DISCUSSIONS (Discursive Essay – Discuss both views)

- Some people think that parents should teach children how to be good members of society. Others, however, believe that school is the place to learn this. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
- Some people say that the government should not put money on building theatres and sports stadiums. Others argue that they should spend more money on medical care and education. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
- Films and computer games containing violence are popular. Some people say they have negative impacts on society and should be banned, while others say they are just harmless relaxation. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.
- Some people think that people moving to a new country should accept new culture in the foreign country. Others think that they should live as a separate minority group with different lifestyle. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
- Many people think that cheap air travel should be encouraged because it gives ordinary people freedom to travel further. However, others think this leads to environmental problems, so air travel should be more expensive in order to discourage people from having it. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
- Some people choose to eat no meat or fish. They believe that this is not only better for their own health but also benefits the world as a whole. Discuss this view and give your own opinion.
- Some people say art (music, paintings, poetry etc.) can be created by any human being, while others believe that only people born with special abilities can create art. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
- Teachers used to convey information, but now with wide resources of information. Some people think that there is no role for teachers to play in modern education, others disagree. Discuss both views and give your opinion?
- Everyone should stay in school until the age of eighteen. Evaluate the arguments both and against this before reaching an opinion?
• Some people think that robots are very important for humans’ future development. Others, however, think that robots are a dangerous invention that could have negative effects on society. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

• The development of technology has caused environmental problems. So, some people think people should choose a simpler way of life, while others think we should use technology to solve these problems. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

• The society would benefit from a ban on all forms of advertising because it serves no useful purpose, and can even be damaging. However, others argue that there are still some advantages of adverts. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

• Some people think that the news media nowadays have influenced people’s lives in negative ways. Others disagree and say that it is also positive. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

• Team activities can teach more skills for life than those activities which are played alone. Explain the benefits of each and give your own view?

• Some people say that healthcare and education should be the responsibility of the government but some people think that that it is the responsibility of the individuals themselves. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

• Some people think that cultural traditions may be destroyed when they are used as money-making attractions aimed at tourists. Others believe that is the only way to save these traditions. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

**OPINION (Argumentative Essay – Agree or Disagree)**

• Too much money has been spent on looking after and repairing old buildings. Therefore, we should knock down old buildings and build modern ones instead To what extent do you agree or disagree?

• Researches show that overeating is as harmful as smoking. Therefore, the advertisements of food products should be banned in the same way
as the cigarettes advertising is banned in many countries. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

- Some people say that subjects like arts, music, drama and creative writing are more beneficial to children and therefore they need more of these subjects to be included in the timetable. Do you agree or disagree?
- Some people think that the government should not spend money on building theatres and sports stadiums. Instead, it should spend more money on medical care and education. Do you agree or disagree?
- The best way to understand other culture is to work in a multinational organization. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- The advantage of English spreading as a global language will continue to outweigh the disadvantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- Is it better to be unemployed in jobs rather than to be employed in jobs even if they don’t feel happy or enjoy. Do you agree or disagree?
- Individual greed and selfishness have been the basis of the modern society. Some people think that we must return to the older and more traditional values of respect for the family and the local community in order to create a better world to live in. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- Nowadays young people are spending their leisure period in shopping centers but not engaging themselves in other activities such as sport or music, which can affect themselves and society negatively. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- Many students have to study subjects which they do not like. Some people think this is a complete waste of time. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- It is generally discussed among the public that extreme sports such as sky diving and rock-climbing should be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Leisure is a growing industry, but people no longer entertain themselves as much as they used to because the use of modern technology has made them less creative. What is your opinion?
• Sending criminals to prison is not the best method of dealing with them. Education and job training are better ways to help them. Do you agree or disagree?

• Some people think that children’s success in adult life depends on the way their parents brought up them. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

• Some people think the government should pay for health care and education, but other people claim that it is the individual’s responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

• Many employees may work at home with the modern technology. Some people claim that it can benefit only the workers, not the employers. Is it a positive or negative development?

• The detailed description about crime will affect the people and cause many social problems. Some people say that the media should be strictly controlled. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

• It is more important for a building to serve a purpose than to look beautiful. Architects shouldn’t worry about producing building as a work of art. Do you agree or disagree?

• Some people claim that public museums and art galleries will not be needed because people can see historical objects and works of art by using a computer. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

• An American film actor once said, “Tomorrow is important and precious”. Some people think individuals and society should pay more attention to the future than to the present. Do you agree or disagree?

• Rich countries should not employ skilled labor from poor countries, as poor countries need the workers more. Do you agree or disagree?

• Individuals should not be allowed to carry guns. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

• Money for postgraduate research is limited. Some people think that financial support from governments should be only provided for scientific research rather than research for less useful subjects. Do you agree or disagree?

