

Model Essay

15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Governments should spend more money in sponsoring arts than in athletics.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Arts and sports both play an indispensable role in people's lives, for arts nurture people's minds

while athletics ensures a healthy and strong body. Thus, there has recently been a heated debate

on which one is worth more financial aid. This debate divides people into two camps with

opposite opinions, and as far as I'm concerned, athletics deserve more support from government

than arts due to its significance. My reasons and examples are given below.

Firstly, it is high time that government **evoked people's awareness of the importance of physical**

fitness. Along with the high-speed development of society, people, especially young people, are

confronted with unprecedented competition. They need to work very hard to guarantee a decent

life, which brings them much more pressure than before. Under such circumstances, most of

them are likely to be in sub-healthy state. Therefore, it is the government's responsibility to

reinforce population's healthy condition. For example, more sports facilities should be built in

neighborhoods and the government should make people realize the importance of doing

exercises through mass media.

Secondly, **a country's competitiveness in sports is a symbol of power, which builds up a nation's**

cohesion and patriotism. When people watch sports competition on TV, they will be very excited

and proud to witness their sportsmen standing on the podium with national anthem ringing

and the national flag rising. There is no denying that it is an excellent opportunity for people to

nourish a sense of commitment to the country. For government, it should create more

opportunities like this by investing in the cause of sports. For example, with enormous financial

investment, Chinese swimming team has recently made tremendous achievements in various

international competitions, which boosts the morale of Chinese people.

Admittedly, **the importance of arts cannot be overlooked.** The creation of artistic atmosphere is

conducive to cultivating people's taste and temperament. If a society is artistically cultivated, its

people's souls are hardly to be eroded by materials for they have other meaningful things to

enrich their minds. **However, compared with arts, athletics is more fundamental.** In other words,

without a good health condition, people are not able to achieve anything including arts. Thus,

the vital importance of athletics is self-evident.

From what has been discussed above, we can safely draw a conclusion that the government

should offer more financial support to athletics. Chairman Mao, the founder of PRC, once said

that a good body is the root of revolution. In order to succeed in a better “revolution”, the

government should always prioritize enhancing people’s health.

16. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Only movies that can teach us something about real life are worth watching.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

With remarkable progress of people’s living standard, watching movies seems to be an

indispensable part of people’s lives, as movies not only entertain the viewers but also enlighten

them. It is considered that only movies that can teach us something about real life are worth

watching. However, I regard this assertion as unfair and arbitrary, because there are at least two

other kinds of movie that are also worth watching: comedy and scary movie.

Admittedly, people really benefit a lot from movies that can teach us something about real life.

For instance, some movies teach us how to deal with relationship between family members,

some teach us how to realize one’s American dreams by defeating difficulties one after another,

and some great movies show us what is true love. Nevertheless, no matter how useful and

meaningful these movies can be, it is still inappropriate to assert that they are the only ones

worth watching. In fact, other types of movies can provide people with different experiences.

In the first place, comedies are worth watching, for they give us a really good way to get relaxed.

It is because the only goal that the comedies try to achieve is to make people laugh, and laughing

is in fact proven by science to be one of best medicines to alleviate pressure, pain or depression.

I still can remember when I was preparing for the college entrance examination--a make-or

break exam that even determines one's future--the most enjoyable thing was to watch a Jim

Carrey movie after a whole day's hard work. Through those hilarious plots and exaggerating

acting of Jim Carrey, my intense minds suddenly got relaxed.

Furthermore, another kind of movie, scary movie, is also worth watching because it allows

people to experience the excitement of horror under a safe circumstance. In most cases, people

are pursuing happiness while avoiding risks, but human being's nature of curiosity sometimes

makes us want to experience those fearful feelings that we hate to have in real life. Though this

kind of mind may be paradoxical, but it does exist sometimes. For example, almost every scary

movie lover enjoys the moment when they breathed a sigh of relief at the end of the movie.

