

22 BÀI MẪU TASK 2 TỪ ĐỀ THI THẬT 2022 – BY NGỌC BÁCH

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22 BÀI MẪU TASK 2 TỪ ĐỀ THI THẬT – IELTS NGỌC BÁCH

Đề thi số 1

Task 2: People think that **government** should **increase the cost of fuel** for **cars** and other **vehicles** to **solve environmental problems**. Give your opinion.

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question, using paraphrasing. My own opinion – it is a useful measure, but other measures might be more effective
- **Paragraph 2:** useful (1) it would limit the number of car journeys, and money raised could be used to improve public transport (2) more goods would travel by rail. Both (1) and (2) would reduce vehicle emissions and reduce the greenhouse effect
- **Paragraph 3:** other measures more effective. (1) congestion charges e.g. London, money is used to improve public transport (2) free bus and train passes, reducing the use of cars and improving air quality
- **Conclusion:** useful to raise taxes on petrol, but other transport measures would be more effective to help the environment

Essay:

It is widely believed that one solution to environmental problems would be for governments to raise the price of petrol. **While** I consider that this might be an effective measure, I would argue that other measures might have an even greater impact.

If national authorities raised taxes on petrol, this would address two environmental issues. **Firstly, in terms of** private cars, motorists would limit the number and length of their journeys to compensate for the extra expense. Governments would then be forced to upgrade and expand public transport provision, as people would still need to travel to work, to school or to travel to shops and hospitals, **for example**. **Secondly, from the perspective of** freight services, more goods would have to be transported by rail rather than by truck. Both these measures would cut down on emissions from vehicles and help to reduce the greenhouse effect.

On the other hand, while this rise in fuel prices might be a useful stopgap measure, governments could adopt transport policies which would be more effective in the long term. The local authorities in London, **for instance**, introduced a congestion charge on all vehicles visiting the city centre. They use the money raised to subsidize the cost of fares and to invest in transport infrastructure. In turn, this has improved the air quality in the city, as a result of the reduction in exhaust fumes. **Another policy** would be to introduce free bus and train passes, as the increased use of public transport would reduce pollution from private cars and help in the effort to combat global warming.

In conclusion, a sharp rise in petrol prices would be a useful environmentally-friendly transport measure, although in the longer term other steps would be more effective.

290 words

Vocabulary from *transport*:

- **to raise petrol prices (a sharp rise in petrol prices = increase the cost of fuel)**

Meaning: to increase the price which people pay for petrol

Example: **Raising petrol prices** would not be an effective method of reducing the amount of traffic on the roads.

- **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**

Meaning: to improve bus and train services and to make these services more available

Example: One way to reduce traffic on the roads is **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**.

- **freight services**

Meaning: the system of transporting goods

Example: Railways must provide more **freight services** in order to reduce the number of trucks on the roads.

- **congestion charge**

Meaning: an amount of money that people have to pay for driving their cars into the centre of some cities, as a way of stopping the city centre from becoming too full of traffic

Example: More cities should follow the example of London and introduce a **congestion charge** in order to ease traffic flow in the city centre.

- **to subsidize the cost of fares**

Meaning: to give money to a business or organization to help to pay for the cost of using public transport

Example: Governments must **subsidize the cost of fares** on public transport.

- **to invest in transport infrastructure**

Meaning: to spend money on improving roads, railway lines, train and bus stations

Example: Governments must **invest in transport infrastructure** to make journeys by road and rail safer.

Vocabulary from *government*:

- **national and local authorities**

Meaning: government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area

Example: Tackling crime is a responsibility of both **national and local authorities**.

- **to raise taxes on**

Meaning: to increase the amount of tax on something

Example: Governments should **raise taxes on** cigarettes to persuade more people to give up smoking.

- **a stopgap measure**

Meaning: a policy or action adopted for a short time until some more permanent solution is found

Example: Building more prisons will not solve the problem of rising crime rates, but it is **a stopgap measure** which the government must take to protect ordinary citizens.

- **to adopt policies**

Meaning: to start to use particular policies

Example: In order to deal with traffic congestion, the government must **adopt policies** to restrict the use of private cars.

Vocabulary from *the environment*:

- **to cut down on emissions**

Meaning: to reduce the amount of gases sent out into the air

Example: People must be made aware of the need **to cut down on emissions** from their cars if we are to reduce air pollution.

- **the greenhouse effect**

Meaning: the natural process by which the sun warms the surface of the Earth.

The greenhouse effect occurs when Earth's atmosphere traps solar radiation because of the presence of certain gases, which causes short wavelength visible sunlight shines through the glass panes and warms the air and the plants inside.

Example: Our burning of fossil fuels is increasing **the greenhouse effect** and making the Earth hotter, endangering all life on the planet.

- **global warming**

Meaning: the process by which the Earth is getting hotter, as a result of the greenhouse effect – in particular the increase in carbon dioxide in the air.

Example: Perhaps the major environmental challenge which faces humanity today is **global warming**, because it threatens our survival.

- **environmentally friendly**

Meaning: behavior or products that do not harm the environment

Example: We can help to protect the environment by using detergents and cosmetics that are **environmentally friendly**.

Other vocabulary:

- **to address** [verb]:

Meaning: to think about a problem or situation and decide how you are going to deal with it

Example: We must **address** the problem of traffic pollution urgently.

- **exhaust fumes** [noun]:

Meaning: smoke from cars or other vehicles which is dangerous for people to breathe in

Example: I hate walking in the city centre, because of all the **exhaust fumes** which pollute the air.

Đề thi số 2

Task 2: Some people think that **physical strength** is **important** for **success in sport**, while other people think that **mental strength** is **more important**. Discuss **both views** and give **your own opinion**.

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion, physical strength is fundamental for success in sport
- **Paragraph 2:** mental strength is important (1) provides motivation to train hard (2) mental strength helps to overcome failures
- **Paragraph 3:** physical strength is the basis of success. Examples of physically demanding sports, but also all other sports – sailing, horse-riding. Some sports stars take drugs to enhance physical strength
- **Conclusion:** physical and mental strength are both important for success, but physical strength is the basis.

Essay:

In order to achieve success in sport, some people argue that it is more important to be strong mentally than physically. **While** no sportsperson can reach the top without the mental qualities of determination and dedication, I believe that the basis for success must be physical strength.

On the one hand, all sports trainers recognise the necessity of a strong mental attitude. **Firstly**, if trainers cannot foster a competitive spirit, or even a win-at-all-costs attitude, the sportspeople who they train may lack the necessary motivation to work hard and succeed. Hours spent training in the gym, **for example**, may be repetitive and boring, and aspiring athletes need to stay focused. **Secondly**, in any sport there will be disappointments and failures, and it is essential to be mentally strong to overcome these and achieve one's goals. In particular, in the world of professional sport, where news coverage places too much value on sport, it is impossible to have a laid-back attitude and still succeed.

On the other hand, physical strength must be the basis of all success in sport. **While** most people take up sport simply to get into shape or to keep fit, those who wish to become successful must be physically strong. Obvious **examples** are sports such as weightlifting, boxing or judo. Yet all other sports also demand physical strength for stamina and endurance, even sailing or horse-riding. Some sports stars, **such as** the world-famous professional cyclist Lance Armstrong, have even used illegal substances, like performance-enhancing drugs, in order to reach and maintain top physical condition, risking their careers.

In conclusion, both physical and mental strength are necessary to become successful in sport, but it is impossible to succeed without being physically strong.

283 words

Vocabulary from *sport and exercise*:

- **to foster a competitive spirit**

Meaning: encourage the desire to beat others in a sports event

Example: The problem with encouraging sport at school is that it **fosters a competitive spirit** among students, instead of teaching children simply to do the best that they can in all aspects of life.

- **a win-at-all-costs attitude**

Meaning: an idea that a match or competition must be won, using all possible means

Example: Youth sport is being ruined by **a win-at-all-costs attitude**, which includes cheating and breaking the rules in order to achieve victory.

- **to place too much value on sport**

Meaning: to regard sport as too important

Example: I would argue that schools **place too much value on sport** in the curriculum, and participation in sport should be an out-of-school activity.

- **to take up sport/to take up exercise**

Meaning: to start doing a sport, to start doing exercise

Example: Governments should provide sports facilities to encourage more people to **take up sport**.

- **to get into shape**

Meaning: to become fit

Example: If people have a sedentary lifestyle, they must do regular exercise **to get into shape**.

- **to keep fit**

Meaning: to stay in good physical condition

Example: A healthy diet and plenty of exercise are essential for people **to keep fit**.

- **to use illegal substances**

Meaning: to use drugs or medicines which are not allowed under the rules of a competition

Example: In professional sport, it has become increasingly common **to use illegal substances** in order to win at all costs.

- **performance-enhancing drugs**

Meaning: drugs which improve the ability of a sportsperson to compete

Example: Athletes who take **performance-enhancing drugs** are not only cheating, but they also set a bad example for young people.

Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:

- **news coverage**

Meaning: the reporting of news and sport in newspapers, TV, or radio.

Example: The US presidential election received global **news coverage**, so that the whole world became interested in the outcome.

Other vocabulary:

- **to reach the top** [expression]:

Meaning: to be successful

Example: He is working hard at his job, because he wants **to reach the top**.

- **aspiring** [adjective]:

Meaning: wanting to be successful

Example: **Aspiring** musicians need hours of practice every day.

- **to stay focused** [expression]:

Meaning: with your attention directed to what you want to do

Example: Mary works hard, and if she **stays focused** she will pass her exams.

- **stamina** [noun]:

Meaning: the physical strength that enables you to do something for a long time

Example: You need a lot of **stamina** to run a marathon.

- **endurance** [noun]:

Meaning: the ability to continue doing something painful or difficult for a long time without giving up

Example: The marathon tests both physical and mental **endurance**.

Đề thi số 3

Task 2: In some countries, **young people** have become **richer, healthier, and live longer**, but they are **less happy**. What are the **causes**? **What** can be done to **address** this **situation**?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. There is one major cause, and steps should be taken to deal with this
- **Paragraph 2:** the major cause – advertising. Youngsters are influenced by marketing (give examples), but having more possessions does not bring happiness
- **Paragraph 3:** the solutions – ban advertising and encourage people to be active in, for example, sport and music, not passive consumers of the latest products
- **Conclusion:** restrict marketing and encourage young people to participate actively - this will result in more happiness

Essay:

It is true that, particularly in developed countries, the youth of today enjoy longer lives and better health, but are not necessarily happier, despite all the material possessions that they have. I would argue that there is one principal reason why they are not happier, and some steps should be taken to deal with this situation.

The influence of commercial advertising is at the root of the dissatisfaction of today's youngsters. Young people have become a target audience for the marketing industry, even children of 5 years old or younger. They are swayed by advertisements to adopt the values of the consumer society, possessing more and more things which, they are told, will bring them happiness, **such as** toys, electronic goods, a McDonald's burger or the latest fashions. TV channels and online advertising persuade young people to buy goods impulsively. **However**, all this personal consumption has failed to bring happiness, and the false promises have resulted in disillusionment among young people.

Governments could immediately address this problem. They must introduce restrictions on advertising, and it would be even more effective to impose an official ban on all marketing. National and local authorities should allocate resources to schools to provide opportunities for young people to participate actively in sports or to take up a musical instrument. This will bring much more happiness and social interaction into the lives of today's youth, rather than being passive individual consumers of everything, from violent video games to junk food. These two measures would certainly help efforts to bring more fulfilment and happiness into the lives of today's youth.

In conclusion, by taking steps to curb the activities of the marketing industry, governments could help young people to develop into happier citizens of the future.

289 words

Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:

- **commercial advertising**

Meaning: advertising on the radio or television, between or during programmes.

Example: **Commercial advertising** on television provides the revenue for most TV channels.

- **target audience**

Meaning: consumers whom businesses aim at when selling their products

Example: Companies which sell soft drinks, like Coca Cola, aim mainly at a **target audience** of children and adolescents.

