

IELTS IDEAS ULTIMATE

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IDEAS FOR
100
HOT TOPICS

Advantage & Disadvantage

For & Against

IELTS
TOEFL
CHAT
PTE

...



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ULTIMATE

100 HOT TOPICS

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Preface

The majority of learners have been reported to suffer from a profound lack of ideas when they want to speak or write, which could prevent them from reaching their full potential. This book has been written to address this problem through providing ideas about 100 controversial topics. These ideas will enable them to look at different issues from multiple perspectives and exploit what they have learnt in numerous other topics.

The writers have attempted to present the views of both the advocates and opponents of the issues discussed, and let the readers decide for themselves.

Please NOTE that the ideas in this book do not necessarily reflect the personal views of the authors.

1 Zoos

... Do their advantages exceed their disadvantages? ...

YES

1. By bringing people and animals together, zoos foster an appreciation of animals. This could motivate people to protect them.
2. Zoos save endangered species by bringing them into a safe environment, where they are protected from poachers, habitat loss, starvation, and predators.
3. Many zoos also have breeding programs for endangered species. In the wild, these individuals might have trouble finding mates and breeding.
4. In a good zoo, animals are never bored, are well cared-for, and have plenty of space.
5. A visit to a zoo is a wholesome family activity.
6. Seeing an animal in person is a much more personal and memorable experience than seeing it in a wildlife documentary.
7. Some zoos help rehabilitate animals and take in exotic pets that people no longer want or are no longer able to care for.
8. They allow researchers and scientists to obtain a better understanding of the way animals live. This could be helpful in saving more of them.
9. Having zoos means that all animals are cared for and do not suffer from illness or malnutrition.
10. Zoos can be educational, teaching children and adults about animals and the way they live.

NO

1. We do not have the right to breed, capture and confine animals, even if they are endangered. Being a member of an endangered species does not mean the individual animals have fewer rights.
2. Animals suffer from stress and boredom in captivity.
3. Removing animals from the wild will further endanger the wild population because the remaining ones will have more difficulty finding mates.
4. If people want to see wild animals in person, they can observe them in the wild or visit a sanctuary.
5. Sanctuaries also rehabilitate animals and take in unwanted exotic pets, without breeding, buying and selling animals like zoos do.
6. If zoos are teaching children anything, it is that imprisoning animals for our own entertainment is acceptable.
7. Studies have shown that animals kept in zoos do not live as long as those in the wild.
8. Animals sometimes escape their enclosures, endangering themselves as well as people.
9. If zoo-born animals are released into the wild, they will have a very difficult time adapting to the environment.

2 Vegetarianism

... Should we all become vegetarian? ...

YES

1. Eating a vegetarian diet could be a good way to treat high blood pressure without medication.
2. Vegetarians tend to be healthier overall, and even live longer.
3. If you are trying to lose weight, being a vegetarian can be a good part of your program.
4. It is unethical to kill innocent animals for food when there are plenty of other options available to give us nutrition.
5. Things like beans, nuts, and soy can all provide a vegetarian with the protein that they need to function.
6. Raising livestock requires enormous quantities of water. Being a vegetarian conserves a great deal of water, which is beneficial to the entire planet.
7. Meat food products are the most expensive forms of food items.
8. Vegetarian eating usually increases intake of wholesome foods such as vegetables, fruit, beans, legumes and whole grains, which is a great opportunity to get plenty of antioxidants, dietary fiber, vitamins and minerals.
9. The self-control needed to eat in a vegetarian way can be extended to other situations requiring self-control, commitment and dedication.
10. Meat industry is a huge producer of waste and pollution.

NO

1. There are some types of vitamins and minerals that can only be obtained through animal meat, such as vitamin B-12, omega-3 and other omega fatty acids, all of which are vital to good health.
2. Vegetarian diets are not well-balanced.
3. Eating out as a vegetarian can sometimes be a real challenge as most restaurant menus are geared towards meat eaters.
4. Meal choices are very limited for vegetarians.
5. Animals kill in order to feed themselves, and humans are no exception. Eating meat is a natural part of life.
6. Protein is what gives us the energy that we need to move, breathe, and do just about anything. Trying to find alternatives to protein can be time consuming, expensive, and unappetizing. Meat, however, is readily available, cost effective, and quite tasty.



