**SOLVED SAMPLE ESSAYS**

**Task 2**

**You should spend about *40* minutes on this task.**

***Film stars and music celebrities may earn a great deal of money and live in luxurious surroundings but many of them lead unhappy lives.***

***Do you agree? To what extent is this the price they pay for being famous?***

**You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.**

**You should write at least 250 words.**

**Task 2 - Sample Band 9 answer**

Newspapers and magazines are full of stories about famous people and the wonderful lifestyles that they enjoy. I think it is something that we get used to. We always expect to see them wearing expensive clothes and, going to amazing parties. It seems natural that if you have a lot of money, you will spend it in these ways.

**(*Opening paragraph agrees with first part of argument*)**

Some people who are rich and famous do manage to have a happy life as well. They get married and have children and *alth*ough they have to work hard, they still have time to *give to their fam*ily. Victoria and David Beckham are just one example of a happy celebrity couple.

***(Second paragraph disputes second part of argument)***

However money doesn't always bring happiness. In fact, sometimes the opposite is true. Stars often talk to the press about the pressures of being rich and famous. Some of them end up drinking too much or taking drugs. The famous actress Elizabeth Taylor, for example, had been to clinics many times for these probIems. The divorce rate is also very high among celebrities. Often their marriages last only a short period of time and they remarry very quickly, but the same thing happens again.

***(Third paragraph agrees and gives two examples)***

Ultimately I think it depends on the individual. I don't really believe that being unhappy is a consequence of fame, but I do think that it may be very difficult to cope with having a lot of money and fame. Celebrities are ordinary people underneath after all and perhaps some of them are not strong enough to deal with their fame.

***(Conclusion provides a possible explanation and gives a personal view.)***

***(254 words* )**

**Some people think paintings and drawings are as important as other subjects, and they should be compulsory in high school education. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Whether art classes (like paintings and drawings) should be regarded as compulsory lessons in high school has been a debate among academics. Personally, as an arbitrary language and a means of self-expression, paintings and drawings are as important as other primary academic subjects such as English and Mathematics. However, there is no need to add painting class into the required course list.

It is well-recognised that painting is a special language which can help students to improve their reasoning and imagination. Therefore, through painting and drawing learning, students can have a better aesthetic view to appreciate the real history and the current world. For example, Cloud Monet's oil paintings reflect beautiful scenery in France in 19 century. Besides, painting is beneficial for students to get relaxed and create a peaceful mood. As we know, a person usually immerses himself in image creation when he draws a picture.

Although painting learning is helpful, it is not necessary to add a compulsory painting class into a school's curriculum. If learning painting and drawing takes up students' valuable time, they may seldom review their textbooks and academic tasks after school. Also, the basic requirement of a good student is his good academic performance rather than painting skills. In addition, high school students should focus more on major courses because they need to face a fiercely competitive university entrance exam after all. Painting can be learnt as a hobby but cannot substitute the academic classes.

In conclusion, painting is beneficial for students' personal development, but it is better as an extracurricular activity in high school.

**Task2: Some people say that to become a good teacher, you should acquire enough training, while others say that teaching capabilities can be developed with experience. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

BRAINSTORM:

* Qualified
* Theory
* Method
* Authority
* Teaching experience
* Knowledge reserve
* Systematic training
* Profound knowledge
* A baffling question
* Pedagogic methodology
* Simultaneously
* Adequate teaching experience
* Impart to…
* teacher
* ….of vital importance

Teaching is one of the most important professions in our society. However, the definition of a good teacher has long been a baffling question to people. Some feel that adequate teaching experience outweighs how much a teacher is properly trained, while others hold the opposite view. From my point of view, I reckon that both of these two qualities are what an excellent teacher should be made of.

The training process of a good teacher is of vital importance and shouldn’t be ignored. To be a qualified teacher, one should arm oneself with sufficient knowledge reserve that is related to the subjects taught. Moreover, the pedagogic methodology is also something that must be acquired by a teacher. It’s simply because the students don’t merely need a teacher who only has profound knowledge but also someone who is able to pass on this knowledge to them.