- **to be swayed by advertisements**

Meaning: to be influenced to buy things as a result of advertising

Example: If consumers **were** not easily **swayed by advertisements**, the advertising industry would not exist.

- **to buy goods impulsively**

Meaning: to buy things suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have

Example: Advertising motivates consumers **to buy goods impulsively**.

Vocabulary from *society*:

- **the consumer society**

Meaning: a society in which buying and selling are considered extremely important

Example: Money and possessions are considered to be more important than family and friends in today's **consumer society**.

Vocabulary from *government*:

- **to introduce restrictions on**

Meaning: to limit what people can do or what can happen

Example: The government must **introduce restrictions on** smoking in public places.

- **to impose an official ban on**

Meaning: to say or declare that something is not allowed

Example: Governments ought **to impose an official ban on** the use of mobile phones on public transport.

- **national and local authorities**

Meaning: government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area

Example: Tackling crime is a responsibility of both **national and local authorities**.

- **to allocate resources to**

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

Vocabulary from *the arts*:

- **to take up a musical instrument**

Meaning: to start to learn to play a musical instrument

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Example: Schools should encourage all those children who have an interest **to take up a musical instrument**.

Vocabulary from *food and diet*:

- **junk food**

Meaning: food that is quick and easy to prepare and eat, but that is thought to be bad for your health

Example: The consumption of too much **junk food** is a major factor in the increase of childhood obesity.

Other vocabulary:

- **at the root of** [expression]:

Meaning: the main cause of something, such as a problem or difficult situation

Example: What lies **at the root of** his problem is his lack of money.

- **to adopt** [verb]:

Meaning: to formally accept a suggestion or policy

Example: The government is expected **to adopt** the new policy next year.

- **disillusionment** [noun]:

Meaning: disappointment, because the idea that you believed was good and true now seems without value

Example: You can imagine John's **disillusionment** when his favourite rock star was put in prison for taking drugs.

- **to curb** [verb]:

Meaning: to control or limit something, especially something bad

Example: There is a new law **to curb** emissions from cars.

Đề thi số 4

Task 2: People are **consuming** more and more **sugar-based drinks**. **Why?** What can be done to **reduce** sugary drink **consumption**?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. There are a number of reasons to explain the trend, but it is possible to reduce the consumption of soft drinks
- **Paragraph 2:** marketing is the principal reason for the increase. It is targeted at children and young people, with serious consequences for health e.g. diabetes etc.
- **Paragraph 3:** three effective measures can be taken (1) raise taxes e.g. France (2) remove vending machines from public places e.g. schools, etc (3) health awareness campaigns, health warning labels on bottles
- **Conclusion:** marketing is the main reason for the increase in consumption of sugary drinks, but measures can be taken to combat this trend

Essay:

It is true that the consumption of drinks with added sugar is increasing globally, even in less developed countries. **While** a number of factors explain this trend, some countries have taken measures to reduce the intake of sweetened drinks.

Heavy marketing is the principal reason why the consumption of sugar-based drinks has increased rapidly. This trend is of concern to the World Health Organisation because it carries health risks, including life-threatening conditions **such as** diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and certain types of cancer. The soft-drinks manufacturers advertise their products to a target audience of young children and adolescents. This strategy encourages youngsters to form the lifetime habit of buying these drinks, as they are soon addicted to the high sugar content. They put on weight, are prone to obesity and find it difficult to keep their teeth healthy.

There are three measures that would be effective in tackling the rise in the popularity of sugary drinks. **Firstly**, governments should raise taxes on the sales of soft drinks. This has been done in France, **for example**, and could be implemented by other countries, too. **Secondly**, vending machines must be removed from public places, discouraging the consumption of sugary drinks in schools, bus stations, cinemas and hospitals. **Finally**, health awareness campaigns on TV and the internet could help in combatting the promotion

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of soft drinks by marketing agencies, including the compulsory addition of health warnings on labels, as in the case of tobacco products.

In conclusion, although the promotion of soft drinks has resulted in increased sales, effective steps can be taken to reverse this trend.

263 words

Vocabulary from *health*:

- **to carry health risks**

Meaning: to have effects which could be bad for one's health

Example: Smoking and drinking alcohol are potentially dangerous habits, because they carry serious health risks.

- **life-threatening conditions**

Meaning: illnesses which are likely to kill somebody

Example: Great advances have been made in the treatment of **life-threatening conditions** such as cancer and heart disease.

- **to be addicted to sth**

Meaning: to be unable to stop taking harmful drugs, tobacco or alcohol.

Example: More specialist clinics, offering treatment and advice, are required to help people who **are addicted to** drugs.

- **to be prone to obesity**

Meaning: to be likely to become fat [in an unhealthy way]

Example: Children who are addicted to watching television, instead of playing outdoor games, **are more prone to obesity**.

- **to keep their teeth healthy**

Meaning: to take care of their teeth by cleaning them regularly

Example: Advertisements encourage youngsters to brush their teeth several times a day in order to **keep their teeth healthy**.

- **health awareness campaigns**

Meaning: publicity to encourage people to be concerned about looking after their health.

Example: Public **health awareness campaigns** are essential if people are to accept that they have a personal responsibility to look after their own health.

Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:

- **target audience**

Meaning: consumers whom businesses aim at when selling their products

Example: Companies which sell soft drinks, like Coca Cola, aim mainly at a **target audience** of children and adolescents.

Vocabulary from *food and diet*:

- **to put on weight**

Meaning: to become fatter and heavier

Example: Those who wish to avoid **putting on weight** should avoid fatty and sugary foods.

Vocabulary from *government*:

- **to raise taxes on**

Meaning: to increase the amount of tax on something

Example: Governments should **raise taxes on** cigarettes to persuade more people to give up smoking.

Other vocabulary:

- **intake** [noun]:

Meaning: the amount of food or drink that you take into your body

Example: The doctor advised John to reduce his daily **intake** of salt.

- **vending machine** [noun]:

Meaning: a machine from which you can buy cigarettes, drinks etc by putting money into it

Example: In hospitals, hospital authorities must ban cigarette vending machines.

Đề thi số 5

Task 2: The **use of social media** is **replacing face-to-face interaction** among **many people** in society. Do you think the **advantages outweigh** the **disadvantages**?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion: the disadvantages outweigh the advantages
- **Paragraph 2:** advantages (1) social media - sometimes the only way to maintain contact with friends/family (2) social media sites – it is possible to keep in touch with a large number of people e.g. Facebook
- **Paragraph 3:** disadvantages (1) no human contact – people fail to develop social skills (2) lack of privacy of social media – stealing of personal information
- **Conclusion:** drawbacks of social media outweigh the advantages.

Essay:

It is true that more and more people all over the world rely on social networking sites to keep in touch with people that they know. **While** there are some positive aspects of this trend, I believe that overall the disadvantages outweigh the benefits.

On the one hand, there are two clear advantages of using social media rather than depending on face-to-face communication. **Firstly**, in the modern world, families and friends may often be scattered across the globe, due to work or study commitments, **for example**. Large family gatherings may be impossible to organise and, without the existence of social media, a decline in communication with relatives and close friends

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might result. **Secondly**, thanks to sites **like** Facebook or LinkedIn, it is now possible to keep in touch with a large number of people, sharing photos, making small talk and exchanging news. Many people have hundreds of followers on their Facebook page, **for instance**.

On the other hand, I would argue that there is no substitute for face-to-face interaction. **One reason** is that social media discourage real interaction and prevent people from developing social skills. Humans use all their senses in order to communicate fully, **such as** touch and gestures. **Also**, despite advances in technology, face-to-face interaction avoids some of the dangers of social media. These include computer hackers and online scams, stealing personal information on networking sites. **For example**, if I announce on Facebook that I will be going abroad on holiday, I may return to find my house has been burgled.

In conclusion, **although** most people can now access the internet and social media are widely used, I consider that the drawbacks of lack of personal contact – compared with face-to-face interaction - and issues of privacy outweigh the advantages.

291 words

Vocabulary from *communication and personality*:

- **social networking sites**

Meaning: a website on which you communicate with people who share your interests

Example: Young people today waste too much time on **social networking sites** such as Facebook or Twitter.

- **to make small talk/to exchange pleasantries**

Meaning: to talk in a polite way about unimportant matters such as the weather

Example: I enjoy a serious discussion and I don't like to **make small talk** or **exchange pleasantries** with others simply in order to be polite.

Vocabulary from *family and children*:

- **a family gathering**

Meaning: a meeting of family members for a particular purpose

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Example: In traditional societies, **family gatherings** are common to celebrate special occasions.

Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **to discourage real interaction**

Meaning: to result in less face-to-face communication with other people

Example: the availability of new communication technologies may also have the result of isolating people and **discouraging real interaction**.

- **advances in technology**

Meaning: the improvement or development in technology

Example: Recent **advances in medical technology** are making a great contribution to the search for a cure for Aids.

- **computer hackers**

Meaning: people who find a way of looking at or changing information secretly on somebody's computer system

Example: One disadvantage of computers is that **computer hackers** may be able to discover your personal details, such as bank account information.

- **online scams**

Meaning: clever and dishonest plans using the internet in order to make money.

Example: Many internet users have been victims of **online scams**, paying money for goods or services that do not exist or are worthless.

- **to gain access to the internet/to access the internet**

Meaning: to have the opportunity to use the internet

Example: Millions of people are able to **access the internet** in cafes, libraries or other public places.

Vocabulary from *society*:

- **to develop social skills**

Meaning: to become better at communicating and interacting in different situations

Example: Playing team sports at school helps children **to develop social skills** which will help them in adult life.

Other vocabulary:

- **scattered** [adjective]:

Meaning: spread far apart over a wide area or over a long period of time

Example: Her family are **scattered** around the world, in India, Africa and South America.

- **to keep in touch with** [expression]:

Meaning: to communicate with somebody

Example: When you go to the USA to study, let's **keep in touch**.

- **gesture** [noun]:

Meaning: a movement that you make with your hands, your head or your face to show a particular meaning

Example: He made a rude **gesture** to the teacher, who told him to leave the classroom.

- **to burgle** [verb]:

Meaning: to enter a building illegally, usually using force, and stealing from it

Example: The house next door **was burgled**, but the police caught the robbers as they were running away.

Đề thi số 6

Task 2: Some people believe that reading stories from a book is better than watching TV or playing computer games for children. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion: reading stories from a book is better for positive and negative reasons
- **Paragraph 2:** positive reasons (1) bedtime stories strengthen family ties – personal example (2) reading stories from a book stimulates the imagination (3) develops literary appreciation skills
- **Paragraph 3:** negative reasons (1) health risks of a sedentary lifestyle in front of TV/computer screens – examples diabetes, heart disease (2) too much time in front of screens discourages interaction with others
- **Conclusion:** it is better for children to spend time reading stories from a book than to watch TV or play video games

Essay:

It is true that many people argue that it is better to read stories to children than to allow youngsters to spend too much time watching TV or playing computer games. I completely agree with this argument for both positive and negative reasons.

There are several positive reasons to encourage children to read stories from a book. **Firstly**, a regular habit of reading bedtime stories to children helps to strengthen family bonds, by spending time together in a shared activity. **For example**, when I was a young child, my father used to read stories to me most nights. **Secondly**, reading stories from books stimulates the imagination, and such stories tend to stick in one's mind longer than watching videos or playing a computer game. **Finally**, stories from a book broaden one's literary horizons and develop literary appreciation skills useful in later life.

By contrast, there are negative aspects of the habits of watching TV or playing computer games which many youngsters develop as they grow up. A sedentary lifestyle, **for instance**, is detrimental to health. Children who become couch potatoes through spending too much time in front of the TV or computer screen are prone to obesity, which carries health risks such as diabetes or heart disease. **Another factor** is that hours spent on computer games or watching TV discourages real interaction, which is important because youngsters need

to relate personally to others. This is impossible if they are glued to a screen which occupies all their attention.

In conclusion, for both positive and negative reasons, I would argue that it is better for children to read stories from a book than to waste time watching TV or playing video games.