Vicariously sharing the experience of others can be a kind of happiness.

In conclusion, it is absurd to believe that it is only worth watching movies that can teach us

something about real life. As another two important movie genres, comedy and scary movie,

are equally important to our lives and should be given due respect.

17. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Because the world is changing so quickly, people now are less happy or less satisfied with

their lives than people were in the past.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Living in the contemporary society, people seem to be content with the rapid development along

with the fast-paced life. People holding this view are convinced that the technologies designed

to make our lives easier are necessarily making our lives better. From my perspective, however,

individuals today, far from being happy or satisfied, are less happy and less satisfied with their

lives than they were in the past.

To begin with, people today are less happy and satisfied with their **relationships with others**

than they were in the past. It seems that a variety of forms of entertainment keep people away

from each other. People, men and women, young and old, are indulging themselves in their own

virtual cyber world, unwilling to have face-to-face communication with their friends, or to visit

their neighbors. As a result, the close relationship among people wanes. Actually, we have been

all the way to the moon and back, but we have trouble crossing the street to meet the new

neighbor. For example, ten years ago, my father would have a gathering with his friends at the

weekends, going fishing or hiking together. During the fishing or hiking time, they would share

the most exhilarating parts in their life like someone's giving birth to a new baby girl. Or my

father would spend his weekends with our neighbors, talking about current affairs like

increased price of petrol. Such chatting with his friends or neighbors made each of them feel

closer and happier. However, ten years later I am more likely to stay at home, playing online

games with a group of strangers or interacting with Mr. Unknown on all kinds of social

networking sites like the Instagram and Twitter. Even if I sometimes hang out with my friends

and sit in a Starbucks, seldom do we see in each other's eyes or talk to each other. Instead, we

keep lowering our heads and updating Moments(a Chinese counterpart to Facebook). We even

feel lonely in modern society. Indeed, technologies designed for making people closer,

unfortunately, have ruined the basic pattern of human interaction and made us annoyed and

dissatisfied.

Besides, people today are less happy and satisfied with the **information they receive** than they

used to be. The explosion of information, some of which may be misleading and deceptive,

makes people feel confused. A couple years ago people could gain authentic information from

printed books, which were written by trained experts who adhere to standards of academic rigor.

People were quite delighted and satisfied with what they have learned. Years later, however, it

is another story when I found I am overwhelmed in an immense sea of unsubstantiated and

misleading information both online and offline. Every single time when I open my WeChat, I

only find myself totally lost and confused by conflicting claims like “genetically modified food

is killing us” or “embrace genetically modified food”. In other cases, I feel befuddled when

seeing an online article like “Eight Hours’ Sleep Makes People Smart” and another article that

maintains “Six Hours’ Sleep is fairly enough.” Today self-generated real-time contents, either

true or false, make people perplexed since readers cannot distinguish the real one from the fake

one or even half-truths.

In conclusion, the rapid changes expected to make our life for the better have actually made

people less satisfied and happy because of the lower quality of our communication and

information.

18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

In the past it was easier to identify what type of career or job would lead to a secure, successful future.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Everyone is looking forward to a secure, successful future, and the most common path is to

choose a promising career or job to help them achieve their goal. It seems that in the contemporary society, abundant information on the Internet contributes to identifying what

type of career or job to choose. From my perspective, however, it is more difficult to identify the

career or job that may lead to a secure, successful future than in the past.

For one thing, with the rapid changes in modern world, it becomes more **difficult to predict the**

development of future career. As we know, the fast development of science and technology

leads to constantly changing conditions in human society, making it hard to see through the

prospect of most jobs. For example, the last century witnessed the heyday of interpreters. Those

who worked as an interpreter earned not only generous payment but also high social reputations. However, as technology advances in computer technology and in artificial

intelligence, some old interpreters were partly replaced by translation machines. Consequently,

these skillful interpreters may lose their job, which runs counter to most people's expectations.

