

Writing task 2 question types with examples.

Agree / disagree

In many countries, it is common for families to own and run their own business. Some people think this is the best way to run a business, while others consider this a potential source of problems.

What is your opinion?

(2018, 2020, 2022)

In some societies, the number of crimes committed by teenagers is growing. Some people think that regardless of age, teenagers who commit major crimes should receive adult punishment.

To what extent do you agree?

(2020, 2023)

Some people think the best way to solve global environmental problems is to increase the cost of fuel.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

(2017)

Discuss two opinions

Some people think that art is an essential subject for children at school while others think it is a waste of time.

Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

(2018, 2019, 2021)

Some people think that schools should invest more money in technology, such as more computers, while others think more money should be spent on teachers.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

(2020, 2022)

Some people think our first impression of someone is important, while others think we should not judge another person so quickly and should take our time to know them better.

Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

(2022, 2023)

Causes / Reasons & Effects

As countries have developed there has been a trend towards smaller family sizes.

Why does this happen?

How does this effect society?

(2017, 2021)

Many criminals commit further crimes as soon as they are released from prison.

What do you think are the causes of this? What will be the effect on society?

(2019)

It is observed that in many countries not enough students are choosing to study science at university.

Outline the reasons and discuss what will be the effects on society?

(2016)

Advantages & disadvantages

An increasing number of people are buying what they need online.

What are the advantages and disadvantages for both individuals and companies to shopping online?

(Appears most years)

Some companies have uniforms for their staff which must be worn at all times.

What are the advantages for a company of having a uniform?

Are there any benefits of having a uniform for the staff?

(Appears most years)

In some countries, girls and boys are educated in different schools rather than in the same school.

What are the advantages and disadvantage of this?

(2019, 2020, 2021)

Causes / Reasons & solutions

Many criminals commit further crimes as soon as they released from prison.

What do you think are the causes of this?

What possible solutions can you suggest?

(2015, 2017, 2022)

Many people find it hard to balance their work with other parts of their lives.

What are the reasons for this?

How can this problem be overcome?

(2017)

In some developing countries, it is difficult to get good teachers to work in rural areas which can have a negative impact on the education of children in those rural communities.

Why do you think good teachers do not want to work in rural areas in developing countries?

What could be done to tackle this problem?

Problems & solutions

Large businesses have big budgets for marketing and promotion and as a result, people gravitate towards buying their products.

What problems does this cause?

What could be done to encourage people to buy local products?

(2016, 2020, 2022)

More and more people are moving away from an agricultural background to relocate to cities in order to look for work.

What will be the consequences of this? What solutions can you offer?

(2017)

An increasing number children are overweight which could result in many problems when they grow older.

What types of issues can arise as a result of being overweight?

What could be done to solve this problem?

Positive or negative development

Nowadays, it seems that different generations within families spend less time doing activities together.

Why is that? Is it a positive or negative development?

(2023)

Some children spend hours every day on smartphones instead of playing physical activity games.

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Scientists predict that all people will choose to talk the same global language in the future.

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

(2017)

Other question types

Some children receive almost no encouragement from their parents regarding their performance at school, while other children receive too much pressure from their over enthusiastic parents which can have a negative impact on the child.

Why do you think some parents put too much pressure on their children to perform well at school?

What do you think the role of a parent should be in their child's education?

(2017, 2019, 2020, 2021)

Many countries aim to improve their living of standard by economic development, but some important social values are lost as a result.

Do you think the benefits of economic development outweigh the disadvantages?

(2017)

Every culture, throughout time, has recorded its history in one way or another.

In what ways can history be passed on to the next generation?

Why is history important to society?

Most people think that the truth should be objective rather than subjective when it comes to the news.

Do you think all news is true?

What is the function of a newspaper?

(2020, 2021, 2022)

Some people prefer to watch foreign films rather than locally produced films.

Why is this?

Do you think the government should spend more money supporting the local film industry?

(2015, 2017, 2020, 2022)