

Writing Model Answers

Question 1:

A modern movement of nomadic Americans consists of around three million people living on the road, in adapted vans, trailers, motorhomes and RVs (recreational vehicles) (Source: Washington post).

Would you like to be constantly travelling instead of having a permanent home? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this way of life? Discuss both viewpoints and conclude with your personal opinion.

Model answer:

The nomadic lifestyle, marked by constant movement and exploration, has gained traction in recent years, captivating individuals seeking freedom, adventure, and a deeper connection with the world around them. However, this lifestyle comes with its own benefits and drawbacks, and I would personally only be able to live this way for a short time.

Living as a nomad offers unparalleled freedom and flexibility. Nomads have the liberty to travel wherever they desire, fostering spontaneity and enabling them to embrace new experiences at a moment's notice. Additionally, constant travel exposes nomads to diverse cultures, languages, and traditions, broadening their perspectives and deepening their understanding of the world.

Yet, the nomadic lifestyle presents challenges. The lack of stability makes it difficult for nomads to establish roots, maintain long-term relationships, or pursue conventional career paths, leading to feelings of loneliness and disconnection. This is the biggest drawback for me, which would put me off living this way permanently.

In conclusion, the nomadic lifestyle offers freedom and cultural enrichment, but it also poses challenges such as instability and logistical hurdles. Whether nomadic living is suitable depends on individual preferences, priorities, and adaptability. Despite its drawbacks, for those drawn to exploration and self-discovery, like me, the nomadic lifestyle can be a rewarding journey, but perhaps only for a short time.

Question 2:

Business leaders have said that emails are becoming outdated. About 10% of staff don't even check one email per month and Instagram and LinkedIn are being used more frequently to talk to staff (Source: The Guardian).

Do you agree that instant chat is replacing the inbox? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using instant chat rather than emails for business communication? Discuss both viewpoints and conclude with your personal opinion.

Model answer:

In today's business environment, communication tools like instant chat and email are vital for maintaining productivity. Each method has distinct advantages and disadvantages, shaping how businesses interact internally and externally. This essay examines the merits and drawbacks of using instant chat versus email for business communication.

Instant chat platforms provide immediate communication, fostering quick decision-making and collaboration among dispersed teams. Real-time interaction facilitates seamless exchanges and efficient problem-solving. Additionally, multimedia features enhance clarity and understanding in discussions by allowing file sharing and live demonstrations. However, the informality of chat messages can lead to misunderstandings, and constant notifications may disrupt workflow.

Conversely, email offers a structured approach suitable for detailed documentation and formal correspondence. It provides a written record for reference and allows for thoughtful responses. Emails are also effective for managing communication overload, allowing users to organize and prioritize messages efficiently. Nevertheless, email lacks the immediacy of chat, often resulting in delayed responses and decision-making.

In conclusion, both instant chat and email serve essential roles in business communication, each with its advantages and disadvantages. While instant chat promotes real-time collaboration and quick decision-making, it may suffer from informality and distractions. Conversely, email offers formality and documentation but may lead to delayed responses and information overload. Ultimately, the choice between these tools depends on the nature of the communication, user preferences, and task requirements. Striking a balance between the two methods can optimize business communication and productivity.

Question 3:

It is traditional in many parts of the world to give presents in December. In fact, British people spend on average almost £740 more in December. (Source: Bank of England)

In your opinion, what are the positive and negative effects of spending money on presents for other people? Include examples from your own experience.

Model answer:

The tradition of giving presents to others is a universal practice that holds both positive and negative implications. While it strengthens bonds and fosters generosity, it can also strain finances and reinforce materialistic values. This essay explores the effects of spending money on gifts, drawing from personal experiences to illustrate its impact.

Spending money on presents cultivates a sense of generosity and thoughtfulness. Choosing a meaningful gift demonstrates appreciation and affection, strengthening relationships. For instance, surprising a friend with a personalized photo album evoked joy and deepened our bond.

However, gift-giving can also impose financial strain and reinforce materialism. Overspending beyond one's means can lead to stress and guilt, detracting from the joy of giving. Additionally, societal pressure to equate a gift's value with its cost can overshadow its sentiment. As a result, the true essence of gift-giving, rooted in genuine care, may be overshadowed.

To conclude, spending money on presents has dual effects. While it fosters generosity and strengthens relationships, it can also strain finances and reinforce materialistic values. By prioritizing thoughtfulness over monetary worth, we can ensure that the tradition of gift-giving remains meaningful and enriching for both the giver and the recipient.

Question 4:

For vegetarians, a healthy diet is the same as for anyone else, but without meat or fish.
(Source, NHS)

In your experience, what are the advantages and disadvantages of not eating meat or fish?
Include a personal opinion.