Online Education

... *Is online education a good substitute for face-to-face education?* ...

YES

1. There is no need for commuting to campus, which not only reduces traffic and air pollution, but also allows the students to save time and money.
2. There are no geographic location constraints.
3. You can learn at your preferred pace and study at your convenience.
4. Students can work full-time or part-time while taking classes.
5. There is no accommodation cost, and tuition fees are often lower.
6. You could work with students from all over the world.
7. There is no discrimination among students due to race, nationality, age, clothes, etc.
8. It is better for those who are introverted as well as those who require more time to understand the points and learn the lessons.
9. The video and audio instructions that are provided can be rewind and seen and heard again and again if you do not happen to understand the topic the first time around.
10. You do not have to depend on anyone for anything.
11. Through discussion boards, you are able to interact with others and clear your doubts, if any.

NO

1. It would be difficult to develop relationships with classmates.
2. There is no personalized attention and feedback from the instructors.
3. There is no campus atmosphere to create social interaction.
4. Students may be required to learn new or advanced computer skills.
5. Additional cost of high-speed Internet would have to be paid.
6. Traditional instructors, who believe in lectures and handouts, may find it tough to adapt to the new system.
7. The assessments are only knowledge-based, not practicality-based.
8. It would not be suitable for those who are not organized and self-disciplined.
9. Though you will be communicating regularly with faculty, nothing can replace face-to-face interaction and team work.
10. E-learning requires using a computer and other such devices. This means that eyestrain, bad posture and other physical problems may affect the learners.

4 **Home-schooling**

... Should children be taught at home by their parents? ...

YES

❖ Parents could have the opportunity to:

1. Plan the curriculum and their children's schooling schedule.
2. demonstrate to their children that education is fun.
3. create strong bonds with their children.
4. adopt teaching methods that suit their children's learning style.
5. spend extra time with their children on difficult concepts and move ahead after their children master them.
6. create a flexible schedule, which is not possible for children enrolled in public schools.
7. Shelter their children from violence, drugs, and any negative behavior children in public schools frequently encounter.
8. provide their children with personal interaction, which cannot be provided in large classes.
9. spend extra time helping their children develop any special talents they possess, including musical, athletic, etc.
10. draw closer to their spouse as they home-school their children together.
11. enjoy spending more time with their children.
12. take their children on vacation when public schools are still in session.
13. have control over their children's diet.

NO

❖ Parents would be required to:

1. be around their children all day long. This can be difficult when children become restless and misbehave.
 2. frequently explain their reasons for home-schooling their children to friends and relatives who are confused about their decision.
 3. constantly attempt to be effective teachers by preparing themselves, reviewing numerous curriculum programs, etc.
 4. constantly motivate their children.
 5. give up their job, effectively reducing the family income.
 6. buy books, computers, and other educational tools, which could be very costly.
- ❖ It limits your child's opportunities to participate in team sports, competitions, and other extra-curricular activities. This could make them introvert.
- ❖ Children will not have access to some of the wonderful programs that schools offer.
- ❖ Students may never be exposed to expert teachers to deepen their knowledge in specific subjects.
- ❖ It can sometimes be difficult to find friends when educated at home.
- ❖ Some parents do not have the knowledge or patience to teach their children.

5



Organic Food

... Should we only live on organic food? ...

YES

1. Organic farming is environmentally-friendly because:
 - the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers is minimal, if any.
 - no super-insects are created by pesticides.
 - it keeps animals healthy. There would be far fewer sick or infertile aquatic and land creatures due to chemical exposure.
 - there would be no soil erosion or water contamination.
2. Compared to non-organic food, organic food contains little hydrogenated fat, which can lead to heart diseases.
3. Organic farming is animal-friendly. It will ensure that animals are given a free-range condition and provided with natural diet.
4. Organic food often has higher nutritional value compared to conventional food. This might be due to the absence of fertilizers and pesticides, which allows plants to produce phytochemicals to boost resistance against weeds and bugs.
5. Organic foods taste better as foods often lose their natural taste in the process of genetic modification.
6. It is far healthier as chemicals, which are used in the form of pesticides and fertilizers, would not enter your body.