281 words.

Vocabulary from *reading*:

- **bedtime stories**

Meaning: stories told to children before they sleep

Example: Parents should spend time with their children, for example by telling them **bedtime stories** every night.

- **to stick in your mind**

Meaning: (of a memory, an image, etc.) to be remembered for a long time

Example: When children learn a foreign language in primary school, words and phrases tend to **stick in their minds** almost without the effort of learning them in a formal way.

- **to broaden one's literary horizons**

Meaning: to widen the limit of your desires, knowledge, or interests by reading widely

Example: Schools should **broaden the literary horizons** of pupils by encouraging them to read in class and at home.

- **literary appreciation**

Meaning: pleasure that you have when you recognize and enjoy the qualities of a good piece of writing

Example: Children develop **literary appreciation** if they are encouraged by parents and teachers to love reading.

Vocabulary from *health*:

- **sedentary lifestyle**

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Meaning: involving little exercise or physical activity

Example: A **sedentary lifestyle** is a major factor in health problems such as obesity and heart disease.

- **to be detrimental to health**

Meaning: to be harmful to health

Example: Lying in the sun for too long can **be detrimental to health** and result in skin cancers.

- **to be prone to obesity**

Meaning: to be likely to become fat [in an unhealthy way]

Example: Children who are addicted to watching television, instead of playing outdoor games, **are more prone to obesity**.

- **to carry health risks**

Meaning: to have effects which could be bad for one's health

Example: Smoking and drinking alcohol are potentially dangerous habits, because they carry serious health risks.

Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **to discourage real interaction**

Meaning: to result in less face-to-face communication with other people

Example: the availability of new communication technologies may also have the result of isolating people and **discouraging real interaction**.

Other vocabulary:

- **bond** [noun]:

Meaning: something that forms a connection between people or groups, such as a feeling of friendship or shared experiences and ideas

Example: She felt a **bond** of friendship for the other girls in her class.

- **couch potato** [noun]:

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Meaning: a person who spends a lot of time sitting and watching TV

Example: Last year he subscribed to a sports channel, and now he has become a real **couch potato**.

- **to be glued to something** [expression]:

Meaning: to give all your attention to something

Example: He spent all of the journey **glued to** his phone, and he never spoke a single word to me.

Đề thi số 7

Task 2: Some people think **news** has **no connection** to **people's lives**. Therefore, it is a **waste of time** to **read** the **newspaper** and **watch television news programs**. To what extent do you **agree** or **disagree**?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion: completely disagree
- **Paragraph 2:** some people do not follow the news, because it is often trivial and irrelevant to their own lives e.g. celebrity news, football, fashion. They can discover the news which affects them directly through local sources.
- **Paragraph 3:** reasons why this view is wrong: (1) it is vital to know about national/international events e.g. climate change, the coronavirus (2) in a democracy, voters must be informed – at least in part through TV/press news coverage (3) financial/business sections of newspapers inform people about economic matters which affect everyone.
- **Conclusion:** although much news is trivial, it is misguided not to follow the news.

Essay:

It is true that some people fail to see any relevance to their own lives of the news that they see on TV or read in the newspapers. **While** they may find some comfort in holding this

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opinion, I strongly believe that it is absurd to argue that news has no connection to people's lives.

On the one hand, some people think that their own individual lives are unaffected by events that take place in the world. This may be true if they consider only **such** news items as the lives of celebrities, the results of football matches or the latest fashions. They argue that this attitude does not mean that they are set in their ways or behind the times. They also say that they are able to hear through the grapevine about local events which might have a bearing on their own lives. Life for them, therefore, can continue perfectly normally without TV or press news coverage.

On the other hand, this view is dangerously misguided for several reasons. **Firstly**, it is vital to see the big picture of national and international news as relevant to each individual. **For example**, the news media may carry a story about climate change or, very recently, the breaking news of a deadly virus which may affect every person on the planet. **Secondly**, in any democratic society, it is necessary to have informed and critical citizens who keep abreast of events, at least partly through TV and newspaper reports. **Finally**, the financial and business sections of newspapers carry important information on economic matters which influence the lives of everyone.

In conclusion, despite the triviality of much reporting, I totally disagree that it is a waste of time to follow the news.

289 words

Vocabulary from *communication and personality*:

- **set in his or her ways**

Meaning: A person who is set in his or her ways is stubborn and committed to their current way of doing things. They aren't open to changing, even if the change would be an improvement

Example: As people get older, they often become **set in their ways** and are reluctant to try anything new.

- **behind the times**

Meaning: refers to a person who is old-fashioned and has not adopted certain modern customs, beliefs, or behaviors

Example: He was angry when they said that his accounting methods were **behind the times** because he did not use computer software.

- **to hear something through the grapevine**

Meaning: to hear news from someone who heard that news from someone else, to learn of something informally and unofficially by means of gossip or rumor.

Example: Never believe the gossip that you **hear through the grapevine** – always try to find the truth from an official source.

- **to see the big picture**

Meaning: to understand all the important aspects of a situation

Example: Students sometimes get confused with so many details to remember, but our history teacher is able to make us **see the big picture**.

- **to keep abreast of something**

Meaning: to have the most recent information about something

Example: This new service helps doctors **keep abreast of** the newest drugs available.

Vocabulary from *media and advertising*:

- **news coverage**

Meaning: the reporting of news and sport in newspapers, tv, or radio.

Example: The US presidential election received global **news coverage**, so that the whole world became interested in the outcome.

- **to carry a story**

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Meaning: to include an item in a news report

Example: The media nowadays **carries too many stories** about celebrities and trivia and not enough serious news.

- **breaking news**

Meaning: newly received information about an event that is currently taking place

Example: One disadvantage of the printed media is that it is unable to carry the latest **breaking news** stories.

- **the financial/business sections**

Meaning: the economic area relating to money or how money is managed

Example: Newspapers have increasingly turned to providing expert, detailed analysis of recent events, for example in their **financial or business sections**.

Other vocabulary:

- **to have a bearing on something** [expression]:

Meaning: to influence something in some way

Example: The athlete was taking drugs, and this **had a bearing on** his performance.

- **misguided** [adjective]:

Meaning: wrong, leading someone to take a bad course of action

Example: Many people think that huge spending on military budgets is a **misguided** policy.

Đề thi số 8

Task 2: Scientific research should be **carried out** and **controlled** by **private companies** rather **than governments**. Do the **advantages** of this situation **outweigh** the **disadvantages**?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion: the disadvantages outweigh the advantages
- **Paragraph 2:** the advantage if private companies carry out scientific research: sometimes there is money available immediately to get quick results – example, developing a vaccine to combat the corona virus.
- **Paragraph 3:** the advantages if governments carry out this research: (1) research is carried out according to public well-being, not profits – example, preventive medicine, environmental protection (2) research findings are not secret and can be shared among scientists and governments everywhere.
- **Conclusion:** any advantages are far outweighed by the disadvantages. Governments should conduct scientific research.

Essay:

It is true that some people believe that private enterprise should be responsible for conducting scientific research. **While** this may have some minor benefits in the short term, I would argue that this is outweighed by enormous disadvantages.

On the one hand, one advantage is that private companies sometimes respond more rapidly to demand than governments. People who invest money in these companies are greedy to make the most of any business opportunity. Thus, huge amounts of money become immediately available for these corporations to conduct research which might maximise profits. **For example**, the outbreak of an epidemic **such as** the corona virus,

presents a spectacular opportunity for the pharmaceutical industry. In the search for a cure, the first company to develop a vaccine stands to make a vast fortune, whether governments buy the vaccine or people have to buy it themselves.

On the other hand, there are significant benefits if governments determine the direction of scientific research for the well-being of their people. **Firstly**, they must provide funding for university departments to carry out research according to public need. Advances in technology and knowledge to achieve sustainable development would be used to benefit people, not investors. Thus, research into areas **like** preventive medicine or to alleviate environmental problems, although unprofitable, is essential. **Secondly**, as competition between companies is eliminated, the sharing of knowledge through international cooperation among the scientific community becomes the norm.

In conclusion, private companies sometimes carry out scientific research quickly, **whereas** governments up to now have been relatively slow to allocate resources to such research. **However**, the advantages of placing the responsibility for scientific research in government hands far outweigh any disadvantages.

276 words.

Vocabulary from *business and money*:

- **to make the most of something**

Meaning: to make something appear as good as possible; to exploit something; to get as much out of something as is possible.

Example: They designed the advertisements **to make the most of** the product's features.

- **maximise profits**

Meaning: to increase profits to the highest possible level

Example: The company has hired a marketing consultant to recommend how to **maximise profits** next year.

Vocabulary from *health*:

- **the outbreak of an epidemic**

Meaning: a large number of diseases occurring at the same time in a particular community

Example: A lack of government programs for vaccination and regular health care may lead to **the outbreak of an epidemic**, particularly in developing countries.

- **the pharmaceutical industry**

Meaning: an industry which makes drugs and medicines

Example: I believe that **the pharmaceutical industry** must be strictly regulated by governments, especially in the testing of new drugs.

- **to search for a cure**

Meaning: the process of looking for a way to make a sick person healthy again

Example: It is the responsibility of governments to enable doctors **to search for a cure** for diseases by providing adequate funding.

- **preventive medicine**

Meaning: practices of healthcare intended to try to stop illnesses

Example: An emphasis on **preventive medicine** will result in a healthier population and reduced costs for medical treatment.

Vocabulary from *government*:

- **to provide funding for**

Meaning: to give money to enable something to be done

Example: **Providing funding for** health care must be a priority of governments.

- **to allocate resources to**

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **advances in technology**

Meaning: the improvement or development in technology

Example: Recent **advances in medical technology** are making a great contribution to the search for a cure for Aids.

Vocabulary from *the environment*:

- **to achieve sustainable development**

Meaning: economic development that is achieved without depleting natural resources

Example: Organic methods must be introduced everywhere in order **to achieve sustainable development** in agriculture.

- **to alleviate environmental problems**

Meaning: to make bad environmental problems less severe

Example: Everyone can assist in the effort **to alleviate environmental problems** in the local community through simple actions such as recycling waste or planting a tree in their garden.

Other vocabulary

- **private enterprise** [noun]:

Meaning: a privately owned business or industry that operates under the management and ownership of individuals, not the government.

Example: The government is planning to sell its national airline to **private enterprise**.

- **to stand to** [expression]:

Meaning: to be in a situation that makes something likely to happen to you

Example: The President **stands to** gain from the accusations of corruption against his opponent in the election.

- **the norm** [noun]:

Meaning: something that is usual, normal and expected

Example: Households with 2 or more cars are now **the norm** in some European countries.

Đề thi số 9

Task 2: Both men and women these days **work full-time**, so it is **logical** for them to **share household chores equally**. To what extent do you **agree or disagree**?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion: totally agree
- **Paragraph 2: 1st argument:** traditional roles are no longer appropriate in the modern family – contrast the extended family of the past. Therefore, now, it is only fair to share chores
- **Paragraph 3: 2nd argument:** people who go to work have to work hard, but things like washing machines, microwaves etc make household chores easier. So, it is easier to share the chores
- **Conclusion:** totally agree that men and women should share all household chores, especially when household chores are made easier nowadays

Essay:

It is true that, throughout the world, the number of dual-income families is increasing. When there are two wages which contribute to the family budget, I firmly believe that both men and women should have equal responsibility for doing the household chores.

Firstly, old patterns of behaviour are no longer appropriate or logical in the modern family, in which both men and women work full-time. Working mothers cannot be expected to do all the jobs around the house if, along with men, they have also to be breadwinners. Traditionally, the woman might expect help with the household chores from the extended family. Some of these family members might live in the home, and cook, clean and do shopping. However, in the modern nuclear family, the working man and woman must adopt new roles and responsibilities.