Moreover, if the teacher only has a bunch of teaching methods but doesn’t have a clue how to impart it to the students, he won’t be a qualified teacher either. If there was no teaching experience accumulated, a teacher would find it difficult to interact with people and at times, could even lose control of the whole class. In that scenario, no matter how knowledgeable he is, students still won’t listen to him. There is no doubt that teaching experience is also a symbol of confidence and authority of a good teacher, which will definitely attract many students and leave a positive impression on them.

To sum up, a good teacher should be someone who has both systematic training and sufficient practical experience.

**Shops should not be allowed to sell any food and drinks that have been scientifically proved to be bad for people’s health. To what extent do you agree or disagree.**

As the concern for health is growing, the food safety issues have triggered many debates in recent decades. Some people put an argument that shops are not permitted to sell any harmful food forward. I disagree with this opinion and will give supporting ideas from two (shop and food) aspects.

To shops, it is a reasonable right that big stores can sell any legal commodities, including those foods which are harmful to people's health. The act of purchasing and selling is a business activity, which is irrelevant to public health and business responsibilities. Shops do not need to take the consequences for customers' personal choice since everybody is free to choose what they want to eat and drink.

Besides, some recognized bad foods are truly quite popular among the public; therefore, shops will lose considerable economic benefits if they stop selling these goods. These bad foods with low nutritional value like processed foods and canned drinks are usually taste good because the producers often add different kinds of additives into these foods and drinks in order to enhance their flavour. Also, some processed foods are even regarded as traditional food that people will have almost every day – pickle is a telling example. In addition, because of the lower price, some food like genetically modified products are attractive to general public, despite the fact that they may undermine people’s health.

In conclusion, it is unnecessary for shops to stop selling any harmful foods and drinks, not only because they have rights to choose foods and drinks to sell but also because they will suffer huge financial loss from doing this.

**Sample Task 2**

**LEARNING ENGLISH IN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES IS THE ONLY WAY TO MASTER THE LANGUAGE?**

Studying a language in a country where it is widely spoken has many advantages. It is, therefore, a good

idea to study English in a country such as Britain. However, I believe it is not the only way to learn the

language.

In the first place, most students in non-English-speaking countries learn English at secondary school, and

sometimes at university nowadays. Although their spoken English is not usually of a very high standard,

their knowledge of grammar is often quite advanced. This is certainly useful when students come to an

English-speaking country to perfect the language.

Secondly, studying the basics of English at secondary school is less stressful than learning the language

while overseas. This is because students living at home do not have to worry about problems such as

finding accommodation, paying for their study and living costs, and trying to survive in a foreign country

where day to day living causes much stress.

However, there are obvious advantages of learning English in Britain. Every day there are opportunities

to practise listening to and speaking with British people. Also, students can experience the culture firsthand, which is a great help when trying to understand the language. This is especially true if they choose to live with a British family, as exchange students for example. Furthermore, if students attend a

language school full-time, the teachers will be native speakers. In this case, not only will students'

speaking and listening skills improve, but attention can be given to developing reading and writing skills

as well.

In general, even though it is preferable to study English in an English-speaking country, a reasonable

level of English can be achieved in one's own country, if a student is gifted and dedicated to study.

*(290 words)*

***The model answers are given as examples only. This standard of written English can only***

***be achieved with much practice.***

Academic Writing Sample Task 2B

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

***The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy. The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your knowledge or

experience. Write at least 250 words.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of Nuclear Power** | **Advantages of Nuclear Weapons** |
| Compared to fossil fuels, nuclear power is: | The threat of them is enough to stop war |
| * cheaper to produce | breaking out (e.g. USA and former Soviet |
| * quicker to produce | Union during the Cold War) |
| * cleaner to produce (e.g. no smoke as |  |
| there is from coal) |  |
| It cannot run out (compared to e.g. oil – |  |
| rising prices as it is running low) |  |
| **Disadvantages of Nuclear Power** | **Disadvantages of Nuclear Weapons** |
| * Possibility of serious health risks if not | * Only rich countries can afford them, leading to an imbalance of power (e.g. America) |
| handled carefully (e.g. Chernobyl) |
| * Expensive to set up initially | * Incredibly destructive |
| * Poor image | * Creates a climate of distrust e.g. North Korea |

Other relevant points:

* **The depletion of natural resources** – This is one possible reason why more countries are

considering nuclear power and so is relevant.

