heating. A clear solution to the problem is for the government to make sure that the state pension is adequate for these needs. Furthermore, free financial advice should be made available to retired people so that the stress of worrying about money could be reduced as far as possible.

Steps should also be taken to overcome problems the elderly face as a result of deteriorating health due to old age, and inadequate health-care provisions. Again, the responsibility should fall to the government to provide access to the best health care available, which may necessitate paying for residential homes where the elderly can have round-the-clock nursing, or, at the very least, providing medication free of charge to all people over a certain age. As a result, old people would enjoy not only better health, but also peace of mind from the knowledge that they need not fear falling ill and being unable to pay for treatment.

The lives of old people could also be improved if attempts were made to address the problem of social isolation which so many of them face. If we organised trips for the elderly to community centres, visits from social workers or free bus passes to allow pensioners greater mobility, the effect would be to alleviate the problem of loneliness which marks the lives of so many old people living alone and far from their families.

One final suggestion, which would help enormously, is to change the attitude of the community towards its older members, who are all too often seen as a burden on society and dismissed as having little to do with modern life. We need to be taught from an early age to respect the views of old people, and appreciate their broader experience of life. This would help society as a whole, and encourage appreciation of the role that old people can still play today.

To sum up, there are several measures which could be taken to improve the lives of old people. If the government and individuals alike were to help, it would make retirement and old age a time to look forward to, rather than dread.

* *Introduction* -

state problem, reasons and consequences

* *Main Body* -

- *
- *
- *
- *

* *Conclusion* -

.....



Useful Expressions: Problems & Solutions

Steps Measures	should must could	be taken	so as to in order to	solve/overcome/combat ... deal with/eradicate ...
-------------------	-------------------------	----------	-------------------------	--

Serious attempts to halt/prevent/solve ... must be made.

- One (possible)
Another
An alternative
 - People
Governments
We
 - If steps/measures were taken to ...
If ... happened/were to happen,
If attempts were made to address the problem
By (+ing) ..., we/governments/etc, can ensure that /prevent ...
The ... situation could be improved if .../It would be a good idea if ...
 - The
- | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| way to | solve/overcome
combat/deal with
eradicate | this problem
the problem (of) ... | would be/
is ... |
| should focus their/
our attention
on ways | to solve/overcome the problem of ...
to improve the situation of ...
to reduce the impact of ... on society ... | | |
| | the effect/result/
consequence
would be ... | | |
| effect/consequence
outcome/result | of (+noun/-ing) | would
might | be ... |

3 Look at the topic below, then read the suggested solutions (1-4) and match each with its corresponding result (a-d). Finally, complete each of the sentences, as in the example.

"Crime is on the increase." Discuss this statement and offer some possible solutions.

- One way to combat crime would be to provide more job opportunities for the poor and unemployed. The result **of this would be the eradication of poverty, which is a major cause of crime.**
- Furthermore, if the prison sentences received for certain crimes were made longer, the outcome
- It would certainly be a good idea if police patrols were increased in high crime areas, especially at night. This would improve
- One final suggestion which would help to solve the problem of increased crime might be to establish recreational facilities, such as sports centres. If this

- keep idle youths off streets and away from crime
- eradication of poverty which is a major cause of crime**
- discouraging criminals with immediate police presence
- make criminals afraid of consequences of being caught

4 Rewrite the following sentences using the words in brackets without changing the meaning.

- The environmental damage caused by factories will probably become more extensive if adequate measures are not imposed. (**quite likely to**)
- If the number of patrols is reduced, burglaries in the area will almost certainly increase. (**highly probable**)
- The public will probably react negatively to any decisions by the government to increase taxes. (**bound to**)
- The problem of overpopulation will probably not be solved over the next few decades. (**rather unlikely that**)

5 Look at each of the following sentences, identify the problem and say what solution is suggested. Then, using expressions from the chart, write sentences explaining possible results, as in the example.

PROBLEM

e.g. *One way to deal with pollution in cities is to promote the use of public transport.*

SOLUTION

The result of this would be fewer cars polluting the atmosphere.