Secondly, although both men and women often have a heavy workload, at home there are many labour-saving appliances to make chores easier to share. The man and woman arrive home worn out either physically or mentally after a hard day at the office, shop or factory. Therefore, it is only fair to shoulder the burden of chores equally. Fortunately, with two salaries, it is possible to afford to save work in the home. Washing machines, microwave ovens, vacuum cleaners and other aids to housework can be operated by anyone, regardless of gender. In the USA, **for example**, most families often consume ready meals or takeaways, instead of preparing home-made food. Sharing the chores therefore becomes easier after enduring the pressures of the workplace.

In conclusion, I totally agree that when men and women are in full-time jobs, they should share the household chores, especially since these chores are made so much lighter these days.

289 words

Vocabulary from *family and children*:

- **a dual-income family**

Meaning: a family where both the father and mother work

Example: Changes in society have resulted in the **dual-income family** becoming the most common family type.

- **patterns of behavior**

Meaning: ways of acting and doing things (either positive or negative)

Example: Patterns of behaviour copied from parents often influence the way that children grow up.

- **working mothers**

Meaning: women who have a job and also have to take care of their children

Example: As more and more women have entered the workforce, **working mothers** have to balance the demands of home and work.

- **an extended family**

Meaning: a family group with many members, including parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins etc

Example: In the past, the **extended family** was a form of support when any members were ill or suffered some misfortune.

- **a nuclear family**

Meaning: a family consisting of a father, mother and their children

Example: The **nuclear family** has replaced the extended family as the most common form of family structure throughout the world.

Vocabulary from *work*:

- **a heavy workload**

Meaning: a lot of work that an individual employee has to perform

Example: While some people enjoy the challenge of **a heavy workload**, others find too much work very stressful.

Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **labour-saving appliances**

Meaning: machines that reduce the amount of work or effort needed to do something.

Example: The technological revolution in the home started with the introduction of **labour-saving appliances** such as washing machines and dishwashers.

Vocabulary from *food and diet*:

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- **home-made food**

Meaning: food which is prepared at home using individual ingredients

Example: In developed countries, the young generation must rediscover the art of preparing **home-made** food, as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Other vocabulary:

- **worn out** [adjective]:

Meaning: exhausted and very tired, often as a result of working too hard

Example: I was absolutely **worn out** after walking round the shops all day.

- **to shoulder** [verb]:

Meaning: to accept responsibility or blame for something

Example: The football club manager **shouldered** the blame for his team's defeat.

Đề thi số 10

Task 2: Some education systems make students focus on certain subjects at the age of 15, while others require students to study a wide range of subjects until they leave school. What are the benefits of each system? Which is better?

Essay plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion: studying a wide range of subjects is better
- **Paragraph 2:** the benefit of specialising – example: focusing on maths and science prepares students to get a job when they leave school
- **Paragraph 3:** the benefits of a broad education (1) preparation for life by stimulating interest in a range of subjects; examples: philosophy, literature and history (2) a wide range of subjects encourages critical thinking, imagination and creativity – art, drama, music
- **Conclusion:** although each system has benefits, a wide range of subjects is better

Essay:

Education systems vary across the world, with some forcing students to specialise when they reach 15, **whereas** others encourage a wider range of learning. **While** both systems have advantages, I firmly believe that school students should acquire a broad education.

On the one hand, if students concentrate on particular subjects at the age of 15, then they will be able to cover a lot of ground in those subject areas. **For example**, if students at this age study only maths and sciences, they will be able to spend all of their school day on these lessons. They will not have the distraction of studying languages or the arts. They will have a good grasp of their chosen areas of study, and will therefore be well equipped to put the knowledge that they have gained into practice. This system thus improves their job prospects when they leave school.

On the other hand, I favour a system in which students study a wide range of subjects throughout their years at school. I would argue that this system is better for two important reasons. **Firstly**, a broad education is a preparation for life. Schools must encourage youngsters beyond the age of 15 to be interested in all aspects of life, by exposing them to subjects **such as** philosophy, literature and history. **Secondly**, studying a range of subjects until they leave school, students have the chance to develop critical thinking, imagination and creativity. They may start to learn how to express themselves through painting, drama and writing, taking up a musical instrument or singing in a choir at school.

In conclusion, although at 15 students may be better prepared for work by concentrating on only a few subjects, studying a wide range of subjects prepares them for life.

294 words

Vocabulary from *education*:

- **to cover a lot of ground**

Meaning: to deal with much information and many facts.

Example: The history lecture **covered a lot of ground** today.

- **to have a good grasp of something**

Meaning: to understand a problem deeply and completely

Example: Children who begin to learn a foreign language in primary school are usually able **to have a good grasp of** the new language quickly.

Vocabulary from *work*:

- **to put knowledge gained into practice**

Meaning: to put to practical use the knowledge that you have acquired

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Example: Vocational training courses enable students to **put the knowledge gained** during their studies **into practice**.

- **job prospects**

Meaning: the chances of being successful and having more opportunities at work

Example: People with qualifications and experience usually have the best **job prospects**.

Vocabulary from *the arts*:

- **to express oneself**

Meaning: to communicate some idea or emotion through speech, writing, painting, music or some other form of art

Example: Schools should encourage pupils **to express themselves** through art, music or creative writing in order to stimulate their imagination.

- **to take up a musical instrument**

Meaning: to start to learn to play a musical instrument

Example: Schools should encourage all those children who have an interest **to take up a musical instrument**.

- **to sing in a choir**

Meaning: to sing in a group of people, for example in a church or public performance

Example: One way that schools can encourage children to enjoy music is to give them an opportunity **to sing in a school choir**.

Other vocabulary:

- **to force** [verb]:

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Meaning: to make somebody do something

Example: The dangers of the corona virus **forced** people to stay at home.

- **to acquire** [verb]:

Meaning: to obtain something because it is given to you

Example: She **acquired** a lot of information for her essay on the Internet.

- **distraction** [noun]:

Meaning: something that takes away your attention from what you are doing

Example: I can't listen to music when I'm trying to study. It's a **distraction**.

- **to expose (somebody to something)** [verb]:

Meaning: to enable somebody to discover something by giving them experience of it

Example: The teacher **exposed** the children to the work of Shakespeare by taking them to see one of his plays at the local theatre.

Đề thi số 11

Task 2: Cyclists and car drivers sharing the same roads causes some problems. What are the problems and what can be done to reduce them?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question and state that some measures can be taken to reduce the dangers
- **Paragraph 2:** one major problem – the risk of accidents and injuries (especially to cyclists). Cyclists sometimes disobey the rules of the road. Car drivers (for example, when overtaking or turning) are often not aware of cyclists, putting cyclists at risk
- **Paragraph 3:** two types of government policies can reduce the risks (1) investing in transport infrastructure – special cycle lanes and providing better public transport (2) imposing restrictions on car drivers – speed limits, traffic calming and congestion charges (London).
- **Conclusion:** there are some steps which can be taken to reduce the risks.

Essay:

It is true that when motorists and cyclists share the same roads, accidents involving these road users are common. **While** this is a serious issue, there are measures which can be implemented to reduce the dangers.

The major problem is the likelihood of accidents on roads which are used by both cyclists and car drivers. Such accidents frequently result in grave injuries, particularly to cyclists who are particularly vulnerable, even when wearing a helmet for head protection. **While** cyclists are sometimes responsible for causing accidents when they do not abide by the rules of the road, motorists often fail to be aware of other road users. **For example**, car drivers may not leave enough room when they overtake cyclists, or they may turn left or right without realising that this could put a cyclist at risk. Since cars frequently travel at high speeds, cyclists have little chance to react in such situations.

In order to reduce the number of road accidents and save lives, national and local authorities across the world have adopted two general types of policies. **Firstly**, many governments have prioritised expenditure on road safety. They have invested in transport infrastructure by measures **such as** upgrading and expanding public transport provision and constructing

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dedicated cycle lanes on busy roads. **Secondly**, authorities have introduced restrictions on car drivers. London, **for instance**, has imposed a congestion charge to discourage motorists from entering the centre. Traffic calming in cities and installing speed cameras also make the roads safer for cyclists.

In conclusion, although there are real dangers when car drivers and cyclists use the same roads, steps can be taken to reduce these risks.

273 words

Vocabulary from *government*:

- **to abide by**

Meaning: (formal) to accept and act according to a law, an agreement, etc.

Example: Motorists who do not **abide by** the rules of the road should be severely punished.

- **national and local authorities**

Meaning: government organisations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area

Example: Tackling crime is a responsibility of both **national and local authorities**.

- **to adopt policies**

Meaning: to start to use particular policies

Example: In order to deal with traffic congestion, the government must **adopt policies** to restrict the use of private cars.

- **to prioritise expenditure on**

Meaning: to put the need to spend money on certain things first

Example: I believe that it is important **to prioritize expenditure on** medical research in order to save lives.

- **to introduce restrictions on**

Meaning: to limit what people can do or what can happen

Example: The government must **introduce restrictions on** smoking in public places.

Vocabulary from *transport*:

- **to invest in transport infrastructure**

Meaning: to spend money on improving roads, railway lines, train and bus stations

Example: Governments must **invest in transport infrastructure** to make journeys by road and rail safer.

- **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**

Meaning: to improve bus and train services and to make these services more available

Example: One way to reduce traffic on the roads is **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**.

- **dedicated bus lanes/cycle lanes**

Meaning: a section of a road, indicated by white lines that only buses or cycles are allowed to use.

Example: City authorities should create **dedicated bus lanes and cycle lanes** to encourage people to take public transport or to cycle in cities.

- **congestion charge**

Meaning: an amount of money that people have to pay for driving their cars into the centre of some cities, as a way of stopping the city centre from becoming too full of traffic

Example: More cities should follow the example of London and introduce a **congestion charge** in order to ease traffic flow in the city centre.

- **traffic calming**

Meaning: building raised areas on roads, as a way of making cars go more slowly

Example: **Traffic calming** measures in towns and cities would make the roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

- **to install speed cameras**

Meaning: to put cameras on certain roads to check that cars are obeying the speed limits.

Example: Local authorities must **install speed cameras** near all schools and hospitals to limit the speed at which vehicles are allowed to travel.

Other vocabulary:

- **likelihood** [noun]:

Meaning: how likely or probable something is to happen

Example: Scientists are worried about the **likelihood** of mass extinction of many species because of global warming

- **vulnerable** [adjective]:

Meaning: weak and needing protection

Example: The elderly are particularly **vulnerable** to the corona virus and have to take extra precautions to stay safe.

- **to react** [verb]:

Meaning: to behave in a particular way in response to something

Example: Millions of people **have reacted** to the killing of a black man by police in the USA by protesting in the streets.

Đề thi số 12

Task 2: Many women are choosing to have children later in life. Why is this? Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. Why? There are financial and social factors. My opinion: the advantages outweigh the disadvantages
- **Paragraph 2** – reasons why (1) families have more money if the woman works and then has children later (2) divorce, single-parent households, no extended family to help – these things motivate women to have children later
- **Paragraph 3:** – disadvantage many women want to have children earlier because they bring happiness. Advantage: having children later means having fewer children, and this helps reduce population pressure (e.g. China's one-child policy).
- **Conclusion:** the reasons are economic and social. The advantages outweigh the disadvantages

Essay:

It is true that many women now prefer to start a family later in life. I believe that there are both financial and social factors which help to account for this trend, and I would argue that this change has more advantages than disadvantages.

The option of having children when they are older is preferred by many women in today's world for a number of reasons. **Firstly**, in a family often both the woman and the man need to work in order to make ends meet. Before embarking on parenthood they must take into account their financial ability to support a family of one or more children. **Secondly**, in social terms, an increasing number of marriages end in divorce, and women are concerned about maintaining a single parent household. In the past, members of the extended family helped with child-minding, but working mothers now generally have to pay for this.

I consider that the positive aspects of this trend outweigh the negative ones. **On the one hand**, many women, when they are still young, would love to have children, because children bring happiness and laughter. **On the other hand**, the explosion of the human population has put enormous pressure on the environment and led to the depletion of natural resources. By having children later in life, women have fewer children and this may help humanity to avoid an ecological crisis which could threaten our existence. **For example**, the one child policy introduced in China in 1980 led many women to have their first child later, and as a result the population could continue to be fed.