* **The high cost of fuel** – This can be argued as a reason why cheaper power sources need to be

found.

**SAMPLE ANSWER(Band 7):**

Nuclear power is an alternative source of energy which is carefully being evaluated during these times of energy problems. During these years we can say that we have energy problems, but in more or less 50 years, we will be facing an energy crisis.

Nuclear power is an alternative source of energy and unlike other sources such as solar energy, nuclear power is highly effective for industrial purposes. If it is handled correctly, there is really no danger to the public. it is cheap, there is no threat of pollution and best of all, it is limitless. It is difficult to think about nuclear power as a good source of energy for people in general. This is due to the use it has been given since its birth during the second world war. It is expressed as military power and in fact at the moment nuclear power is limited to few hands who consider themselves world powers. When and if there is a change of ideology regarding the correct use of nuclear power, then we may all benefit from all the advantages nuclear power can give us.

If we outweigh the advantages and dis advantages of nuclear technology we then have the following:

As stated before, the advantages are that there is limitless supply, it is cheap, it is effective for industrial purpose and still there are many benefits which have not yet been discovered. The disadvantages are at present that it is limited to only a few countries who regard it as safe military power. Also if mishandled, there is risk for the population around the planet to undergo contamination as we all know what happened in Chernobyl. If these disadvantages can be overcome, then it is clear that nuclear energy can give us more benefits than problems. It will in the future be very important as the energy crisis is not far ahead.

In conclusion. nuclear power is good, it can be safe, and we will all benefit. It is up to our leaders to see that it is handled well so that we can all benefit from it.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Analysis of Sample Script | | |
| THE INTRODUCTION | |  |
| 1. | Does the introduction tell you exactly what the topic is? | Yes, though the second  sentence introduces a new idea. |
|  |
| 2. | Do any of the ideas need more information? | No. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 3. | What connectors have been used to improve the cohesion of the paragraph? | Which;  During these years;  but |
|  |
|  |  |
| THE BODY OF THE ESSAY | |  |
|  |
| 1. | What benefits of nuclear technology does the  writer give? | No threat of pollution;  limitless;  effective for industrial purposes. |
|  |
|  |
|  |  |  |
| 2. | Are the benefits given different to the ones in | Yes. |
|  | the title? |  |
| 3. | What disadvantages of | Limited only to a few |
|  | nuclear technology does | countries; if mishandled |
|  | the writer discuss? | there is a risk of |
|  |  | contamination to nearby population. |
| 4. | What connectors are | And; this is due to; since; in |
|  | used to link the ideas | fact; when and if ... then; the |
|  | together? | following; as stated before; |
|  |  | the advantages are that ...; the disadvantages are that ...; also; as we all know; it is |
|  |  | clear that; in conclusion; so |
|  |  | that |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5. | Is there enough evidence to support the writer’s claims and ideas? | Yes. | | | |
|  |  | | | |
|  |  | | | |
|  |  |  | | | |
| 6. | Do any of the ideas need to be developed further? | Perhaps more information about the ‘energy crisis’ and  what will cause it. | | | |
|  |
|  |
| 7. | Are any ideas repeated | The advantages are repeated. | | | |
|  | too often? |
| THE CONCLUSION | |  | | |
| 1. | Is it clear where the conclusion begins? | Yes. ‘In conclusion ...is also marked with a separate paragraph. |  |  | |
| 2. | Does the conclusion | Yes. |  |  | |
|  | summarise the ideas |  |  |  | |
|  | used in the body of the essay? |  |  |  | |
| 3. | Is the question ‘Do you | The writer’s position is made | | | |
|  | agree or disagree?’ answered? | clear ‘Nuclear power is good’. | | | |
| 4. | What connectors are | In conclusion; it is up to ...; | | | |
|  | used in the conclusion? | so that | | | |

**Examiner comment**

**Band 7**

The answer is well written and contains some good arguments. It does tend to repeat these arguments but the writer’s point of view remains clear throughout. The message is easy to follow and ideas are arranged well with good use of cohesive devices.