What's worse, a large proportion of them do not have a second skill to support their living

because they once firmly believed that the interpreting job will be sufficiently secure. Such

dramatic changes stemming from new inventions come up every day and this leads to

unpredictability that makes it difficult to identify those so-called promising occupations for

people.

For another, **fierce competition** in modern society makes it difficult to maintain a secure,

successful future, let alone to identify one. Even though a certain career or job is connected with

good reputation and satisfying salaries, such a career or job will always be linked with high risk

and fierce competition. With too many elites flooding into the market, old employees may be

taken the place of by those more outstanding fresh-bloods. However, such a situation might not

take place in the past, since education was not emphasized in the past society and people were

not threaten by competitions in their field. Take my uncle, Mike, as an example. Majoring in

computer science, Mike worked in Huawei Company after graduation as an engineer. Everyone

around him admires his job, since Mike not only enjoys a good compensation and benefits, but

also has a prospective career path. However, with more young people pursuing a university

degree of CS, the company hired some excellent engineers graduating from noted universities

like Carnegie Mellon University. Since those young people gain more advanced knowledge and

have novel ideas, Mike and his colleagues are facing the crisis of losing their jobs this year.

To summarize, tomorrow will always be mysterious, and such uncertainty as well as competition make it never easy to identify what type of career or job would lead to a secure,

successful future.

19. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

It is more important for governments to spend money to improve Internet access than to improve public transportation.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

The Internet is becoming so important in our lives that many people consider Internet access as

important as water or power supply. People educate themselves online, shop online, and

connect with others online. However, there are still some people who may not be able to access

the Internet, which negatively affects their livelihood. Based on the current situation and the

increasing importance of the Internet in our daily life, I suggest that government should invest

more on Internet access than on public transportation.

In the first place, implementing the initiative of Internet access helps people to live more

conveniently and improve their overall livelihood, and this will in turn make the city more

appealing. In this information era, people use Internet for a wide range of purposes. They check

regularly their emails and iPhone messages and use different social network applications like

Wechat, Facebook or Twitter to stay connected with their friends and family. People use the

Internet to find shops, restaurants and hotels. Online shopping also makes it easier for people

to compare product prices offered by different stores and allows customers to place orders

online. Obviously, cities that implement this service would boost its popularity immediately.

Tourists and businessmen who travel to the city would also enjoy their stay in the city. The

positive word of mouth effect will definitely also attract people to move in or visit.

Additionally, improving the Internet access can help to narrow the gap between the rich and

poor. By offering more Internet connection, governments can help those who live in poverty

stricken areas to have access to life-changing information, including job opportunities, health

advice, online courses, etc. For example, kids who live in poor areas don't have qualified

teachers to teach them. With the help of Internet service, they can take free online courses offered

by famous teachers and enjoy the same kind of education as their counterpart in the city. Besides,

free public Wi-Fi hotspots could provide people from underprivileged backgrounds with more

empowerment and social inclusion. In all, Internet may eliminate poverty, bridge the gap in

some societies and contribute to the equality.

In conclusion, while it is necessary for government to improve the public transportation,

considering the current development of society, it is advisable for government to invest more

on the Internet access.

20. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

When teachers assign projects on which students must work together, the students learn

much more efficiently than when they are asked to work alone on projects.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Many parents and education experts are convinced that children will work more efficiently

when they work independently on projects. People holding believe group work will take long

hours to reach consensus; some children taking a free ride will make the process more time

consuming. From my perspective, however, students work more efficiently when they must

work together on projects than when they are asked to work independently.