In conclusion, for economic and social reasons many women are choosing to have children later in life. Despite the disadvantages, I believe that these are outweighed by the positive environmental consequences.

297 words

Vocabulary from *family and children*:

- **to start a family later in life**

Meaning: to begin a family later rather than earlier; in the past couples used to start their families at younger ages, like 22, 23 or 24; nowadays they are having babies, which is how you start a family, in their late 20s or even 30s and 40s;

Example: They decided **to start a family later in life**, preferring to work on their careers during their 20s and early 30s. They finally had their first baby when they were both 38 years old.

- **embarking on parenthood**

Meaning: to embark on something means to start something; in this case it means to become a parent; parenthood is what you call the role of being a parent; you are always a parent once you have children, but this refers to the time you spend raising them; childhood is the time period when you were a child

Example: They will be **embarking on parenthood** this summer, when their new baby is born.

- **to support a family**

Meaning: to have enough money to be able to look after a family

Example: Young people often delay marriage because they do not earn enough money **to support a family**.

- **to end in divorce**

Meaning: to end a marriage legally

Example: It is increasingly common in my country for marriages **to end in divorce**.

- **a single parent household**

Meaning: a family in which one person takes care of their child or children without a husband, wife or partner

Example: As a result of changes in society, **single parent households** are no longer considered unusual.

- **an extended family**

Meaning: a family group with many members, including parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins etc

Example: In the past, the **extended family** was a form of support when any members were ill or suffered some misfortune.

- **child-minding**

Meaning: caring informally (not in schools) for children when parents are busy or working

Example: Working mothers with very young children face the problem of organising **child-minding** while they are away from home.

- **working mothers**

Meaning: women who have a job and also have to take care of their children

Example: As more and more women have entered the workforce, **working mothers** have to balance the demands of home and work.

Vocabulary from *business and money*:

- **to take something into consideration/ account**

Meaning: to consider or remember something when judging a situation

Example: No business will succeed if it fails **to take** the needs of customers **into account/into consideration**.

Vocabulary from *the environment*:

- **to deplete natural resources**

Meaning: To reduce the amount of natural resources.

Example: Timber companies must not be allowed **to deplete natural resources** by cutting down trees without planting new trees to replace them.

- **an ecological crisis**

Meaning: a serious situation that occurs when the environment of a species or a population changes in a way that destabilizes its continued survival

Example: Environmental degradation caused by human activity is provoking **an ecological crisis** which threatens our existence.

Other vocabulary:

- **to make ends meet** [expression]:

Meaning: to earn just enough money to live and survive

Example: By selling newspapers in the street, he is able **to make ends meet**.

- **explosion** [noun]:

Meaning: a large or rapid increase in the number or amount of something

Example: In April, there was an **explosion** in the number of corona virus cases in the UK.

Đề thi số 13

Task 2: Some cities create housing for their growing population by providing taller buildings. Other cities create housing by building on wider areas of land. Which solution is better?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task statement. My opinion: building on wider areas of land is better.
- **Paragraph 2:** constructing tall housing blocks in cities (1) there may be no alternative – lack of space (2) as less land is used, housing is cheaper (3) the major problem – such districts are overcrowded and noisy
- **Paragraph 3:** expanding the city is better – (1) the drawback is environmental – habitat destruction to provide land for housing (2) the big advantage – the suburbs are much greener and pleasant places to live (3) public transport can solve problems of commuting, for example London, New York.
- **Conclusion:** building on wider areas is better.

Essay:

It is true that national and local authorities have adopted different policies to meet the increasing housing needs of their populations. **While** some favour high-rise apartment blocks, others prefer to see their cities expand outwards. I would argue that the best solution is to allow cities to expand in a planned and organised way.

On the one hand, there are advantages and disadvantages of constructing tower blocks to provide housing in cities. A city may have little space to expand for geographical reasons **such as** a coastline, mountains or lakes, and therefore tall buildings are the only option if demand for more housing is to be satisfied. In addition, if more people live in tall apartment blocks, housing will be more affordable, as only a small area of land is required. **However**, the major drawback is that city districts with a large population housed in a small area suffer from overcrowding and noise. Thus, **while** the construction of apartment towers to provide more housing may sometimes be the only practical alternative, such districts may not always be pleasant to live in.

On the other hand, expansion of a city to provide more housing is probably a better solution. The major drawback is such expansion may not be environmentally friendly if it means habitat destruction and loss of wildlife when more land is needed for building. Despite this, the construction of houses in suburbs provides a much more pleasant, green and healthy environment for people. It may mean longer commuting times for people to reach their workplace, but cities **like** London and New York have met this challenge by expanding and upgrading public transport provision.

In conclusion, although both solutions have drawbacks, building on wider areas of land provides a better living space for people.

294 words

Vocabulary from *government*:

- **national and local authorities**

Meaning: government organisations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area

Example: Tackling crime is a responsibility of both **national and local authorities**.

- **to adopt policies**

Meaning: to start to use particular policies

Example: In order to deal with traffic congestion, the government must **adopt policies** to restrict the use of private cars.

Vocabulary from *the environment*:

- **environmentally friendly**

Meaning: behavior or products that do not harm the environment

Example: We can help to protect the environment by using detergents and cosmetics that are **environmentally friendly**.

- **habitat destruction**

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Meaning: the process that occurs when a natural habitat, like a forest or wetland, is changed so dramatically by humans that plants and animals which live there.

Example: The elephant population in the world is declining because of **habitat destruction** caused by human exploitation of the environment.

Vocabulary from *transport*:

- **commuting times**

Meaning: the time taken travelling to and from work

Example: Firms should introduce flexible working hours to cut the **commuting times** of employees.

- **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**

Meaning: to improve bus and train services and to make these services more available

Example: One way to reduce traffic on the roads is **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**.

Other vocabulary:

- **high-rise apartment** [noun]:

Meaning: an apartment building that is very tall, with a lot of floors

Example: A new **high-rise apartment** building has just been completed in my city, with 35 floors and over 200 apartments.

- **tower block** [noun]:

Meaning: a tall, modern building with many apartments (or sometimes offices)

Example: I live in an apartment of the 15th floor of a **tower block**, and I have a spectacular view over the city.

- **affordable** [adjective]:

Meaning: not expensive – people have enough money to buy it

Example: The city government is providing **affordable** child care if parents are ill during the corona virus pandemic.

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Đề thi số 14

Task 2: A **country** should **spend money** on **skills training** or **vocational training** for **practical work**, rather than on **university education**. To what extent do you **agree** or **disagree**?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion – agree with the idea of more funding for vocational training
- **Paragraph 2:** need to continue funding university education (1) sciences – give examples (corona virus research) (2) the arts – training students for example in drama, advertising
- **Paragraph 3:** countries must prioritise spending on vocational training (1) these skills are vital in (for example) construction. (2) in some developed countries, there is graduate unemployment, but a shortage of skilled workers
- **Conclusion:** continue to invest in university education, but greater priority is needed for vocational training.

Essay:

It is true that in some countries, students are not encouraged to follow a vocational training course. While nobody can deny the need for university graduates, I totally agree that governments should provide funding for more people to qualify as electricians, plumbers or other essential manual workers.

It is essential to continue to allocate resources to university education. In the sciences, there is a growing demand for researchers and professionals in fields **such as** genetics, medicine and leading-edge technology. Only through university training can school-leavers acquire a good grasp of specialised areas of knowledge. **For example**, the search for a vaccine to combat the corona virus outbreak shows the need for virologists, statisticians and other academically-trained experts in related areas. **In terms of the humanities**, universities play a leading role in the formation of those creative individuals

who pursue a successful career in literature, drama, the arts and even in the advertising industry.

However, I completely agree with the argument that countries should prioritise expenditure on vocational skills training. **Firstly**, such workers are vital when, **for instance**, new buildings are constructed or when existing buildings have to be renovated or simply maintained. Indeed, in many countries, a permanent maintenance staff of skilled tradesmen is employed in hospitals, schools or museums, ensuring the safety of all who use the buildings. **Secondly**, in some developed countries, there is an existing imbalance in the economy, resulting in graduate unemployment, while at the same time there is a shortage of skilled labour. Governments in those countries need, therefore, to work with employers to ensure that extra vocational training is provided.

In conclusion, vocational training must be high on the agenda of governments to avoid a shortage of practical, skilled employees, while investment should continue in the universities.

293 words

Vocabulary from *government*:

- **to provide funding for**

Meaning: to give money to enable something to be done

Example: **Providing funding for** health care must be a priority of governments.

- **to allocate resources to**

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

- **to prioritise expenditure on**

Meaning: to put the need to spend money on certain things first

Example: I believe that it is important **to prioritise expenditure on** medical research in order to save lives.

- **high on the agenda**

Meaning: something which is among the first things in the list of actions to be taken

Example: The rehabilitation of prisoners must be **high on the agenda** of prison authorities everywhere.

Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **leading-edge technology**

Meaning: the most advanced position in technology

Example: Manufacturers of electronic devices always advertise their products as having the latest **leading-edge/cutting-edge technology**.

Vocabulary from *education*:

- **to have/to acquire a good grasp of something**

Meaning: to understand a problem deeply and completely

Example: Children who begin to learn a foreign language in primary school are usually able **to acquire a good grasp of** the new language quickly.

Vocabulary from *work*:

- **to pursue a successful career**

Meaning: to have a series of jobs in a particular area of work, with more responsibility as time passes

Example: While many people wish **to pursue a successful career**, for others it is more important to find work which is interesting and enjoyable.

Other vocabulary:

- **virologist** [noun]:

Meaning: a scientist who studies viruses and the diseases caused by them

Example: In many countries, **virologists** are working together to find out more about the corona virus.

- **the humanities** [noun]:

Meaning: the subjects of study that relate to the way people think and behave, for example literature, history and philosophy

Example: She wants to study **the humanities** at university, specialising in language and literature.

- **the arts** [noun]:

Meaning: a group of subjects that might include music, painting, drama

Example: Government funding for **the arts** has enabled theatres and art galleries to remain open.

- **tradesman** [noun]:

Meaning: a person whose job requires special practical skills, such as a plumber

Example: Their house is being repaired by skilled **tradesmen**.

Đề thi số 15

Task 2: Cars damage the environment and their use is increasing. Why? How can this be controlled?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question – reasons and measures to adopt
- **Paragraph 2:** reasons (1) money (cars are cheaper); (2) changes in lifestyles – shopping, leisure, work and schools e.g. the USA
- **Paragraph 3:** solutions (1) raise fuel taxes and impose restrictions e.g. London, Athens (2) improve and make cheaper public transport (3) electric cars to reduce emissions and help protect the environment e.g. Volkswagen
- **Conclusion:** reasons for growing car use can be identified, but solutions are possible.

Essay:

The growing use of cars certainly contributes to environmental degradation. **While** some reasons can be identified to explain increasing car use, there are policies which could be adopted to tackle this issue.

Financial reasons and lifestyle changes have led to a growth in car ownership and the more frequent use of cars. **In terms of** money, cars are now more affordable, and in developed countries two or more members of a household are likely to have their own car. **From the perspective of** lifestyle, people drive their cars more than in the past for work, shopping, leisure and taking children to and from school. **For example**, in US cities, shopping malls and leisure complexes are usually sited outside urban centres and they provide large parking areas to attract customers. This encourages dependence on cars.

However, measures can be taken to provide a solution to the problem. **Firstly**, it must be a government priority to raise taxes on fuel and introduce restrictions on cars entering city centres, **like** the congestion charge in London. Other cities, **such as** Athens in Greece, impose an official ban on cars entering the city on specified days of the week. **Secondly**, resources should be allocated to upgrade and expand public transport provision, and to provide public subsidies for people to have free bus or train passes. **Finally**, in order to cut down on emissions and to reduce our carbon footprint, the production of electric cars must be encouraged, and corporations like Volkswagen are already leading the way in this field.