Model answer:

In my experience, abstaining from meat or fish presents both advantages and disadvantages. Foremost, a plant-based diet can yield significant health benefits. Rich in fiber, vitamins, and antioxidants, it promotes heart health, weight management, and reduces the risk of chronic diseases. Personally, transitioning to plant-based eating has increased my energy levels and overall well-being.

Moreover, opting out of meat and fish aligns with ethical and environmental concerns. Animal agriculture is a major contributor to environmental degradation, including greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation. By reducing meat consumption, individuals can minimize their environmental impact and support animal welfare. As someone committed to environmental sustainability, I find satisfaction in knowing that my dietary choices contribute positively.

However, there are challenges associated with this lifestyle. Plant-based diets may require careful planning to ensure adequate intake of essential nutrients typically found in animal products. Additionally, social situations and dining out can pose challenges, as meat-centric menus dominate. Despite these obstacles, I believe the benefits of a plant-based diet outweigh the challenges. I am committed to this lifestyle for its positive impact on my health, the environment, and animal welfare.



Question 5:

A part-remote, part-office schedule has been hailed as the future of work. Yet in this hybrid set-up, some employees have never been so tired.” (Source: [bbc.com/news](https://www.bbc.com/news))

Does hybrid working provide flexibility or does it create a lack of routine for workers? Discuss the pros and cons of hybrid working and conclude with your opinion.

Model answer:

Hybrid working, combining remote and in-office work, offers flexibility but raises concerns about routine. This essay examines whether it truly provides flexibility or leads to a lack of routine for workers.

Hybrid working offers flexibility, allowing employees to choose where they work, enhancing work-life balance and potentially increasing job satisfaction. It reduces commuting time and stress, fostering productivity and well-being. Additionally, it promotes trust and autonomy among employees.

However, the lack of routine in hybrid working can disrupt productivity and focus. Without fixed schedules or designated workspaces, individuals may struggle to separate work and personal life, leading to increased stress. Moreover, communication and collaboration may suffer, as remote employees may feel isolated from their in-office colleagues.

In conclusion, hybrid working presents a balance of flexibility and challenges regarding routine. While it offers autonomy and better work-life balance, it can also disrupt routine and communication. With effective support and adaptation, hybrid working can provide the best of both worlds, enabling employees to thrive in a dynamic work environment.



Question 6:

Influencers on social media applications such as Instagram and TikTok often show popular or trendy items in their videos. These apps have been criticised for encouraging viewers to buy products that they do not necessarily need (Source: Mashable).

In your opinion, what are the advantages and disadvantages of learning about new products on social media? Include examples from your own experience.

Model answer:

Social media has revolutionized how people discover and learn about new products, offering convenience and accessibility. However, relying solely on social media for product information has both advantages and disadvantages. This essay will explore these aspects, drawing from personal experiences to illustrate the impact of learning about new products through social media.

Discovering new products on social media is convenient and something I enjoy, with platforms like Instagram and Facebook providing easy access to a wide array of products through targeted ads and influencer endorsements. Real-time reviews and feedback from other users offer valuable insights into product quality and performance. For instance, I recently found a skincare brand through Instagram ads and benefited from user-generated content like tutorials and reviews.

Yet, social media can be misleading, with sponsored content and influencer endorsements blurring the line between genuine recommendations and paid promotions. Moreover, the curated nature of social media feeds may limit exposure to diverse products and perspectives, leading to potential disappointment. I once purchased a trendy gadget based on influencer recommendations, only to find it didn't meet my expectations.

In conclusion, while learning about new products on social media offers convenience and real-time feedback, it also poses challenges such as misinformation and filter bubbles. Consumers must approach product information with caution, seeking validation from multiple sources to make informed decisions. By balancing the benefits and drawbacks of social media, consumers can navigate the digital landscape effectively and make better purchasing choices.



Question 7:

Nowadays, many people work in part-time or temporary jobs, such as “driving for Uber or delivering food to writing code or freelance articles” compared to full-time traditional roles. Some workers use these to earn extra income, but others choose them as their main job (Source: Investopedia).

In your opinion, what are the advantages and disadvantages for both employers and employees with this type of work? Include examples from your own experience.

Model answer:

Part-time and temporary work arrangements have become common in today's labor market, offering flexibility for employers and employees. However, they also present challenges. This essay explores their advantages and disadvantages from both perspectives.

Employers benefit from flexibility in staffing and cost savings. They can adjust the workforce according to demand without committing to full-time positions. Hiring part-time or temporary workers also provides access to specialized skills when needed, enhancing productivity. Yet, these arrangements may lead to higher turnover and workflow disruptions as part-time or temporary workers may lack loyalty. Coordinating schedules and training can be challenging and time-consuming.