First, students work more efficiently when they must work together on academic projects than

when they are asked to work alone. When required to do assignments, students often gain more

insights in group discussions as brainstorming helps individuals view things from different

points of view. Last October when I was doing SAT homework, for example, I really hoped that

I could finish the assigned essays within twenty-five minutes. Unfortunately, it always took me

long hours to find appropriate celebrities' examples to essay assignments. I could work on for

an assignment "Is Deception ever justified?" for an entire Saturday night and ended up finding

nothing meaningful. Having realized it was hard for students like me to finish the essay

assignments in time, my English teacher divided us into six study groups and encouraged us to

exchange our ideas. The next Tuesday when group members and I brainstormed for the same

assignment, my classmate Morrison advised us to read a novel *The Red Badge of Courage* as

the protagonist Henry was an ideal example for deception. Another classmate Lucia advised us

to read the stories about how Prussian ruler Fredrick the Great used a lie to urge his people

adopt potato-planting and save his people from starvation. After attending the group discussion,

I soon got inspired and finished my assignment. In this way, students work more efficiently

when they work together on academic projects than when they work independently.

Aside from academic projects, students work more efficiently when they must work together on out-of-school projects than they are asked to work alone. Students today are always advised to do some social activities like civic engagement activities. Working together on these social activities enables people save time as a group of people have wider range of knowledge, expertise and skills. When my elder sister Silvia was a third year college student, for example, she was required to do a research about people's reactions to waste batteries recycling among different age groups or income levels. At the very beginning, she was too shy to invite strangers to do questionnaires and wasted a lot of time. After she joined a group, however, things went smoothly as male team members were willing to do the questionnaire job. Only within a week, she finished her task by showing her teachers pies, charts, and tables illustrating how recycling behavior vary from one age group to another In this way, students work more efficiently when they work together on out-of-school projects than they are asked to work independently.

Admittedly, working alone on projects keep students away from distractions. Working together

with others, however, indeed make it easier for students to finish assignments in time.

21. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Because environmental issues are too complicated, individuals can do nothing to solve them.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Our current environmental problems grow ever more serious. Sometimes they seem so serious

and confusing that it seems an individual could never do anything to help fix the problems.

Personally speaking, I believe that individuals can make a difference. There are at least two areas

where the efforts of ordinary individuals can be meaningful in solving environmental issues.

Firstly, individuals can protect environment by changing their ways of waste disposal. If every

person would classify his or her garbage before throwing it away, much of it could be recycled

and pollution could be reduced. Just take beverage cans as one example. Recent surveys suggest

that over 7,000 tons of waste garbage cans go un-recycled each year in America alone. The cost

of finding these cans after they have been thrown away, reclassifying them as recyclable and

then sending them to be recycled is far higher than simply making new ones. However, if

individuals would sort their cans and then discard them into the proper containers, the expense

of recycling would decline greatly, and there would be reductions in absolute pollution caused

by the beverage cans. This is just one area where an individual can make a difference.

Secondly, environmental problems will be somewhat resolved once individuals in society

consume less energy. It is because the requirements of natural resources used to produce energy

will reduce, and as a result, the environmental damage humans inflict will also decline. As an

academic survey indicates, if every family in America will reduce their electricity use by 5% a

year, 1.65 billion units would be saved. It means that the generator motivated by cost in the

whole country can take a break for more than a month. In fact, not only can it make human's

requirements of natural resources less, but also it can alleviate the air pollution caused by

burning coals. Consequently, for winning the battle of protecting environment, individuals'

endeavor, undoubtedly, is a great strength that should not be ignored.

In conclusion, I disagree with the idea that individuals can do nothing in solving environmental

problems since the issues are too complicated.

22. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Teachers should be rewarded with incomes comparable to those of doctors, lawyers or

business leaders.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In literature, teachers are usually described as the gardeners or engineers of human souls. While

in the real world, teaching is a profession typically characterized by high turnover rates and

difficult recruitment. It is an essential role in society, but a generally thankless one in terms of

financial benefit and status. From my perspective, I fully agree with the title statement that

teachers should be paid comparable to those of doctors, lawyers or business leaders.