NO

1. Compared to non-organic food, organic produce usually goes bad far faster because:
 - it does not contain any form of preservatives.
 - it does not undergo any irradiation procedures.
2. Organic food is more expensive than non-organic food.
3. Even organic food production requires a small amount of chemicals. So what is the point?
4. There are no consensual reports that link organic food to health benefits.
5. Non-organic foods are just as nutritious as organic ones.
6. The bacteria (e.g. E. coli) level is higher in organic produce, which can be harmful for children as well as pregnant women as they have vulnerable immune systems.

6 Recycling

... **Should recycling be encouraged?** ...

YES

1. Recycling reduces consumption of energy. Transporting raw materials and processing them require a significant amount of energy. For instance, recycling paper consumes less energy than processing trees. The same thing is true when it comes to recycling or re-purposing wood.
2. It reduces air and water pollution. A major source of pollution today is industrial waste that comes from factories producing plastics and cans. If both products are reused, instead of manufactured from scratch, pollution can be reduced significantly.
3. Recycling could mitigate global warming. A large proportion of our waste is burned, which contributes to global warming. By minimizing our waste, recycling could go a long way in helping us prevent global warming from worsening.
4. Recycling decreases the amount of waste in landfills. It enormously reduces the possibility of landfill sites overflowing, which contributes mightily to environmental degradation and causes land and water pollution.
5. It raises environmental awareness. When everyone becomes accustomed to recycling, people will be more eco-conscious and would participate more in eco-friendly activities.
6. Recycling can help you save money. There are companies that pay cash for your trash, like old water bottles, electronics and other things.
7. It can minimize logging.

NO

1. Recycling results in more pollution and energy consumption. Recycling tons of garbage will require waste to be transported, sorted, cleaned and processed in separate factories, all of which need energy.
2. Recycling will produce pollutants, including toxic chemicals after breaking down the waste materials. This can hurt the environment further if not planned well.
3. Recycling is not always cost-effective. Recycling costs can go thrice as high as the cost of putting garbage in landfills. The process is also labor intensive and the manpower requirement is high.
4. The jobs created by recycling include sorting garbage, cleaning toxins and doing other manual and back-breaking labor, which can result in low income and poor quality of life in the community.
5. Recycling does not guarantee quality products.
6. Recycling can be harmful for us. For instance, bleaching is required to recycle paper, which involves a harsh chemical that is harmful to our health.
7. Recycling can give people a false sense of security. People might not realize that the only real benefit of recycling is reducing the damage from human folly.
8. Recycling sites are always unhygienic, unsafe and unsightly.

7 Job Hopping

... Do you think switching jobs frequently is a good idea? ...

YES

1. It will surely help you learn new work skills. It widens your skill set and adds to your knowledge of various fields.
2. Any job is accompanied with a set routine, which is bound to make you bored sooner or later. Changing your job, thus, serves as a good break and will keep you enthusiastic about life and work.
3. As you change jobs, you will meet new people, and this will add to your contacts in various industries.
4. Through working in different fields, you could find the field that is best for you and you are truly interested in.
5. It is difficult to keep your skills sharp when you deal with the same group of people for an extended period of time.
6. Working up to higher pay and benefits within a company can take many years, while switching jobs can allow workers to get significant increases in pay, benefits and responsibilities quickly.
7. Changing jobs lets workers escape dead-end jobs and continue to learn and grow.
8. In some cases, frequent job changes can indicate great adaptability.

