

Chào các bạn,

Trong thời gian ôn IELTS hai năm trước, Queen có giữ lại các tài liệu mà Q đã sưu tập được, dùng cho phần nói và phần viết. Giờ muốn share lại cho các bạn cùng tham khảo!

Vì bộ tài liệu này Q soạn cho mình Q học nên đôi khi có những phần trình bày không được khoa học lắm, thêm vào đó cũng không có ghi chú cẩn thận về resource của các bài viết, các bạn thông cảm giùm, và cũng đừng ai kiện Queen về tội ăn cắp bản quyền tác giả nhé, vì đây là a non-profit job mà

Với hai phần writing và speaking Queen chia thành các topic khác nhau, sưu tập các câu hỏi, câu trả lời và các tài liệu liên quan đến từng topic, sau đó luyện cho đến khi cover được hết các topic đã liệt kê.

And here comes topic list:

Topic list

1. Crime –violence –smoking
 2. Culture – tradition and festival
 3. Economic issues –employment
 4. Education
 5. Environment – population –pollution Animal
 6. Family –children- women
 7. Food –Drink -health-Welfare
 8. Happiness –friendship - marriage
 9. Social problems –housing-History –religion- Politic –climate
 10. Hometown
 11. Media- television -communication Reading – watching Movies/film
 12. Music -Art- Fashion -Sport
 13. Computer – technology –nuclear- internet
 14. Tourism –travel -holiday
 15. Transport
 16. Rich and poor world -Different generation - Modern life –city – country living
 17. Oversea studying – foreign language
 18. Personal related - success – career – money – future plan
- (note: some small topics are grouped together)[/b]**

Hi vọng bộ tài liệu này sẽ giúp đỡ ít nhiều cho các bạn đang luyện thi IELTS

1. Why people smoke?

- Relax when to be nervous.
- Like the taste.
- My friends smoke. It's difficult to say "no" to a cigarette when I'm with them.
- It's habit that difficult to stop.

2. fact –file

- about 100 million people around the world work in the tobacco industry.
- Cigarette – smoking kills 2.5 millions people every year. Many of them die from lung cancer. Some aren't even smokers. They're people who live or work with heavy smokers.
- \$100 billion of cigarettes are sold every year/

3. Some businesses now say that no one can smoke cigarettes in any of their offices. Some governments have banned smoking in all public places. This is a good idea but it also takes away some of our freedom. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons.

4. In some countries, people are no longer allowed to smoke in many public places and office buildings. Do you think this is a good rule or a bad rule? Use specific reasons and details to support your position. TOEFL

Why should apply this rule?

- improve people's health.
- Increase worker productivity: the worker would not stop their work all the time to smoke, fewer worker absences.
- Reduce conflict: non – smokers tend to get annoyed and jealous because smokers have an excuse to take frequent breaks.

5. Should the same laws which prohibit the sale and consumption of heroin be applied to tobacco?

6. Smoking is a habit which claims many lives and is a great drain on health services. One way to combat smoking would be to make it illegal. What are the pros and cons of such a

government policy? What alternative strategies can you suggest to combat smoking? (Understand two or more sides of an issue)

Section 2: Crime and violence

1) "Should criminals be punished with lengthy jail terms or re-educated and rehabilitated using, for instance, community service programmes, before being re-introduced to society." -;

Answer: Insight into IELTS – 186.

- Long Term Jail Sentences
- Not as expensive as rehab
- Criminals don't deserve special funding and education
- Deters future crime
- Satisfies the public
- Criminals are inherently bad - they will always re-offend
- Rehab programmes ineffective - criminals re-offend
- Longer time before criminals get the chance to re-offend
- Rehabilitation
- Keeping prisoners is expensive anyway - longer jail term higher the cost
- Rehab programmes can be used to make or save money - eg. build things
- Has been found that heavy sentences (and even death sentence) have no effect on crime rate
- Long-time inmates are most likely to re-offend
- Rehab programme is better than nothing
- Long term jail sentences create "us" and "them" situation
- Crime and criminals are social problem, we have to try and re-integrate criminals into society, rehab tries to do this

2) Everybody has the right to carry gun --Preparation and practice –168

3) Patriotism is the biggest cause of war --Preparation and practice –168.

4) The crime rate among teenagers has increased dramatically in many countries. Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions to this problem. (Discuss a problem and suggest solutions)

5) Why should not take drugs?

- All drugs are addictive.
- Sooner or later your habit will get out of control.
- Drugs make you boring.
- Drugs cost a lot of money.
- Drugs take up a lot of time.
- Drugs make you hate your self.
- Drugs destroy your social faculties.
- Drugs damage your health.
- You never know what you are talking.
- Sooner or later you will find yourself on a recovery programme.

6) Discuss some of the reasons for and effects of drug use amongst young people in modern society. What can governments do to prevent and fight youth drug abuse? – 202 exercises –124. Drug, cuc(5).. english-net_com.htm ..\..\comprehensive site\task1-task2.htm; 101 hints166.

Why teenagers use more drug?

- Teenagers are under increasing pressure
- peer pressure or pressure to succeed ; Pressuure to perform well at school.
- Drug use may help them escape reality, forget their problems, or simply feel more accepted by their friends.
- One way t express dissatisfaction with those pressures
- In addition, through the media we are exposed to information that glamourises drug use and makes it look attractive, particularly to young people.
- Furthermore, teenagers are usually naturally curious about drugs, and drug dealers can take advantage of this curiosity for their own profit.
- Parents who drink and smoke to excess are, in effect telling their children that it is accaptale to abuse their bodies with drugs.
- The widespread availability of drugs mean teenagers are faced with the temptation to experiment

What are the effects?