Admittedly, when examining the income of school teachers, one fact which is frequently cited

is that teachers have summers off or work fewer hours and therefore deserve to be paid less. In

fact, teaching is not an eight-hour-a-day job. Teachers put considerable unpaid hours, making

lesson plans, attending teacher-parent conferences, helping students after class, etc. In short,

teachers deserve to be paid more as the job is much more stressful and demanding.

First of all, at the different stages of social divisions, the role that a teacher plays is never

dispensable. Teachers make all other professions possible. A doctor, a lawyer, or a business

leader, whoever you are, you cannot begin your career without school education. It was teachers

that imparted us knowledge and cultivated us, in the course of our growth. Again, it is teachers

that are commissioned with the significant task of educating our next generation. Thus, there is

no doubt that teachers make immense contributions to our society. If people are paid distinctively by their contributions to the society, why are teachers not paid as well as doctors,

lawyers, or business leaders?

Furthermore, teacher pay seems to coincide with teacher quality over the long run. Nowadays,

though teaching generally requires a Bachelor's degree or better, teachers' incomes are usually

not considered comparable with other professionals of similar education, and offer little room

for advancement or significant bonuses. Consequently, the highly educated people choose to

take the well-paid jobs rather than becoming teachers. In conclusion, we should increase teacher

pay so as to better the quality of teachers and improve the education system in the long term.

To summarize, teachers should be rewarded with incomes comparable to those of doctors,

lawyers, and business leaders, because teachers contribute to our society enormously, carry

great responsibility and frequently overwork. Besides, adequate payment for teachers is what a

better education system calls for.

23. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

There is never good reason to be impolite(rude) to another person.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

People today enjoy great material wealth due to hard work, but some complain that people

today are less polite than they used to be. Extremists argue that people do not need to have the

conventional social norms, such as saying hello to other people, because those manners are a

waste of time. However, I think politeness is important in many aspects of modern life.

First and foremost, in dealing relationships with family and friend, people need to be polite and

considerate. Many young people today claim that they are too busy to call their parents and

contact their friends. Once, I refused to spend time talking with parents, using the excuse that I

had too much work. The consequence was that my mother got angry and hung up the phone.

Our relationship was strained, but I soon realized my rudeness and apologized to my mother.

My mother forgave me because I showed my respect and concern for her. This situation is also

true for friends. Politeness is a bond in relationships with close family members and friends.

Secondly, in a working environment, one needs to obey the basic social norms of courtesy for

interpersonal communication. Consider a rude colleague who is always short and unpleasant

with his coworkers. Not many people are willing to work with him, because he does not show

any basic skills or ability to deal with people. On the contrary, a coworker who smiles and acts

respectfully towards others will certainly be more popular and easier to work with. Obviously,

politeness will never be outdated, no matter how busy the world becomes.

In addition, in the political realm and entertainment industry, celebrities need to show a

gracious and friendly manner in order to maintain a positive image. All politicians have a hectic

agenda. But when they are giving a speech to the public, politicians need to dress appropriately

and speak in a certain way. Patience when answering questions is also a must. Similarly, a

famous movie star or a pop singer needs to show a friendly attitude towards any crazy fan.

Otherwise, the printing media will make a big deal out of his/her unappreciative manner

towards fans.

In conclusion, though the world today drives people to work like machines, politeness is a

prerequisite for people to have a satisfying home life and a fulfilling career.

24. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

There is never good reason to be impolite(rude) to another person.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Nowadays, there is a widespread belief that courtesy is considered to be a basic quality people

should have. However, people have conflicting opinions on whether we should always be polite

to others. Though the majority of people insist that we should never be impolite to another

person, I can hardly agree. In this essay, two reasons will be presented to buttress my viewpoint.

Admittedly, being polite is necessary in most occasions. Mostly, opportunities and luck lie in

courtesy. For example, an interviewer is more likely to offer a position in the university students

union to a polite student instead of a rude one; a professor tends to help a kind student with his

problems. However, to say that we should never be impolite to another person is an overstatement because exceptions do exist.