There are minor problems with coherence and at times the expression is clumsy and imprecise. There is a wide range of structures that are well handled with only small problems in the use of vocabulary, mainly in the areas of spelling and word choice.

**IELTS Writing Analysis and Corpus**

**Topic- Government/ Environment**

**Some people think that it is more important to plant more trees in open area which in towns and cities than build more housing. To what extend do agree or disagree?**

　　Writer position: support urban tree planting in open ground and more.

**Layout:**

　　First paragraph: Background + focus + writer controversial stance

　　Second paragraph: The first supporting reason for the position

　　Third paragraph : The second supporting reason + example for the position

　　Fourth: concession disagree rationality view + uphold our position

　　End: Conclude with stating of view again

**Topic-Education :**

**Some working parents believe childcare centers can provide best care for their children, others believe that family members like grandparents can do a better job. Discuss both sides and give your opinion?**

**Both views layouts discussion:**

　　First paragraph: Background + focus + writer controversial stance

　　Second paragraph : Expand your view:: Sec must be expanded to detail or examples to support

　　Third paragraph: these must be expanded to detail or examples to support

　　End: Conclude by stating view again + summarize the reasons

　   Mind Map**:**

　　1. strengthen the family tie / enhance family ties

　　2. daycare centers = childcare center

　　3. early childhood education institutions / early childhood school

　　4. mental growth, good training and the cultivation of group experience brought about by attending nursery school from the nursery to bring spiritual growth, character training and experience in mass culture.

　　5. learn to communicate and associate with their peers / learning and peer exchanges

**Layout:**

**First paragraph: Background + focus + writer controversial stance**

　　Children's growth education is a great concern for a great many parents, however, not every parent have enough energy to look after their kids, so, people often fall into a dilemma when facing with the question of sending their children to childcare centers and asking their relatives to take care of them. Personally speaking, encouraging children to grow up under the care of grandparents is a superior choice although childcare center can sometimes has an auxiliary role to play.

**Topic-Why protecting the environment is more important:**

**Mind Map-**

　　1. Tree planting will help to protect the environment, which can provide a healthier living space for people, so you can improve people's health and well-being.

　　2. Protection of the environment also contributes to the sustainable development of resources, at the same time, attract more investment. For example, Bangalore is a garden city, because of the success of greening and environmental protection, which attracted more investment in tourism, environmental protection has become an important factor in promoting economic development.

　3. Protection of the environment for future generations- helps create a healthier living environment.

**Essay topics for further practice-**

1. **Theme-Education**
2. a) Some people think children should obey rules and do what their elders want them to do, others think controlled children are not prepared for adult life in the future. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.
3. b) Some people suggest that school should pay more attention to academic subjects because these subjects are useful for their future career. They think that subjects like music and sports are not useful and should be reduced. To what extent do you agree?
4. c) Some people think kids should learn more practical skills from classes for their future career. However, others believe that in primary level, they should learn something theoretical for a good foundation for their future development. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.
5. c) Some people believe that teenagers should concentrate on all school subjects. But, others believe that teenagers should focus on the subject that they are best at or that they find the most interest. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
6. d) Government should invest more in teaching science than other subjects such as arts, because science could contribute to the country’s development and progress. To what extent
7. e) Some people think that teachers should be responsible for teaching students to judge what is right and wrong so that they can behave well. Others say that teachers should only teach students academic subjects. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
8. f) Some think that children should start school as early as possible, while others believe that they should start school at the age of seven. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
9. g) Full-time university students need to spend a lot of time on study, but it is essential to get involved in other activities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
10. **2. Theme-Government**
11. a) Some people argue that the government should support the funds for the arts, while some other people suggest that the money should be used for public health and education. Discuss both vies and give your opinion
12. b) Some people think government should invest more money in teaching science than other subjects in order for a country to develop and progress. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
13. c) Nowadays, people all over the world are watching foreign films much more than locally produced films. Why? Should government give more financial support to local film industry?
14. d) Higher education is funded in several ways: all costs paid by the government; all costs paid by students; all costs paid by students with a government loan which must be repaid after graduation. What are the advantages of these options? Which is your choice?
15. **3. Technology**
16. a) Mobile phones and the internet are very useful. However, it is rare for the old people to use them. In what ways can mobile phones and the internet be useful to old people? What could be done to encourage the elderly to use mobile phones and the internet?
17. b) There are social, medical, and technical problems associated with the use of mobile phones. What view do you take? Do you agree that the problems outweigh the benefits of mobile phone?
18. c) Some people think that robots are very important to human’s future development, while others think they are dangerous and have negative effects on society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
19. d) Around the world, more adults can work from home and more children can study from home as computer technologies become cheaper and more accessible. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?
20. e) Technology makes life complex, and to make it simple is to stop using technology. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