- One way to combat famine would be to provide affected countries with financial aid.
- An effective method of combating the spread of disease in poverty-stricken areas of the world might be to send doctors from developed countries.
- One way to prevent illnesses such as heart disease is to ensure you take regular exercise and follow a healthy diet.
- It could help the world's rain forests if we used more recycled paper.

6 Read the following essay and fill the gaps with the appropriate topic phrases on the right.

Smoking is on the increase among young people. Discuss the problem and suggest what might be done about it.

While smoking is on the decline among adults, the latest US Surgeon-General's report indicates that increasing numbers of youngsters are taking up the habit. Perhaps the main reason for this alarming fact is the seductive advertising campaigns aimed at young people by the tobacco companies. Other contributing factors include the lack of awareness on the part of school children of the dangers of smoking, and the widespread availability of cigarettes. Furthermore, smoking retains an image of sophisticated maturity among young people, making the habit a magnet for those still in the process of moulding themselves into what they want to be.

Firstly, one way to combat this problem would be for the government to (1)

..... This ban could also prohibit smoking on television and in films. As a result, young people would no longer be constantly exposed to seductive images of cigarettes.

Secondly, by introducing a "negative image" advertising campaign, governments could (2)

..... Not only would such a campaign deter young people from wanting to start smoking, but others might also be encouraged to give up.

Another way to overcome this problem would be to (3)

..... Consequently, smoking would become far too costly a habit for most young people to take up or maintain.

If measures were taken at school to (4)

..... Teachers could tell their students what will happen to them if they smoke and teach them about the wide variety of ailments that smoking produces. In this way, children will never want to start smoking, thanks to their knowledge of what it could do to their bodies.

One final suggestion which would help, would be to (5)

..... If it were impossible for young people to buy cigarettes before they are eighteen, it would, therefore, be impossible for them to smoke.

All in all, I think that it would be quite easy to reduce the number of young people that smoke or even to eliminate smoking altogether, were it not for the lackadaisical attitudes of those who have the power to do something about it. Until they find the motivation to act, however, it seems likely that the problem will simply get worse.



Topic Phrases

- A ... expose the truth – that smoking is a dangerous habit which kills thousands of people every year.
- B ... warn children more effectively about the dangers of smoking, the situation might improve.
- C ... ban all cigarette advertising in order to reverse this disturbing trend.
- D ... place a ban on the sale of cigarettes to under-eighteens, and ensure that this ban is strictly enforced.
- E ... impose heavier taxes on cigarettes, thus making them even more expensive than they already are.

7 In the essay below there are a number of mistakes. Read the model and underline examples of the following:

- 1 Three misused linking words.
- 2 An over-generalisation.
- 3 An irrelevant sentence.
- 4 A sentence containing over-emotional language.
- 5 Two sentences written in very informal, colloquial language.
- 6 Two irrelevant/unclear topic sentences.

Now rewrite the topic sentences so that each is clear and relevant and replace the words/phrases you have underlined with correct alternatives.



Various ecosystems are being systematically destroyed by man. What measures do you think should be taken to prevent further destruction?

We can scarcely turn on our televisions or pick up a newspaper these days without being confronted with yet another depressing news item about the environment. As the population of many cities increases, more and more land is being converted from its natural state to accommodate homes and factories. The direct result of this is the systematic destruction of different ecosystems all over the world which, in turn, has led to seas becoming polluted with poisons, rivers becoming contaminated by pesticides and the air becoming polluted with fumes from vehicles and industry. While the problems of pollution and habitual destruction are obvious, the solutions are elusive. Moreover, serious attempts to halt the destruction of ecosystems must be made immediately.

As Paul Claudel once said: "Nature is only an immense ruin". Clearly, individuals need to become more aware of the consequences of their actions and should act more responsibly. Only if people do so will the Earth be saved from further destruction and the world become a healthier, safer place to live in.

People should not expect governments to provide all the solutions. Citizens must begin to recycle goods and packaging whenever possible, as well as buy only environmentally friendly products. Nonetheless, domestic food scraps should be recycled; for example, potato peelings and melon rinds can be turned into substances that enrich the soil. By doing this, we can reduce the amount of non-biodegradable waste being dumped at rubbish tips, thus ensuring that materials such as glass and plastic are not left in earth which could be used as farmland in the future.