In the first place, being polite sometimes means we encourage harassment. Consider celebrities.

Pop stars have huge fans that are eager to know the tiniest things about their idols', not only

their new songs, new movies and public activities, but also who they are dating and where they

go for dinner in their private life. In order to capture striking news and sell it to the press,

paparazzi stalk famous people wherever they go and take photos out of nowhere. Honestly,

these actions seriously interfere with the celebrities' daily lives. Once, a famous singer who was

pregnant went shopping with her assistant. The paparazzi waited outside the shopping mall

and crazily took photos of her, which will harm her baby. The singer begged them to stop

shooting photos, but the paparazzi just did not listen. Not until her assistant yelled at them and

threatened to accuse did the paparazzi finally leave. That is a case that politeness does not work.

Furthermore, when a crime happens, it is ridiculous for us to be polite to criminals. On one hand,

it is hard to imagine policemen walk toward a criminal on a crime scene and inform the criminal

in a tender voice that he is under arrest. The normal and reasonable action for policemen is to

pull out their guns and shout "freeze!", then handcuff the criminal. No one would agree that

pointing guns at others and handcuffing them are polite, but it is rudeness that works when

arresting a criminal. In addition, being angry about the crime, the witnesses would criticize the

criminal and express their resentment. Staying calm and being polite would be regarded cold

blooded.

In conclusion, although it is basic for people to be polite most of the times, there are exceptions

that urge impoliteness. Therefore, the claim that we should never be impolite to others is an

overstatement.

25. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

In twenty years there will be fewer cars in use than they are today.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

The invention of automobiles has ended the time of horse and cart and embarked on the new

era for people's mobility. With the help of cars, people could travel to farther places and move

around easily. However, the booming of autos seems to be ended due to environmental risks,

energy crisis as well as serious traffic congestions. Therefore, I note that in 20 years there will be

fewer cars.

The number of cars will shrink in the future because of the serious air pollution. Air pollution

has become one of the greatest headaches for human beings, as it has been reported that an

increasing number of people living in cities suffer from the lung cancer, which is closely related

to the wasted gases from vehicles. According to the statistics from the municipal government of

Beijing, the past decade has witnessed the jumping number of cars, about 20 million cars in the

city. Surprisingly enough, the number of victims of lung illnesses has also rocketed by 40 percent.

In order to clean the air, the government of Beijing has taken some measures to address the

problem, such as limiting the number of cars. In the year of 2014, the government reduced the

number of cars by 10 percent. If this goes on, there would be fewer cars in cities with the purpose

of improving the air quality.

The intensifying energy crisis will limit the number of vehicles, too. Currently, fossil fuels, the non-renewable energies, still take the main part of energy sources for vehicles, and one day, those will be depleted. Take China as an example, about 80 percent of cars are motivated by gas and other fossil fuels in 2014 and oil in China maybe only last for 10 years if there is no new and big mines found. Although there exist some renewable energies, such as solar power or wind power, most of them are not as practical as the fossils, some of which are restricted to weather fluctuations. The effort to find reliable energy sources has not been successful so far. In order to have a sustained development of cars, governments will have to limit the number of cars in 20 years.

Another factor to cut the quantity of vehicles is traffic jams. It is not uncommon to find that traffic congestion has been so severe that people have to spend extremely long time on the way of commuting. For example, last month I went a business trip to Beijing. In the rush hours in the morning, it took me more than 2 hours and a half to get to my destination and I had to spend another hour and a half back to my hotel. In fact, the residents in Beijing have to suffer the long commuting journey nearly every day. If this happens, life in cities could be tougher than before. In order to reduce the traffic congestion, city governments of Beijing have taken the policy of limiting the car numbers and development of public transportation.

Based on the reasons discussed above, I believe that there will be fewer cars in the future.