**Task 2A**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. ***The first car appeared on British roads in 1888. By the year 2000 there may be as many as 29 million vehicles on British roads.*** 2. ***Alternative forms of transport should be encouraged and international laws introduced to control car ownership and use.*** 3. ***To what extent do you agree or disagree?*** |

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your knowledge or

1. experience. Write at least 250 words.
2. **4. Society**
3. a) There is a movement of the people from agricultural areas to cities in order to get work. What are the most serious problems in both places. What are the measures of solving these problems?
4. b) In many countries, more and more young people are leaving schools and unable to find jobs after graduation. What do you think youth unemployment will cause to the individual and the society? And make some suggestions.
5. c) It is generally acknowledged that the relationship among family members is now not as close as it used to be. What causes this situation? How can it be solved?
6. d) Many old buildings are protected by law because they are part of a nation’s history. However, some people think they should be knocked down to make way for modern ones. Do you agree or disagree?
7. e) Today imprisonment is the most common solution for crime. But some people think that it would be a more effective way to provide them with better education to prevent them from becoming criminals. To what extent do you agree or disagree.
8. f). Many countries face the problem of aging population recently. What are the effects on both individuals as well as the society? What measures should be taken to deal with this issue?
9. **Task 2**
10. You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.
11. Write about the following topic:

|  |
| --- |
| 1. ***In Britain, when someone gets old they often go to live in a home with other old people where there are nurses to look after them. Sometimes the government has to pay for this care.*** 2. ***Who do you think should pay for this care, the government or the family?*** 3. ***Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.*** |

1. Write at least 250 words.

**5. Environment**

a) Many people think it is very important to protect environment but they make no effort to do it themselves. Why does it happen? How can solve this problem?

b) Development in technology leads to environmental problems, and some people think that the solution to these problems is for everyone to lead a simpler way of life, while others say that technology can solve these problems. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

c) Pollution is becoming a problem in many major cities. What can be done about this?

1. Suggested structure: Paragraph 1: Introduction – description of problem
2. Paragraph 2: Possible solutions
3. Paragraph 3: Conclusion

d) Some people think that governments need to do more to reduce pollution. Do you agree?

1. Suggested structure: Paragraph 1: Introduction + statement of opinion
2. Paragraph 2: Justification for opinion
3. Paragraph 3: Conclusion

e) Some people think that too much emphasis is placed on protecting the environment while others believe that we are using natural resources too quickly. Discuss both points of view and give your opinion.

1. Suggested structure: Paragraph 1: Introduction
2. Paragraph 2: Advantages
3. Paragraph 3: Disadvantages
4. Paragraph 4: Conclusion + statement of opinion
5. **6. News**

We rely on newspapers for our knowledge nowadays, but we are unsure how much we can trust journalists. What is your opinion on it? What qualities do you think should be required by journalists?

1. **7.** Punishment

Today imprisonment is the most common solution for crime. But some people think that it would be a more effective way to provide them with better education to prevent them from becoming criminals. To what extent do you agree or disagree.

1. **8.Social Skills**

Nowadays, some employers give increasing importance to employing people with social skills in addition to good qualifications. So it is widely accepted that social skills are as important as good qualifications. To what extend do you agree or disagree?

1. **9. Travel**

a) Some visitors are interested in other countries’ culture and traditions. How do they learn other cultures and traditions? Why is this interesting to some visitors but not to others?

b) Nowadays, travelling by air is becoming cheaper and cheaper and brings freedom, but it also brings some environmental problems. Discuss both sides and give own opinion.