Despite this, individuals can help protect the earth by using public transport whenever possible. Where such facilities do not exist, sharing lifts is recommended to reduce traffic congestion, noise and vehicle emissions on the roads. The less petrol our societies burn, the better the air quality will be. In addition, if there were fewer cars in circulation, there would be fewer road accidents.

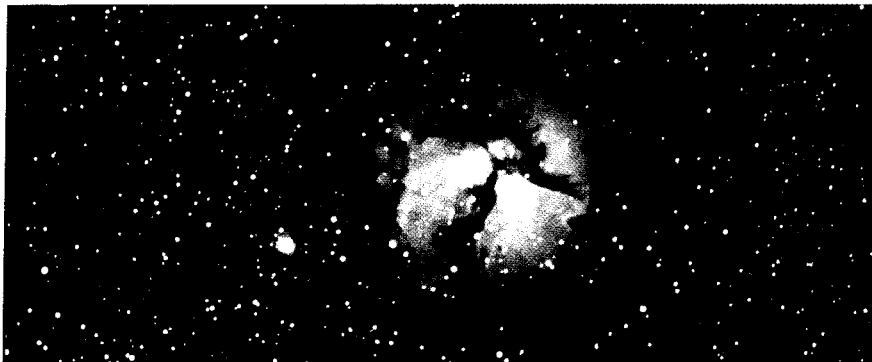
Another possible measure to combat industrial pollution would be the imposition of strict fines on wicked, greedy corporations and unfeeling, ignorant businesses which contaminate land, air or water. To be effective, the fines should be heavy enough to deter potential polluters; if they are too small, they could simply be regarded by industries as "the cost of doing business" and they might be ignored.

Finally, governments should be far more responsible. All governments have the funds and technology to provide solar, wind, geothermal and tidal power. The problem is that many governments couldn't care less and wouldn't lift a finger to help their countries by funding research to develop such sources or to discover new ways to produce energy. If, however, this were to happen, the consequence would be that depletion of finite resources such as oil and coal would be slowed down, or even halted altogether.

To sum up, the earth is suffering as a result of the destruction wreaked upon it by humanity. Don't you think it's time we cleaned up this dreadful mess?

8 Answer the following questions for each of the topics listed below.

- a What kind of a discursive essay is this?
 - b What paragraph plan would you follow?
 - c What points can you think of to include in your essay?
 - d Which aspects of the discussion clock would you include?
 - e Which techniques would you use to write the introductory paragraph and the conclusion?
 - f Which useful words/phrases would you include in your essay?
- 1 Road accidents claim far too many lives. What can governments and individuals do to reduce this problem?
 - 2 Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living at home past the age of eighteen.
 - 3 "In today's large cities flats are preferable to houses." Do you agree?
 - 4 "Computers will soon render books obsolete." Discuss.
 - 5 Parents are often unaware of the difficulties and problems their teenage children face and are unable to help them. What could parents and children do to overcome the gulf between them?
 - 6 Discuss the arguments for and against using live animals for scientific experimentation.
 - 7 Many countries are in danger of losing their cultural identity on account of globalisation. Discuss this problem and say what could be done to avoid this.
 - 8 "You can choose your friends but not your relatives." Do you feel that friends are more important than family?
 - 9 "Capital punishment is never justified." What is your opinion?
 - 10 "Too much money is being spent on space exploration while people are starving on Earth." Discuss.



DISCUSS & WRITE

9 Look at the following topic and then answer the questions below.

Discuss the problems of unemployment and offer possible solutions.

- What has caused the problem?
 - What are the consequences?
 - Match each of the suggestions (1-3) below with the corresponding result (a-c).
- 1 Governments to create incentives/subsidise industries.
 - 2 Better education/training so workers can operate computers, sophisticated machinery, etc.
 - 3 Free sports/recreational centres for unemployed to help people spend their time constructively.
- a Reduce crime/social problems connected with idleness/boredom.
 - b Create more positions, limit number of workers made redundant.
 - c People will have proper qualifications for types of jobs available.
- Can you suggest any other solutions to this problem? What would the expected result of each be?
 - What paragraph plan would you follow to write this essay?
 - Which techniques could you use to begin and end your essay?
 - What useful expressions could you include?

10 Using your notes and the answers from Exercise 9, write the composition in about 350 words.