NO

1. It affects trust and confidence. Very often, employers are wary of hiring employees who have a record of frequent job changes in their résumé. This is because they believe they cannot be trusted in the long run.
2. It adversely influences your image. Negative qualities like lack of commitment and immaturity are associated with a person who changes their jobs frequently.
3. Job hoppers generally lack in-depth knowledge. A person gains comprehensive knowledge of a subject only after they work on it for a certain duration of time.
4. A person with a history of too many job changes often comes across as someone who lacks expertise. People believe they just know a little about many things. Jack of all trades, master of none.
5. Those who stay with a single company are able to rise in seniority while job hoppers have to compete for a stronger role at each new company they go to.
6. The longer you stay at a position, the easier it becomes. You learn the ropes and how to "recycle" your knowledge. This means you could have free time to work on personal projects, go back to school or work toward another goal.

8 Adoption

... **Would you ever consider adopting a child/baby? ...**

YES

1. You could rescue a child. When a good family adopts a child, he/she receives the love and support necessary to have a good childhood. Some adopted children come from an abusive or neglecting background, but get to enjoy peace in a loving family when adopted.
2. In many cases, adoption could enormously help the biological parents, who in most cases are physically, financially, or emotionally unable to raise the child.
3. Adoption allows those who cannot have a biological child to experience the completeness and satisfaction that could be felt in raising children.
4. Many people do not want to go through pregnancy process, which could be very tough.
5. Those who cannot take the necessary time off from work to have a child can still get to have a child of their own.
6. Adoption is just as joyful as giving birth.
7. It is beneficial for the society. Adopted children can often have resources and opportunities that they could not have if they had not been adopted. This could help them be successful individuals and useful members of the society.

NO

1. Parents cannot get to experience the joy of childbirth.
2. You cannot control what the birth mom eats, drinks, or does during pregnancy. This is particularly troublesome when you adopt a child whose birth mother was an addict or physically unhealthy.
3. Adoption can be a long and challenging process.
4. Some children feel they were to blame for their adoption. As a result, they may have low self-esteem, or experience depression or other emotional problems.
5. Adoption is still a taboo in many conservative societies and the parents who decide not to adhere to the set societal belief are often criticized.
6. Some people believe because the child does not have the same genes as them, it will be difficult to bring him/her up!
7. The biological mother of the child might suddenly appear and claim her child back. This is a common happening wherein the biological mother feels a sudden urge to get back to her child.

9 **Old Buildings**

... **Should old buildings be preserved?** ...

YES

1. Once a historic building is gone, it is gone forever, but who knows what will be valued in the future?
2. Preservation shows respect for those that came before us and those who will come after.
3. Restoration is often cheaper than building new structures.
4. They are an integral part of our heritage and history. Without them, we lose contact with our origins.
5. Preserving them is good for the environment:
 - Preserving a building is the ultimate in recycling and keeps construction materials out of the landfill.
 - Many traditional building practices in historic buildings are "green". (e.g. thick walls maintain interior temperatures and save energy).
 - Constructing a building requires huge amounts of energy and could raise pollution levels.
6. Tourism could be a lucrative source of revenue for every community, and many old buildings are real tourist magnets.
7. The architectural style of many of these buildings is unique, and once they are gone, these styles could not be learnt by our architects.
8. Some of them are aesthetically pleasing, adding to the beauty of our cities.

NO

1. Most of them are unsafe and will eventually collapse, injuring and taking the life of many citizens.
2. They are ugly and spoil our cityscape.
3. In the modern world, land is valuable. If they are demolished,
 - high-rise residential buildings could be built to accommodate many people and as a result solve housing problem. This would also prevent urban sprawl.
 - huge shopping malls, office blocks, etc. could be constructed, which would create employment for many.
 - modern amenities could be provided for citizens to make their life more comfortable and enjoyable.
4. Many of them are empty and threaten the safety of our society:
 - They are the best place for addicts to do drug.
 - Many other illegal activities could happen in such buildings.
 - They can be a great hideout for criminals and fugitives.
5. The cost of maintenance and renovation could be huge.
6. They could be home to many disease-spreading creatures.



Gun Ownership

... Should civilians be allowed to own guns? ...