In conclusion, the reasons behind the growth in car use are well-known, but there are steps which can be implemented effectively to combat this trend and help protect the environment.

284 words

Vocabulary from *the environment*:

- **environmental degradation**

Meaning: the process or fact of the environment becoming worse

Example: Africa is a continent in which **environmental degradation** is evident in the spread of deserts and the extinction of animal species.

- **to cut down on emissions**

Meaning: to reduce the amount of gases sent out into the air

Example: People must be made aware of the need **to cut down on emissions** from their cars if we are to reduce air pollution.

- **carbon footprint**

Meaning: a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide that is produced by the daily activities of a company or person

Example: By providing subsidies, governments should encourage companies to reduce their **carbon footprint** through energy efficiency or other 'green measures'.

Vocabulary from *government*:

- **to adopt policies**

Meaning: to start to use particular policies

Example: In order to deal with traffic congestion, the government must **adopt policies** to restrict the use of private cars.

- **to be a government priority**

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Meaning: something which is so important that the government should deal with it first.

Example: In developing countries, spending on health and education should **be top government priorities**.

- **to raise taxes on**

Meaning: to increase the amount of tax on something

Example: Governments should **raise taxes on** cigarettes to persuade more people to give up smoking.

- **to introduce restrictions on**

Meaning: to limit what people can do or what can happen

Example: The government must **introduce restrictions on** smoking in public places.

- **to impose an official ban on**

Meaning: to say or declare that something is not allowed

Example: Governments ought **to impose an official ban on** the use of mobile phones on public transport.

- **to allocate resources to**

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

- **to provide public subsidies for**

Meaning: to give government money to reduce the costs of services or to produce goods in order to keep the price low

Example: In order to promote agriculture that is environmentally-friendly, the government should **provide public subsidies for** organic farmers.

Vocabulary from *transportation*:

- **congestion charge**

Meaning: an amount of money that people have to pay for driving their cars into the centre of some cities, as a way of stopping the city centre from becoming too full of traffic.

Example: More cities should follow the example of London and introduce a **congestion charge** in order to ease traffic flow in the city centre.

- **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**

Meaning: to improve bus and train services and to make these services more available.

Example: One way to reduce traffic on the roads is **to upgrade and expand public transport provision**.

- **free bus/train passes**

Meaning: documents which allow you to travel free on buses or trains

Example: Issuing **free bus and train passes** to children and the elderly would encourage more people to use public transport.

Other vocabulary:

- **affordable** [adjective]:

Meaning: cheap enough so that people can pay for it or buy it

Example: The prices of new and used cars have fallen, and now they are more **affordable** than in the past.

- **leisure complex** [noun]:

Meaning: a building where people can go to do sports or do other activities in their free time

Example: There are two **leisure complexes** in my town, but only one of them has a cinema as well as a gym.

- **to site** [verb]:

Meaning: to build something in a particular place

Example: The museum **is sited** next to the main railway station.

Đề thi số 16

Task 2: Some companies sponsor sport and sports stars as a way to advertise themselves. Some people think it is good, while others think there are disadvantages. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion: sponsorship has more drawbacks than benefits
- **Paragraph 2:** arguments for sponsorship (1) it brings more more for sport , increasing popularity and public interest – eg. cycling (2) sports stars can be paid more and achieve higher standards (3) businesses benefit by linking their product to a healthy and popular activity
- **Paragraph 3:** arguments against sponsorship (1) companies are not interested in promoting sport, only to make profits – merchandising is not always connected even to the sport eg. Liverpool FC (2) money has corrupted sport – bribery, drugs (3) sports stars eg. Ronaldo live like millionaires
- **Conclusion:** sponsorship has destroyed the ideals of fun and fair play in sport

Essay:

It is true that a growing number of enterprises seek to promote their products and services through sport and sporting celebrities. **While** some people argue that this is a positive development, I agree with those who consider that the drawbacks outweigh the advantages.

On the one hand, sponsorship brings money into sport, and some believe that this benefits sport and business in general. **Firstly**, sponsorship and marketing are linked, and through television sports coverage, for example, both sport and companies profit. Sports, particularly minority sports such as cycling, are able to make the most of sponsorship to increase their popularity and encourage wider public participation. **Secondly**, as more money is poured into sport, sports stars are paid higher salaries and train full-time to raise their standards. **Finally**, in terms of advantages for businesses, associating their products with the healthy and popular image of sport enables them to enhance their public image and to break into new markets.

On the other hand, I support the opposing view that the entry of business money into sport has betrayed the Olympic ideal. Companies simply strive to gain a competitive edge over their rivals and to maximize their profits. Sports merchandising – like Nike and the National Basketball Association in the US – sometimes connects the product and the sport, but often it does not. Liverpool FC, **for example**, is sponsored by a bank. **However**, money in sport has resulted in a win-at-all-costs attitude, encouraging bribery or the use of illegal substances such as performance-enhancing drugs. Individual celebrities, like Cristiano Ronaldo, have gained a fortune from the endorsement of sporting goods, and enjoy millionaire lifestyles.

In conclusion, I totally agree with the critics of sponsorship in sport. **While** it has made profits for business, sponsorship has destroyed the sporting spirit of fun and fairness.

297 words

Vocabulary from *sport*:

- **sports coverage**

Meaning: the activity of reporting news related to sport

Example: Many top sports stars are now known to millions of people around the world because of global **sports coverage** by the media.

- **the Olympic ideal**

Meaning: the ultimate goal is not to win, but to know that you have taken part and done your best in a competition

Example: Unfortunately, professional sport is just another branch of the entertainment industry, and **the Olympic ideal** has been lost.

- **sports merchandising**

Meaning: the activity of selling products connected with a sport or sportsperson

Example: **Sports merchandising** is a multi-billion dollar business worldwide, in the form of t-shirts and sports equipment.

- **a win-at-all-costs attitude**

Meaning: an idea that a match or competition must be won, using all possible means

Example: Youth sport is being ruined by **a win-at-all-costs attitude**, which includes cheating and breaking the rules in order to achieve victory.

- **to use illegal substances**

Meaning: to use drugs or medicines which are not allowed under the rules of a competition

Example: In professional sport, it has become increasingly common **to use illegal substances** in order to win at all costs.

- **performance-enhancing drugs**

Meaning: drugs which improve the ability of a sportsperson to compete

Example: Athletes who take **performance-enhancing drugs** are not only cheating, but they also set a bad example for young people.

- **the endorsement of sporting goods**

Meaning: an advertising statement, usually by a famous sportsperson, saying that they use or like a particular product.

Example: In addition to their fabulous salaries, sports celebrities also make a great deal of money through their **endorsement of sporting goods** such as trainers or even casual clothes or deodorants!

Vocabulary from *business and money*:

- **to make the most of something**

Meaning: to make something appear as good as possible; to exploit something; to get as much out of something as is possible.

Example: They designed the advertisements **to make the most of** the product's features.

- **to enhance their public image**

Meaning: to make their company appear more attractive to people

Example: In order **to enhance their public image**, some companies donate large sums of money to charities.

- **to break into a market**

Meaning: to enter a market with the connotation that entrance to the industry was difficult.

Example: It is difficult **to break into the market** for designer sportswear because there is too much competition from leading brands like Nike.

- **to gain a competitive edge**

Meaning: to achieve an advantage over another company or organisation, often by providing the same goods or services at a lower price

Example: The high quality of VW cars, combined with their affordable price, has enabled the company **to gain a competitive edge** over all its rivals in world markets.

- **to maximize profits**

Meaning: to increase profits to the highest possible level

Example: The company has hired a marketing consultant to recommend how to **maximize profits** next year.

Other vocabulary:

- **to pour into** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to provide a large amount of money for something

Examples: Millions of dollars are being **poured into** the development of a new vaccine for coronavirus.

- **bribery** [noun]:

Meaning: the act of giving money or something valuable to somebody in return for their help – often to do something dishonest

Example: It was discovered that the bribery of the referee was responsible for the shock result of the football match.

Đề thi số 17

Task 2: Internet technology means people do **not need to travel to foreign countries** to **understand how others live**. To what extent do you **agree or disagree**?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion – partly agree
- **Paragraph 2:** most people who visit foreign countries experience nothing of the lives of local people – example: Phuket in Thailand. They would learn more by looking at the internet
- **Paragraph 3:** a few travellers prefer to experience personally the culture and daily lives of those in foreign places which they visit – food, shopping, music. What they find on the internet may supplement this experience, but cannot fully replace it
- **Conclusion:** the internet provides useful information and analysis, but is not a substitute for personal experience.

Essay:

It is true that the digital revolution has enabled a growing number of people to gain access to information about how others live in different countries. **While** such advances in technology have made more information available, I only agree in part that this had led to greater understanding of the lives of those in other countries.

On the one hand, the tourist trade has experienced phenomenal growth, but this does not mean that those who visit foreign countries leave with any appreciation of the culture or living conditions of the local people. Holiday resorts such as Phuket in Thailand are thronged with tourists at the height of the holiday season. **However**, overseas visitors remain completely oblivious to how the local inhabitants live. They experience luxury hotels, sunbathe on beaches, or at most go sightseeing on guided tours. To know how people in Thailand live, they would learn much more by watching documentaries or analytical reports on the internet at home.

On the other hand, there are intrepid travellers who prefer to discover for themselves the culture and daily lives of those in foreign countries which they visit. They avoid package

holidays, and instead visit markets, restaurants and places where local people go shopping, eat regional dishes or enjoy music. They enjoy real interaction with locals, and take away memories of the sights, sounds, taste and smells of the culture which they have briefly come to know. In this way, **while** there might be a wealth of material online describing a country or region, such travellers do not become over-reliant on the opinions or choices of internet contributors.

In conclusion, **while** personal experience of a place may be supplemented by material available online, there is no substitute for seeing other cultures at first hand.

293 words

Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **the digital revolution**

Meaning: the advancement of technology to the digital technology available today

Example: **The digital revolution** has fundamentally changed the way that people work, communicate, behave and even think.

- **to gain access to the internet/to access the internet**

Meaning: to have the opportunity to use the internet

Example: Millions of people are able **to gain access to** the internet in cafes, libraries or other public places.

- **advances in technology**

Meaning: the improvement or development of technology

Example: Recent **advances in** medical **technology** are making a great contribution to the search for a cure for Aids.

- **to become over-reliant on**

Meaning: to need something so that your survival or success depends too much on it

Example: Businesses have **become over-reliant on** complicated computer systems, so that if these systems fail the results will be disastrous.

Vocabulary from *tourism*:

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- **to experience phenomenal growth**

Meaning: to experience an extremely successful or special development, especially in a surprising way

Example: In recent decades there has been a substantial diversification in international tourism destinations, and many developing countries **have experienced phenomenal growth** in tourist arrivals and receipts.

- **a holiday resort**

Meaning: a place where lots of people go for a holiday

Example: If you like to lie on the beach, Thailand offers some very popular **holiday resorts**.

- **to be thronged with tourists**

Meaning: refers to the situation of a place having a great number of visitors crowded together

Example: At weekends, London, in particular, **is thronged with** tourists and certain areas of the city such as Oxford Street and Covent Garden **are swarming with** visitors.

- **the height of the holiday season**

Meaning: the time of year when the greatest number of people visit a place and when the prices are at their highest level

Example: Mid-summer in the UK is normally **the height of the holiday season**, so remember to book a hotel in advance.

- **to sunbathe**

Meaning: to sit or lie in the sun, in order to get brown/to get a suntan

Example: I don't like **to sunbathe** when I go to the beach, so I spend most of the time swimming in the sea.

- **to go sightseeing**

Meaning: to look around the places that tourists like to visit

Example: If you **go sightseeing** in Paris, be sure to see the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and the Palace of Versailles.