• Television has changed the quality of life for the ordinary person. Do you agree or disagree?
• Some people think typical teaching of a teacher and students in the class will not exist by the year 2050. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about this view?
• In several years many languages die out. Some say it is not important because if we speak fewer languages life would be easier. Do you agree or disagree?
• Wild animals have no place in the 21st century, and the protection is a waste of resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
• Some people believe that tourists should accept social and environmental responsibility while others believe that tourists should not accept any responsibility at all. What is your opinion?
• Some people argue that individuals can do nothing to improve the environment. Therefore, only governments and large companies can make a difference. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
• Today, majority of children are raised by their grandparents due to the fact that their parents are busy working. To what extent do you think that it affects the whole family?
• Fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) are the main sources in many countries, but in some countries the use of alternative sources of energy (wind energy and solar energy) are encouraged. To what extent do you think it is a positive or negative development?
• The government is responsible for protecting a nation’s cultural identity. Thus, some people believe new buildings should be built in traditional styles. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
• Some people argue that companies and private individuals, rather than governments, should pay for pollution. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
• Children who grow up in families which are short of money are better prepared with the problems of adult life than children who are brought up by wealthy parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
• The only way to improve the safety on our own road is to have stricter punishment for driving offenders. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
• The main purpose of public libraries is to provide books and they shouldn’t waste their limited resources and space on providing expensive hi-tech media such as computer software, videos and DVDs. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
• Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes serious pollution and uses up the world’s fuel resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
• One long-distance flight consumes fuel which a car uses in several years’ time, but they cause the same amount of pollution. So some people think that we should discourage non-essential flights, such as tourist travel, rather than to limit the use of cars. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
• Housing shortage in big cities can cause severe social consequences. Some people think only government action can solve this problem. What is your opinion?
• The best way to solve the world’s environmental problem is to increase the price of fuel. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
• Earlier technological developments brought more benefits and changed the lives of ordinary people more than recent technological developments. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
• The workplace nowadays is trying to employ the equal number of females and males. Do you think it is a positive or negative development? In modern society it is possible to go shopping, work and communicate via the internet without face-to-face contact with others. Is it positive or negative?
• In order to learn a language well, we should also learn about the country as well as the cultures and lifestyles of the people who speak this language. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
• Multi-cultural societies, in which there is a mixture of different ethnic peoples, bring more benefits than drawbacks to a country. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
• Some people think the main purpose of schools is to turn the children into good citizens and workers, rather than to benefit them as individuals. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
• Throughout the history, male leaders always lead us to violence and conflict. If a society is governed by female leaders it will be more peaceful. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
• When international media (including movies, fashion shows, advertisements and other TV programmes) convey the same messages to the global audience, people argue that the expansion of international media has negative impacts on cultural diversity. What is your opinion?
• Some people argue that the government should spend money on public services and facilities, but not on the arts. Do you agree or disagree?
• In some countries old age is highly valued, while in others youth is emphasized. Which viewpoint do you agree with?
• Do you agree or disagree with the statement that families are as close as they used to be?
• Tobacco is a kind of drug. People have been free to use it. Some people think that it should be illegal to use it comparing with other drugs. To what extent do you agree or disagree? What is your opinion?

ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES

• Do you agree that the advantages cars bring outweigh the disadvantages?
• Some people think that animals should be kept in men made cells. What are the disadvantages of keeping animal in zoos?
• People can live and work anywhere they want to choose because of improved communication technology and transport. Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?
• Food can be produced much more cheaply today because of improved fertilizers and better machinery. However, some of the methods used to do this may be dangerous to human health and may have negative effects on local communities. What are the advantages and disadvantages?
• The spread of English as a “global language” is an issue nowadays. To what extent do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?
• As global trade increases between different countries, many daily necessities are produced in other countries. Such goods are usually transported a long distance. Do the benefits of this trend outweigh its drawbacks?
• It is better for students at university to live far away from home than to live at home with their parents. What are the advantages and disadvantages, and give your own opinion?
• Many museums charge people for admission while others are free. Do you think the advantages of charging people for admission to museum outweigh the disadvantages?

PROBLEMS/CAUSES & SOLUTIONS

• The subjects and lesson contents are decided by the authorities such as the government. Some people argue that teachers should make the choice. What are the pros and cons of each method, give some solutions?
• The speeding up of life in many areas such as travel and communication has negative effects on society at all levels— individual, national and global. Evaluate the effects?
• In some countries, the rate of crimes committed by teenager is increasing. What are the reasons and what can be done to relieve the problem?
• The major cities in the world are growing fast, as well as their problems. What are the problems that young people living in cities are faced with? Give some solutions to these problems.
- In some countries, a high proportion of criminal acts are committed by teenagers. Why is it the case? What can be done to deal with this?

**TWO-PART QUESTIONS**

- Some people believe they should keep all the money they have earned and should not pay tax to the state. What is the purpose of taxes? Why do some people refuse to pay taxes and explain the effects on society?
- People find it very difficult to speak in public or to give a presentation before an audience. Do you think public speaking skill is really important? Give reasons.
- Many people are optimistic of the 21st century and see it as an opportunity to make positive changes to the world. To what extent do you share their optimism? What changes would you like to see in the new century?
- Many people say that we have developed into a “throw-away” culture, because we are filling up our environment with so many plastic bags and rubbish that we cannot fully dispose of. To what extent do you agree with this opinion and what measures can you recommend reducing this problem?
- With the increase in the use of mobile phones and computers, fewer people are writing letters. Some people think that the traditional skill of writing letters will disappear completely. To what extent do you agree or disagree? How important do you think is letter-writing?
- In the past, buildings often reflected the culture of a society but today all modern buildings look alike and cities throughout the world are becoming more and more similar. Why is it the case? Is it a good thing or bad thing?