YES

1. Individuals have the right to protect themselves.
2. Criminals or those with vicious intentions will always find a way to acquire guns. Why shouldn't us have one to defend ourselves?
3. It deters criminals. Criminals tend to think twice before attacking potential victims with guns.
4. Things like cars can be dangerous too, but no one wants to ban them.
5. Hunting and shooting are legitimate sports. People should have guns to practice their skills.
6. Hunting, gun collecting, and firearm sports stimulate the economy:
 - Millions of dollars can be collected by the government from firearm-related sales.
 - A lot more money can be made through licensing and fees.
 - The number of people employed by the firearms industry is high.
7. It is better to be safe than sorry. Would you rather be prepared for a fire in your house with a fire extinguisher or without one?
8. Guns provide protection, when law enforcement cannot. You could end up losing your life or a loved one before the cops can even get to your location.

NO

1. The rate of violent crimes increases when guns are available // Guns create violent societies with high murder rates.
2. Suicide rates have been reported to rise when guns are available.
3. Studies have shown that shooting someone by accident would be far more likely than shooting a home invader.
4. According to research, people carrying a gun for self-defense are 4.5 times more likely to be shot during an assault or a fight than those without a gun in the same situation.

1 1 ← **Cloning**

... Should we continue developing cloning technology? ...

YES

1. Cloning can be used to cure currently incurable diseases.
2. Scientists believe they can clone cells to help people in wheelchairs walk again.
3. It could solve fertility problems. Many couples cannot have a biological child for certain reasons. They would be able to use their own genes to create a child.
4. Reproductive cloning could be used to bring back our departed loved ones.
5. It could be used to clone endangered species and restore ecological balance.
6. Scientists could clone livestock to end world hunger.
7. Amazing people like Einstein could be cloned.
8. Cloning body parts can become a life-saver. When a crucial body organ such as kidney or heart fails to perform its normal functions, it can be replaced with a cloned organ substitute.

NO

1. Human cloning is "playing God". Man should not duplicate unique individuals just for the purpose of study or medical advancement.
2. Only a small percentage of cloned embryos survive.
3. Clones may age very quickly.
4. Cloning confuses family relationships.
5. Dangerous people like Hitler could be cloned.
6. Because of cloning, dictators and many other vicious people might never die.
7. When you are dealing with genes, there is always a risk that mutation could occur. This could result in deaths and extreme abnormalities.
8. By bringing in an entirely new group of people, who we know very little about and have had no research on, we could be introducing many new diseases into the human race that we have no treatments for.

1 2 ← **English**

... Should learning English as an international language be encouraged? ...

YES

1. English is the official language in more than sixty countries.
2. Learning English leads to more career and educational opportunities.
3. English is widely used around the world. It is actually becoming a global second language.
4. English is the dominant language of technology, science and international business.
5. Most textbooks and journals are published in English.
6. The ability to speak English is a necessary skill in the modern world.
7. Exposing children to English is exposing them to another culture, which could give them a new perspective on life.

NO

1. Twice as many people speak Chinese as speak English. Why not learn Chinese?
2. By 2050, there will be more Hindi and Urdu speakers than English speakers.
3. By 2050, there will be an equal number of Spanish, Arabic and English speakers.
4. English is a difficult language to learn.
5. Some languages disappear because people speak English instead // If one language is dominant, other languages will disappear.
6. Using translation devices is easier than learning English.
7. The dominant language brings its own culture.

13



Cell Phones / Smartphones

... Do they have more advantages than disadvantages? ...

YES

1. Cell phones are useful in emergencies. They could even save your life due to allowing you to contact the police, fire-department and so on.
2. They keep you from getting bored. For example, you can read the news, play games, listen to music or watch a movie, while on a bus.
3. They have revolutionized the way we communicate.
4. We can stay in touch with family, friends, and colleagues wherever we are.
5. Smart phones are versatile; they allow us to send text messages, surf the Internet, take photos, listen to music, etc.
6. They could be used as fashion accessories.
7. They are a powerful learning tool. Because of the applications put in smart phones these days, children and even adults will learn a lot of things from them.
8. They are equipped with high-resolution cameras. With these devices, you always have your camera available, being able to take high-quality photos any time you want.
9. Having a smartphone makes it much more convenient to check your email or even your bank account while on the go.
10. Smartphones can be great for drivers as they can help them get to their destination and avoid traffic jams.