- **a guided tour**
Meaning: an organized group shown around a place of interest by an expert
Example: The company runs **guided tours** of Hanoi in English and Japanese.
- **a package holiday**
Meaning: a holiday that is organized by a company at a fixed price, including the cost of a hotel, travel etc.
Example: **Package holidays** to Spain started to become popular in the UK in the 1960s.

Other vocabulary:

- **appreciation** [noun]:
Meaning: a full understanding (of something, such as a situation or problem)
Example: She has no **appreciation** of good food, so don't invite her to an expensive restaurant.
- **oblivious of/to** [adjective]:
Meaning: not aware (of something)
Example: I don't know how Mary is able to study in the coffee shop. She seems to be **oblivious to** all the noise around her.
- **intrepid** [adjective]:
Meaning: very brave, fearless
Example: They are members of an **intrepid** team of biologists who are studying insects in the Amazon forest.
- **at first hand** [expression]:
Meaning: by seeing or experiencing something yourself, rather than hearing about it from somebody else
Example: He had seen photos of Paris, but his dream was to get to know the city **at first hand**.

Đề thi số 18

Task 2: People say that it is a **waste of time** for **high school students** to **learn literature** such as novels and poems. Do you **agree or disagree**?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question, specifically to high school students, novels and poems. **My opinion:** strongly disagree
- **Paragraph 2:** reason 1. **Economic.** There are work opportunities in writing and adapting stories for the publishing and entertainment industries e.g. *Harry Potter* novels.
- **Paragraph 3:** reason 2. **Cultural.** Writers of the past and present provide a literary heritage e.g. Shakespeare, Tolstoy. Need for students to study their language, techniques and ideas to become the creative writers of the next generation.
- **Conclusion:** for economic and cultural reasons **high school students should have the chance to study novels and poems.**

Essay:

Many people hold the view that high school students should focus on practical subjects, such as vocational courses, as well as on the sciences, in order to prepare young people for the world of work or higher education. **While** these skills are clearly valuable to the community, I strongly disagree that the study of novels, poems and plays should therefore be neglected in high schools.

Firstly, in today's world, literature has an important role to play in the economy of all countries. The publishing industry is a multi-billion dollar business internationally. **For example**, the *Harry Potter* fantasy novels have sold millions of copies worldwide. Then, **in terms of** working in the entertainment industry, writers are needed to adapt and produce works of literary fiction for television and internet channels. Many of these writers of the future will have been inspired by novels and poems in their high school days.

Secondly, the literary heritage of humanity cannot be calculated only in economic terms. If high school students are not encouraged to appreciate the aesthetic qualities of novels

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and poems, then the creative writers of the next generation will lack the role models of literary geniuses **like** Shakespeare or Tolstoy. They must study the language, the techniques, and the portrayal of characters in order to become talented playwrights, novelists or poets. They will learn the skills to appeal to audiences by communicating ideas, images and stories to make people reflect, laugh and cry. In this way, the culture of a society is passed on and enriched through the generations.

In conclusion, I would argue that it makes not only economic sense, but that it is essential in cultural terms, for students to have the opportunity to study novels and poems in their high school years.

293 words

Vocabulary from *education*:

- **vocational courses**

Meaning: courses which provide students with the skills and knowledge that they need to do a particular job

Example: Governments should extend the provision of **vocational courses** for those who want to learn a trade, for example as electricians, plumbers, mechanics

- **higher education**

Meaning: education at college or university level

Example: Some school leavers prefer to start work rather than enter **higher education**.

Vocabulary from *the arts*:

- **works of literary fiction**

Meaning: types of literature which describe imaginary people and events, not real ones

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Example: It takes enormous creativity to write **works of literary fiction**, and the greatest writers are rightly considered literary geniuses.

- **literary and artistic heritage**

Meaning: the tradition of writing or painting that a country, city or town has had for many years, distinguishing it as an important part of its character

Example: Visitors to Britain can enjoy the rich **literary and artistic heritage** by going to such places as the birthplace of Shakespeare and the National Art Gallery in London.

- **the aesthetic qualities of something**

Meaning: The qualities related to beauty and understanding the beauty of something.

Example: One advantage of studying the arts is that students learn to appreciate **the aesthetic qualities of paintings, literature and music**.

- **a literary genius**

Meaning: a person with outstanding ability in writing

Example: Although not every child will become **a literary genius**, it is still important for students to practice creative writing at school.

- **the portrayal of something/somebody**

Meaning: the act of showing or describing something/somebody in a book, painting, play or film

Example: In the past, **the portrayal of women** in art was often as possessions, owned by rich men.

- **a talented playwright**

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Meaning: a person who writes excellent plays for the theatre

Example: Directors of theatres must encourage **talented playwrights** by staging their plays for theatre-goers.

- **to appeal to audiences**

Meaning: to attract or interest those who go to watch a play or film.

Example: Plays which deal with contemporary social issues are likely **to appeal to audiences**.

Other vocabulary:

- **publishing** [noun]:

Meaning: the business of preparing and printing books and magazines and selling them to the public

Example: He works in the **publishing** business, specialising in medical and scientific textbooks.

- **to inspire** [verb]:

Meaning: to give someone the motivation and desire to do something well

Example: She **was inspired by** the *Harry Potter* books to write her own story.

- **role model** [noun]:

Meaning: a person or organisation that people admire and try to copy

Example: Martin Luther King is a **role model** for many young people today in *The Black Lives Matter* movement.

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Đề thi số 19

Task 2: Some people say that outdoor activities bring benefits to children's development rather than computer games, To what extent do you agree/disagree?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion: totally agree
- **Paragraph 2:** -ve consequences of playing computer games (1) physically: obesity, do not develop their bodies (bones/muscles) (2) mentally: addiction to computer games e.g. stress and anxiety
- **Paragraph 3:** +ve consequences of outdoor activities (1) develop strong bodies (2) develop an interest in sports, e.g basketball.... that may continue into their adult lives (3) outdoors -sunshine and fresh air build up their immune systems
- **Conclusion:** playing computer games harms the physical and mental development of youngsters. Contrast with the benefits of outdoor sports and exercise.

Essay:

It is true that there is now a large consensus of opinion that outdoor sports and leisure activities promote the health of youngsters, especially when compared with the effect of hours spent playing computer games. **While** computer games are undeniably fun, I totally agree that outdoor activities are far more beneficial for the physical and mental development of children.

Firstly, when children spend too much time playing computer games, there are negative consequences to consider. In physical terms, youngsters who adopt a sedentary lifestyle, glued to their games consoles, very quickly become prone to obesity. Such a pattern of behaviour does nothing to contribute to the development of strong bones and muscles during their formative years. From the perspective of mental development, children who are addicted to computer games may suffer from mental health problems. These could include, **for example**, stress and anxiety resulting from hours of intensive concentration.

Secondly, these drawbacks should be contrasted with the positive advantages of outdoor pursuits. Children who take up sport or take regular exercise build up their strength and

develop healthy bodies. They may also develop an interest in their favourite outdoor pastimes, **such as** playing basketball, cycling or swimming, activities which they can enjoy in their adult years. In particular, when children are active outdoors, the sunshine and fresh air help to build up their immune systems. This is even better than being indoors, working out at the gym to keep fit.

In conclusion, playing computer games for long periods is detrimental to the physical and mental health of youngsters, **whereas, in contrast**, engaging in outdoor activities promotes their health and well-being.

270 words

Vocabulary from *health*:

- **sedentary lifestyle**

Meaning: involving little exercise or physical activity

Example: A **sedentary lifestyle** is a major factor in health problems such as obesity and heart disease.

- **to be prone to obesity**

Meaning: to be likely to become fat [in an unhealthy way]

Example: Children who are addicted to watching television, instead of playing outdoor games, **are more prone to obesity**.

- **to be addicted to something**

Meaning: to be unable to stop taking harmful drugs, tobacco or alcohol or to be unable to stop doing something harmful

Example: More specialist clinics, offering treatment and advice, are required to help people who **are addicted to** drugs.

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- **mental health problems**

Meaning: related to illnesses of one's mind

Example: Overwork may sometimes result in **mental health problems**, such as anxiety and depression.

- **to build up one's immune system/ immunity**

Meaning: to increase the ability of your body to fight diseases

Example: A healthy lifestyle and a diet rich in vitamins is a sure way **to build up one's immune system**.

- **to be detrimental to health**

Meaning: to be harmful to health

Example: Lying in the sun for too long can **be detrimental to health** and result in skin cancers.

Vocabulary from *family and children*:

- **patterns of behaviour**

Meaning: ways of acting and doing things (either positive or negative)

Example: **Patterns of behaviour** copied from parents often influence the way that children grow up.

- **formative years**

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Meaning: A period of a person's life, usually childhood, that has a big influence on the person they become later in life

Example: UNICEF states that the early childhood years from birth through age 8 are **formative years** in terms of intelligence, personality and social behaviour.

Vocabulary from *sport and exercise*:

- **to take up sport**

Meaning: to start doing a sport

Example: Governments should provide sports facilities to encourage more people to **take up sport**.

- **to work out at the gym**

Meaning: to train the body by physical exercise at the gym

Example: As part of a healthy lifestyle, people of all ages should **work out at the gym** on a regular basis.

- **to keep fit**

Meaning: to stay in good physical condition

Example: A healthy diet and plenty of exercise are essential for people **to keep fit**.

Other vocabulary:

- **a consensus of opinion** [expression]:

Meaning: an opinion generally agreed by all the people in a group or population

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Example: There is a **consensus of opinion** among doctors that a corona virus vaccine will soon be available.

- **undeniably** [adverb]:

Meaning: in a way that is true and cannot be denied by anyone

Example: **Undeniably**, the majority of Americans did not want Trump to be President for another 4 years.

- **to be glued to something** [expression]:

Meaning: to give all your attention to something

Example: He **was glued to** the TV all evening, and forgot to study for the exam.

- **games console** [noun]:

Meaning: a small electronic device for playing video games

Example: He spends too much time on his new **games console** playing all the latest games.

- **pursuit** [noun]:

Meaning: a hobby or pastime that you spend time doing

Example: Now Peter is retired, he enjoys outdoor **pursuits** such as walking and cycling.

Đề thi số 20

Task 2: Society is based on rules and laws. It could not function if individuals were free to do whatever they wanted to do. To what extent do you agree or not?

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question. My opinion: completely agree
- **Paragraph 2:** without laws and rules: consequences for crime (give examples)
- **Paragraph 3:** without laws and rules: consequences for the environment (the Amazon, pollution of rivers)
- **Paragraph 4:** without laws and rules: consequences for public health e.g. the coronavirus
- **Conclusion:** rules and laws are necessary for society to function

Essay:

It is true that throughout human history, people living in social groups have always made rules and laws to govern their conduct. **While** a few people argue in favour of a free and lawless society, I completely agree that the results would be disastrous if individuals were able to do whatever they liked.

Firstly, the idea of crime would not exist if there were no laws to act as a deterrent. **For example**, domestic violence, murder, assaults, and drug-trafficking could all be carried out freely. Without laws, there could be no organisations to enforce the law. This situation would benefit the most ruthless individuals who have no morality and have no concern for those who are more vulnerable.

Secondly, regulations on environmental protection are increasingly recognised as essential. If such laws do not exist, or if they can be ignored, then the ecological crisis which results will lead to the destruction of all human life. Huge fires, started by individual landowners, have already devastated the Amazon rainforest. Companies will discharge chemical waste into rivers, and nobody will be held accountable for their actions.

Finally, in terms of public health services, it would be impossible to control the outbreak of an epidemic if each person could do what they wanted. **For instance**, in the present

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coronavirus crisis, the spread of the virus would be very rapid if no restrictions were imposed. There would be widespread suffering and mortality.

In conclusion, society would collapse without rules and laws. These define those forms of behaviour which are socially acceptable, and complete freedom for each individual would simply be the 'law of the jungle'.

270 words

Vocabulary from *crime*:

- **to act as a deterrent**

Meaning: a measure which makes somebody less likely to do something

Example: Longer prison sentences would **act as a deterrent** and would be one useful measure to tackle rising crime.