For employees, Part-time and temporary work offers employees flexibility and work-life balance. It can serve as a stepping stone to full-time employment, providing valuable experience and networking opportunities. However, these arrangements lack stability and benefits compared to full-time positions. Employees may face uncertainty about hours, income, and job security, and may not have access to benefits like health insurance.

Part-time and temporary work arrangements provide flexibility and opportunities for both employers and employees, but they also present challenges. While they offer cost savings and work-life balance, they can lead to turnover and lack of stability. Both employers and employees must weigh these factors carefully when considering such arrangements.



Question 8:

"Research shows that stronger links are still needed between youth climate action and young people's roles in decision making processes." (Source: The Conversation)

What are the advantages and disadvantages, in your opinion, of giving people under 18 more power when making global environmental decisions?

Model answer:

Giving people under 18 more power in global environmental decisions has pros and cons. Involving youth promotes inclusivity, diversity, and fresh perspectives, fostering innovation and urgency in addressing environmental issues. Engaging them fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility for the planet's future, empowering them as stewards.

Young people are attuned to environmental concerns and have a vested interest in shaping policies affecting their future. Including their voices ensures policies reflect future generations' needs. However, critics argue youth lack the experience, expertise, and maturity for complex decisions, raising concerns of politicization and manipulation. Balancing their rights and responsibilities poses challenges, especially legally and ethically.

Nevertheless, youth involvement can lead to more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable solutions to global environmental challenges. Despite potential limitations, education, mentorship, and structured frameworks can address concerns.

In conclusion, despite drawbacks, empowering youth in environmental decisions offers significant benefits. Their involvement promotes inclusivity, diversity, and innovation, ensuring policies align with future needs. With proper support, harnessing their energy and passion can lead to more effective solutions, paving the way for a sustainable future.

Question 9:

The best places to visit are often small local towns and villages because life has not yet been adapted to tourist needs and the authenticity feels right (Source: The Conversation).

What are the advantages and disadvantages of avoiding big cities when exploring a new country?

Model answer:

Exploring a new country is an exciting endeavour, and the choice of destinations influences the experience. While big cities offer vibrant culture and diverse attractions, there are both advantages and disadvantages to avoiding them when exploring a new country.

Firstly, avoiding big cities allows travellers to immerse themselves in the natural beauty and tranquillity of rural areas. Remote villages and scenic countryside offer opportunities for relaxation and solitude, providing a break from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Additionally, exploring less touristy destinations provides a chance to experience authentic local culture and traditions. Interacting with locals in smaller communities often leads to meaningful encounters and deeper cultural insights.

However, avoiding big cities may limit access to modern amenities, infrastructure, and transportation networks. Rural areas may have fewer accommodation options and dining establishments, resulting in logistical challenges for travelers. Furthermore, remote regions may lack the diversity of attractions and entertainment options found in big cities, potentially leading to a less dynamic and engaging travel experience.

In conclusion, while avoiding big cities when exploring a new country offers opportunities for tranquility and authentic cultural experiences, it also presents challenges such as limited amenities and attractions. Ultimately, the choice depends on individual preferences and travel priorities. Whether seeking adventure in bustling metropolises or serenity in remote landscapes, exploring a new country offers a diverse range of experiences that cater to every traveler's interests.

Question 10:

Finland's schools change traditional classrooms for open-plan learning (bbc.co.uk).

What are some of the pros and cons of an open-plan school?

Model answer:

The design of school facilities significantly impacts the learning environment and student experience. One increasingly popular layout is the open-plan school, characterized by flexible, interconnected spaces rather than traditional enclosed classrooms. While this design offers many benefits, it also presents challenges that warrant consideration.

Firstly, open-plan schools foster collaboration and teamwork among students. The absence of physical barriers encourages communication and interaction, facilitating group projects and peer-to-peer learning. Additionally, the flexible layout allows for versatile use of space, accommodating different teaching styles and activities. Moreover, open-plan schools promote inclusivity by creating a sense of community and belonging among students and teachers, breaking down hierarchical barriers and fostering a collaborative learning culture.

However, open-plan schools also have drawbacks. One major concern is noise levels, as the lack of partitions can lead to distractions and difficulty in concentration. Additionally, privacy and focus may be compromised, particularly for students who require quiet, individual study spaces. Moreover, the open layout may pose security risks, making it challenging to monitor and control access to different areas of the school.

In conclusion, while open-plan schools offer advantages such as promoting collaboration and flexibility, they also present challenges related to noise, privacy, and security. Ultimately, the effectiveness of this design depends on various factors, including the school's educational philosophy, student needs, and the implementation of appropriate solutions to address potential drawbacks. As educators continue to explore innovative approaches to school design, it is essential to carefully consider the pros and cons of open-plan layouts to create conducive learning environments that meet the diverse needs of students.