NO

1. It is so annoying when people talk loudly on their cell phones.
2. People have become too dependent on them. We are addicted to our mobile phones, and the idea of leaving them at home or turning them off would give us instant anxiety.
3. Cell phones reduce face-to-face communication.
4. Some people send rude text messages.
5. Cell phones could be problematic in some public places:
 - They cause disturbance in cinemas.
 - They could disrupt classes and break students' concentration.
6. Their waves could damage our brains.
7. They are a popular target for thieves.
8. They could be a dangerous distraction (e.g. using a cell phone while driving reduces the driver's concentration). Texting while driving has already caused tens of millions of deaths from traffic accidents.
9. Anyone can get a hold of you anywhere and anytime through mobile phones. There are certain times you do not want this, but people you know expect you to be reachable since you own such a device.
10. Using cell phones to cheat in exams has become a big issue in many schools. Students are now able to text answers under their desks during exams and sometimes even find the answers using a search engine on their phones.

... How can we enjoy good health? ...

DIET

1. It is absolutely essential not to eat junk food:

- French fries and other junk foods can be addictive; once you start eating them, you want to eat them more and more often.
- These foods contain too much fat, salt and sugar.
- Eating too much junk food makes people overweight.
- It also leads to high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease.
- Junk food can cause bad behavior and learning difficulties in children.
- Junk food lacks minerals and vitamins, which are essential to health and growth.
- Since these foods contain high amounts of cholesterol, they could trigger heart attacks and strokes.

2. We should act on dietitians' advice and eat at least two servings of fruit and three of vegetables every day.

3. We should eat organic food rather than genetically modified food.

4. We need to eat sufficient quantities of different food stuff; having a well-balanced diet is extremely important.

EXERCISE

1. Exercise can reduce the risk of various types of cancer.

2. Exercise can lower the risk of type 2 diabetes.

3. Exercise can mitigate the risk of heart disease.

4. Exercise can minimize the risk of high blood pressure.

5. Exercise burns calories and helps strengthen bones and muscles.

6. Most people nowadays lead a sedentary lifestyle:

- We tend to walk less and do desk jobs.
- Most adults relax by watching television.
- Children play video games instead of doing sports.

7. It could control your weight.

8. It improves your mental health and mood.

9. It increases your chances of living longer.

GOVERNMENTS' ROLE

1. Governments need to promote healthy diet and regular exercise.
2. There should be more time for sports on school timetables.
3. Unhealthy junk food should be removed from school menus.
4. People need to be informed about the consequences of an unhealthy lifestyle.
5. Food packaging must show the food's nutritional content.
6. Smoking needs to be banned in public places.
7. Unhealthy foods should not be marketed in a way that attracts children.
8. Products that can be hazardous to health should display warnings.
9. Advertising cigarettes on television should be illegal.

15 **Fat and Happy**

... Should we all grow fat and happy? ...

YES

1. We only live once; let's enjoy ourselves.
2. We should not care about what other people think of us.
3. Exercise is a kind of torture; why should we exhaust ourselves like that?
4. Dieters are always miserable as they are constantly hungry.
5. Why should we spend a lifetime fighting a losing battle against spreading hips, protruding tummies and double chins?