- **drug trafficking**

Meaning: importing and selling illegal drugs

Example: Some people argue that legalising drugs would put an end to the evil of **drug trafficking** and the violence associated with it.

- **to enforce the law**

Meaning: to make sure that the law is obeyed

Example: The role of the police and the courts is **to enforce the law**.

Vocabulary from *society*:

- **domestic violence**

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Meaning: violence among family members in the home

Example: Children who witness **domestic violence** between parents often develop problems.

- **to be socially acceptable**

Meaning: agreed or approved of by most people in a society

Example: Smoking in public places **is** no longer **socially acceptable** in many countries.

Vocabulary from *the environment*:

- **an ecological crisis**

Meaning: a serious situation that occurs when the environment of a species or a population changes in a way that destabilizes its continued survival

Example: Environmental degradation caused by human activity is provoking **an ecological crisis** which threatens our existence.

- **to discharge chemical waste**

Meaning: to dispose of waste products from chemical processes.

Example: Nowadays, more and more companies and industrial zones have been **discharging chemical waste** into rivers, causing death to many fish and other aquatic animals.

- **to hold sbdy accountable for + noun/gerund**

Meaning: to consider someone responsible for something; to blame something on someone

Example: Companies which discharge chemical waste from their factories into the sea or into rivers must **be held accountable for** their actions and be fined heavily.

Vocabulary from *health*:

- **public health services**

Meaning: the agencies funded by the government to protect and promote the health of the population

Example: I would argue that funding for **public health services** should be the main priority of all governments.

- **the outbreak of an epidemic**

Meaning: a large number of diseases occurring at the same time in a particular community

Example: A lack of government programs for vaccination and regular health care may lead to **the outbreak of an epidemic**, particularly in developing countries.

Other vocabulary:

- **to govern** [verb]:

Meaning: to legally control the people of a country in order to introduce new laws or administer public services

Example: For many years, India **was governed** by officials of the British Empire.

- **lawless** [adjective]:

Meaning: a society where laws do not exist, or are not respected

Example: The police announced that they will not tolerate **lawless** behaviour at football matches.

- **ruthless** [adjective]:

Meaning: hard and cruel people or behaviour

Example: The bank was robbed by a gang of **ruthless** criminals.

- **to devastate** [verb]:

Meaning: to totally destroy a place or area

Example: After the volcano erupted, the surrounding countryside **was devastated** and many people died.

- **the law of the jungle** [expression]:

Meaning: a situation in which some people are prepared to harm or kill others in order to succeed or survive

Example: In the parts of the city controlled by criminal gangs, the only law is **the law of the jungle**.

Đề thi số 21

Task 2: Some people think that **children should aim to do their best** at **whatever** they are doing. **Others disagree. Discuss both views** and give your own **opinion**.

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question, mentioning both views. My opinion: agree.
- **Paragraph 2:** reasons against: for children, fun and play are more important than doing well – they stimulate creativity
- **Paragraph 3:** reasons for: (1) studies – children learn to work hard for exams or study courses (2) sports and hobbies – the Olympic ideal, not a competitive spirit – dangers of trying too hard to become the best eg. Drugs
- **Conclusion:** agree that children should always aim to do their best.

Essay:

Some people believe that children should always be encouraged to give their best efforts, no matter what activity they are doing. Others, however, emphasise that childhood is a time for fun and play before entering adult life. I agree with the view that children should aim to do their best in everything, but always in the context of cooperation and consideration for the needs of others.

On the one hand, having fun and simply playing are important aspects of growing up. These are things which shape a child's personality by stimulating creativity. Whether they are painting, listening to stories or playing games with their friends, children are able to enjoy the experience of childhood without anxiety about the need to do well. Instead, they can just enjoy themselves in a non-competitive environment.

On the other hand, children should aim to excel in their studies and in their leisure activities. By trying their hardest at school, **for example**, children develop a pattern of behaviour which will prepare them for later life, **such as** doing vocational courses or sitting

exams. **In terms of** sports or hobbies, children should also be motivated to do their best. **However**, it is important to follow the Olympic ideal of friendship through endeavour, rather than to have a win-at-all costs attitude. It is a mistake to foster a competitive spirit, putting personal achievement as the objective. **For instance**, the years of dedicated training of young athletes illustrates the dangers of becoming the best for the wrong reasons. Youngsters may be tempted to use illegal substances like performance-enhancing drugs in order to reach the top.

In conclusion, I would argue that children should be encouraged to learn that it is both satisfying and fun to always do their best.

291 words

Vocabulary from *family and children*:

- **to enter adult life**

Meaning: the stage when adolescents are almost old enough to be legally independent of their parents

Example: Parents who have devoted time and thought to raising and educating their children have given them a good preparation **to enter adult life**.

- **to shape a child's personality**

Meaning: to decide or influence the form of a child's personality

Example: Parents are very influential in **shaping their children's personality** through the example that they set.

- **patterns of behaviour**

Meaning: ways of acting and doing things (either positive or negative)

Example: **Patterns of behaviour** copied from parents often influence the way that children grow up.

Vocabulary from *education*:

- **vocational courses**

Meaning: courses which provide students with the skills and knowledge that they need to do a particular job

Example: Governments should extend the provision of **vocational courses** for those who want to learn a trade, for example as electricians, plumbers, mechanics.

- **to sit an exam**

Meaning: to take an exam

Example: Some students claim that they feel more motivated to study when they have **to sit an exam** at the end of their course.

Vocabulary from *sport and exercise*:

- **the Olympic ideal**

Meaning: the ultimate goal is not to win but to know that you have taken part and done your best in a competition

Example: Unfortunately, professional sport is just another branch of the entertainment industry, and **the Olympic ideal** has been lost.

- **a win-at-all-costs attitude**

Meaning: an idea that a match or competition must be won, using all possible means

Example: Youth sport is being ruined by **a win-at-all-costs attitude**, which includes cheating and breaking the rules in order to achieve victory.

- **to foster a competitive spirit**

Meaning: encourage the desire to beat others in a sports event

Example: The problem with encouraging sport at school is that it **fosters a competitive spirit** among students, instead of teaching children simply to do the best that they can in all aspects of life.

- **to use illegal substances**

Meaning: to use drugs or medicines which are not allowed under the rules of a competition

Example: In professional sport, it has become increasingly common **to use illegal substances** in order to win at all costs.

- **performance-enhancing drugs**

Meaning: drugs which improve the ability of a sportsperson to compete

Example: Athletes who take **performance-enhancing drugs** are not only cheating, but they also set a bad example for young people.

Other vocabulary:

- **aspect** [noun]:

Meaning: a particular part or feature of a situation or a problem

Example: There are certain **aspects** of the conflict which were not reported at the time.

- **to excel** [verb]:

Meaning: to be extremely good at doing something

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Example: She **excelled** at music at school, and is now playing in an orchestra.

- **endeavour** [noun]:

Meaning: an attempt to achieve an aim

Example: The **endeavour** to land the first man on the Moon was finally successful.

Đề thi số 22

Task 2: Some people say that **modern technology** has **made shopping today easier**, while **others disagree**. **Discuss both views** and give your **opinion**

Essay Plan:

- **Introduction:** refer to the task question, mentioning both views. My opinion – disagree
- **Paragraph 2:** technology has made shopping easier (1) online shopping – convenient, saves time travelling to shops (2) in supermarkets – self-service checkouts, payment with credit cards
- **Paragraph 3:** disadvantages of technology when shopping (1) no personal service (contrast shops), and it may confuse older people (2) customers need to see and touch many products before buying eg. clothes, fruit and vegetables
- **Conclusion:** some people find technology has made shopping easier, but shopping is harder without personal service or the chance to handle goods.

Essay:

It is true that some people believe that shopping is easier today than ever before, thanks to modern technology. **While** this is certainly the case in some respects, I agree with those who find the modern high-tech shopping experience more impersonal and stressful.

On the one hand, advances in technology have transformed and facilitated shopping in the developed world. **In terms of the internet**, online shopping has grown in popularity, and some experts believe that this trend is still in its infancy. Certainly, ordering goods online from the comfort of your own home saves time and effort. Those trips to the shops, when traffic grinds to a halt or shoppers find themselves caught in rush hour traffic jams, have been superseded by a click of a mouse. Even inside a supermarket, modern technology makes shopping easier, with self-service checkouts and payment using a smart card.

On the other hand, despite the disappearance of many traditional ways of life, some old shopping habits have not died out. **Firstly**, many of the older generation are slower to embrace change. They find that the personal service available in shops makes shopping an

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easier and more pleasant experience, **whereas** technology may be confusing and discourages real interaction. **Secondly**, old ways of shopping continue to thrive because some people prefer to see and touch the goods which they buy. **For example**, although technology provides images of products for sale, many shoppers prefer to try on clothes or shoes or to physically handle fruit or vegetables before choosing.

In conclusion, **while** technology has made shopping quicker and easier in the opinion of some people, I would argue that it makes shopping harder because it cannot offer personal service or the physical opportunity to browse.

288 words

Vocabulary from *technology*:

- **advances in technology**

Meaning: the improvement or development in technology

Example: Recent **advances in medical technology** are making a great contribution to the search for a cure for Aids.

- **online shopping**

Meaning: shopping while connected to the internet

Example: For people who are physically disabled, or even for people who are simply very busy, **online shopping** is convenient and may also be cheaper.

- **to be in its infancy**

Meaning: to be in the early development of something

Example: It is clear that robotics technology is **still in its infancy**, and it is impossible to imagine the possible future developments.

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- **to be superseded by**

Meaning: to be replaced by something which is better

Example: The latest technological innovations **are** usually soon **superseded by** new and more advanced devices.

- **supermarket checkouts**

Meaning: the place where you go to pay for the things that you have bought

Example: Personal service in shops has been replaced by the impersonal experience of superstore shopping and queues at **supermarket checkouts**.

- **a smart card**

Meaning: a small plastic card used to make payments and to store information, which can be read when connected to a computer system.

Example: People rarely need to visit a bank these days, and it is easy and convenient to make purchases using your **smart card**.

- **discourage real interaction**

Meaning: to result in less face-to-face communication with other people

Example: the availability of new communication technologies may also have the result of isolating people and **discouraging real interaction**.

Vocabulary from *transport*:

- **to grind to a halt**

Meaning: to go slower and then stop completely

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Example: In my city, Paris, traffic regularly **grinds to a halt** during the rush hour.

- **rush hour traffic jams**

Meaning: the time when most people are travelling to or from work/school and so there is too much traffic on the roads.

Example: If factories and offices introduced flexible working hours, this would help employees to avoid **rush hour traffic jams** to get to or from their place of work.

Vocabulary from *traditional vs modern*:

- **the disappearance of traditional ways of life**

Meaning: the fact that traditional ways no longer exist

Example: The advances in technology that have driven industrialisation in developed countries have certainly contributed to **the disappearance of traditional ways of life**.

- **to embrace/welcome change**

Meaning: to accept change with enthusiasm

Example: While it is important **to embrace change**, the public must try to preserve all that is worthwhile from the past.

- **to continue to thrive**

Meaning: to continue to grow, develop, or be successful

Example: Conventional skills would **continue to thrive** by providing alternatives to modern ways of life, and innovative ideas for modern technologies.

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Other vocabulary:

- **impersonal** [adjective]:

Meaning: without friendly human feelings

Example: The atmosphere in the office was very **impersonal** – nobody smiled because they were all staring at their computer screens.

- **to die out** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to disappear completely, so that it no longer exists

Example: Some traditional languages **have died out**, because nobody uses them nowadays.

- **to try on** [phrasal verb]:

Meaning: to put on clothes to see if they fit and if they look good

Example: She **tried on** a lot of pairs of shoes before she decided to buy any.

- **to browse** [verb]:

Meaning: to look at a lot of things in a shop or book, without having any particular idea of what you want

Example: I **browsed** through the shelves in the bookshop, until I saw something which looked interesting.

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