NO

1. It is a myth that all fat people are happy.
2. Fat people suffer psychologically and physically:
 - Obesity makes fat people objects of ridicule so they become miserable at school and as grown-ups.
 - Being overweight is bad for health (i.e. it leads to heart diseases, high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.)
3. Ready-made clothes are hard to obtain for fat people.
4. Fat people tire easily.
5. Being fat is associated with insensible living.
6. Premature death is more likely in fat people.
7. Life quality is poor for fat people. A life of gasping and wheezing and sitting in doctors' waiting rooms is not a quality existence.
8. Most heavy people suffer from chronic back pain.
9. They might develop depression because of the stress caused by having out-of-balance body chemistry, feeling unattractive, being socially isolated, not finding a spouse, etc.
10. Seats in planes, theaters, and cars are tight for fat people.
11. Making and keeping friends is tough. As superficial as it may be, people tend to befriend folks that they are pleased to introduce to their other friends.
12. Many employers refuse to hire anyone who is overweight because they believe fat people work too slowly and tire before the workday ends.

16



Celebrities

... Do celebrities like actors and athletes deserve the money they earn? ...

YES

1. They endure a lot of inconveniences:
 - It is dangerous for them to make unscheduled appearances in public.
 - They have no privacy and are constantly in the public eye.
 - They are always followed by the paparazzi, who pry into their lives.
 - Their lives are stressful and they have no security.
2. Many of them earn vast sums in foreign currency and the taxman can only be grateful for their massive annual contributions to the Treasury.
3. They have taken enormous risks and have worked extremely hard to get to the top.
4. As role models, they could have a positive influence on the public.
5. They possess talents that others lack.
6. They entertain millions of people.
7. Only the most talented among them will reach the top.
8. A sports career lasts only a few years.

NO

1. What they offer is completely unnecessary.
We could all live happily without professional soccer for example.
2. Those who provide essential services (e.g. surgeons, who save people's lives) are poorly-paid by comparison.
3. Why should they earn millions of dollars when there is so much poverty in the world?
4. Many of them lack real talent, and they have succeeded in spite of this.
5. They often set a bad example to the youth // They exert undesirable influence in society.
6. Personal profit is their sole motive and they never use their wealth and power to exert good influence.
7. They create fashions and their way of life and style of dress are considered as ideal.
8. Their salaries should be compatible with the wages/salaries most people earn.

17 **Fashion**

... Does it have more merits than demerits? ...

YES

1. It is an important way for young people to find a sense of identity.
2. It gives young people self-confidence.
3. Following fashion helps young people feel more important.
4. Fashion adds spice to life: color, variety, and beauty.
5. The world would be a dull place if people always wore the same clothes.
6. Fashion is an enormous industry, providing employment for vast numbers.
7. Fashion is a huge import-export business and important to world trade.
8. It makes shopping easier. Going by the trend means we are ready to buy what the majority of stores offer. This saves us time in the mall.

NO

1. Young people spend too much time and money on fashion.
2. Clothes which have been worn only a few times have to be discarded because of the dictates of fashion.
3. Changing fashions are nothing more than the deliberate creation of waste.
4. Fashion industry contributes nothing important to society.
5. Fashion designers are rarely concerned with vital things like warmth, durability, and comfort. They are only interested in outward appearance.
6. You should always be yourself. If people are shallow enough to judge you by the clothes you wear, that is their problem.
7. Following fashion trends can turn into addiction, which is sometimes difficult to get rid of.

18



Nuclear Energy

... Should we continue to use nuclear energy? ...

YES

1. If we continue to use fossil fuels, we will use them all up // There is not enough oil, coal, and gas to meet the future demand.
2. Unlike wind and solar energy, which rely on weather patterns, nuclear energy has no such limitation and is available regardless of the weather conditions.
3. It is environmentally-friendly. (e.g. it emits small amounts of greenhouse gases, so it does not contribute to global warming).
4. Nuclear energy is a huge industry and has brought employment to many towns and cities.
5. Nuclear energy is sustainable and could be used without wasting natural resources.
6. It is cost-effective:
 - Compared to other types of power plants, nuclear power stations have lower operation and maintenance costs.
 - Nuclear reactors can also last up to 60 years, which means there is no need to build a new reactor every now and then.
 - Uranium, which is used as a fuel during the process, is not costly.
7. Uranium, which is the main element in the process of nuclear fission, is abundant.

NO

1. Nuclear energy is not safe:
 - When there is a nuclear accident, the impact is catastrophic (e.g. thousands of people will be affected).
 - There are very high levels of different kinds of cancer among people who live near nuclear power plants.
 - Radioactive waste can pose a threat to our health.
2. We should focus on greener energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power.
3. Unlike solar energy, it cannot last forever because uranium, although abundant, is finite.
4. There is a chance terrorists could steal radioactive materials.
5. Compared to other power plants, building nuclear power stations requires a large amount of money.
6. Constructing them also requires a large amount of time, which means it takes years before a new plant can become operational.
7. It is harmful to the environment:
 - Radioactive waste can easily pollute the land and bodies of water and destroy plants and animals in the vicinity.
 - Uranium has to be mined and refined and also transported to the plants, all of which could cause pollution.

19 **Global Warming**

... **What do you know about global warming?** ...

CAUSES

Humans are increasing greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere:

- Factories burn fossil fuels and emit greenhouse gases.
- The number of vehicles has increased, and most vehicles give off exhaust fumes.
- Many developing countries do not care about the environment. They just want to be industrialized.
- Many people do not buy local products. Needless to say, transportation means burning fuel.



These gases allow the atmosphere to trap too much heat from the sun. This is called the greenhouse effect, which causes global warming.

EFFECTS

1. Global warming presents the greatest threat to our environment.
2. It has been reported that by the year 2100, the average temperature is likely to have increased by 1.4 to 5.8 degrees.
3. Global warming is a serious threat to animal and plant life as it is changing their habitat.
4. It is likely to impact ecosystems, agriculture and the spread of disease.
5. Global warming will melt the polar icecap.
6. The melting of Greenland icecap alone would raise sea levels by seven meters. Such a rise would submerge many islands, making them uninhabitable. This would affect hundreds of millions of people.
7. A number of nations and cultures that have existed for thousands of years are going to be destroyed.
8. There will be more extreme weather conditions such as typhoons and hurricanes.

SOLUTIONS

1. We should try to develop alternative, renewable sources of energy like solar and wind.
2. Governments could introduce stricter rules and force factories to reduce their emissions.
3. Using public transportation, cycling, and going to work on foot rather than driving could help mitigate global warming
4. Driving hybrid cars and trying to buy local products are among the most viable solutions.

20



Waste / Garbage / Landfills

CAUSES

1. One of the most important reasons is our consumer and materialistic culture.
2. Products are not made to last.
3. As the prices have decreased thanks to mass production, if something breaks, we throw it away and buy a new one.
4. Advertisers are also to blame:
 - We are persuaded to follow the latest trend. Clothes which have been worn only a few times and gadgets that are still perfectly usable are discarded because of what the fashion dictates.
 - They create demand for things we do not need.
5. Most foodstuff is sold in non-biodegradable packaging.
6. People do not recycle.
7. When population rises, the demand for manufactured products grows, which in turn increases waste.

SOLUTIONS

1. Companies should make goods that last longer.
2. They should not use so much packaging, or at least use biodegradable kinds.
3. We should not be brainwashed by advertisers and buy what we do not need.
4. Households should separate waste so that a part of it could be recycled.
5. More collection banks for glass, paper and plastic bottles need to be established.
6. People need to be educated and informed about the advantages of recycling and the threats of having countless landfills.
7. Consumers need to avoid purchasing over-packaged products.
8. We should reconsider our consumption habits and only buy what we think is necessary and useful.

EFFECTS of Landfills

1. Methane gas is produced during the process of organic matter decay. It is 20 times more effective than carbon dioxide in trapping solar radiation and causing global warming.
2. Landfills seriously impact air quality in their vicinity.
3. A huge percentage of landfill toxins infiltrate the soil, reach waterways, and eventually end up in the domestic water and the foods that we consume, causing many diseases.
4. Landfills render the soil and land where they are located unusable. It also destroys the adjacent soil because the toxic chemicals spread into the surrounding soil, upsetting the land ecosystems.
5. Landfill gases, together with a substantial amount of landfill waste, can easily start a fire.