The increase in drug abuse has had far-ranging effects.

- There are obvious health risks associated with drugs, such as AIDS.
- Many young people's talent are wasted, and addiction to hard drugs

can cost a user his or her life.

- Those who drink and drive may be involved in fatal road accidents.
- What is more, addicts need money to support their habits, and may need to turn to crime or prostitution to raise it.
- They may then have criminal records and become even more isolated from society.
- Drug abuse among young people can also lead to family break-up.

What are solutions:

- High fines and prison sentences should also be imposed on drug dealers and users.
- prevention is better than cure and so a good education programme about the dangers of drug abuse is one of the most important steps any government should

7) Without capital punishment (the death penalty) our lives are less secure and crimes of violence increase. Capital punishment is essential to control violence in society To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Death pd6 Cambridge 2 – 161;

Advantages of death punishment?

- capital punishment is a symbol of justice: people must pay for their actions.
- show law power to people->threaten people exp. drugs sellers or treasonable people
- this method can make people scared to do something against the law.
- Secondly, capital punishment can save money.
- A government has to budget for prisoners.
- In contrast, a government does not need to provide money to feed prisoners who are sentenced to capital punishment.

What are disadvantages?

- Nevertheless, there is an argument about human rights. No one has the right to kill other people.
- inhuman: deprive the right to live
- possibility for killing potential good citizens: after being rehabilitated.
- No use for crime reduce: terrorist.
- Moreover, some people ask how to be certain that a decision of a judge is suitable. The wrong decision by the judge could not rescue

the death of the prisoners.

- Furthermore, many prisoners become good people after leaving jails.
- In prisons, there are many activities which rehabilitate all prisoners.
- Prisoners can practice special skills which help them to find jobs when their punishment is over, such as cooking, art, electronics and fixing cars.
- Lastly, crimes do not decrease in some countries even though capital punishment is used.

8. The crime rate among teenagers has increased dramatically in many countries. Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions to this problem. (Discuss a problem and suggest solutions)reason:

9. Reasons for crime and suggestion

What are reasons?

- Crime is frequently connected to poverty.
- Those at the bottom of society, with few opportunities and perhaps little education, are more likely to be tempted into a life of crime as a solution to their problems, financial and otherwise.
- The problems of poverty are magnified when the gap between rich and poor widens. When the rest of society has access to a comfortable lifestyle, it surely makes hardship even more difficult to bear; again, crime may seem a tempting alternative.
- Social factors may also have led to crime increases.
- Family structures have changed, and feelings of community have vanished.
- As social units become less and less close-knit, the unspoken rules that guided behaviour and kept everyone in check disappear, and one of the results may be crime.
- Many criminals commit crimes after having been in prison.
- This clearly suggests that prison has little or no effect.
- Violent scenes on TV -> consider common thing -> try immitating
- Lack of parents' proper up-bringing (busy earning money).
- Mature crime increase ->affect juvenile crime
- Government not succeed enforcing the law or give little attention to this proplem

Solutions:

- Governments can certainly make great efforts to close the gap between rich and poor, and offer everyone a reasonable education which will bring them greater opportunities in the future. Social welfare and education systems exist in many countries that succeed in doing this. Of course, they must be funded by tax-payers' money, and increases in taxation will always be difficult for any government to introduce. However, increases in crime are also a heavy burden on the taxpayer, as prison systems are extremely expensive and already under enormous pressure.
- What governments must do is accept these changes and respond to them in a practical way. If there are more one-parent families, there is little point harking back nostalgically to the days when everyone had two. What governments must do is try to ensure that such families do not live in poverty or experience discrimination that might remove their opportunities to lead fulfilling and law-abiding lives.
- A further suggestion is that our punishment systems should be made to fit the crimes, so that a vandal could be forced to clean the streets as part of his punishment. This may bring the message home more clearly than a few months in prison.
- enhance censorship for media means.
- call for the cooperation among parents, school, and government to put the children in strict education.
- send young criminals to rehabilitation school.

10. "When teenagers under the age of 18 commit crimes, their parents should be held responsible." Write an essay discussing this statement and suggest ways to combat teenage crime.

Why parents should be held responsible?

- Not mature enough to identify the justice -> not eligible to be responsible for their action
- Parents responsible for child-rearing, inadequate upbringing -> commit a crime -> reasonable to hold responsibility
- Educational term: parents' undesirable situation affects the children's thought -> possibly stop

11. Criminals who commit serious crimes should be sentenced to death.

12. The welfare state makes people less self-reliant.

13. Do you think that punishment for violent crimes should be the same for juveniles and adults? Why/why not?

Topic 2 - Culture – tradition and festival

section 1: CULTURE - CUSTOM

1. If I were to meet (an important older person) in your culture, how should I greet them to be polite and show respect?

- Firstly, take off your hat.
- Open a polite smile.
- Using polite greeting sentences to greet those people, for example the sentences equivalent to: “good morning, sir”.
- However, you should study the way to use proper titles when addressing different subjects. This is not the same to English. For example, if that person is an old woman, you are supposed to greet her with: “Chao ba a!”; whereas a greeting sentence toward an old man is “Chao ong a!”.
- It is desirable to call Vietnamese professional and government officials by their title, i.e., Mr. Assemblyman, Mr. Doctor, Mr. Lieutenant, etc.
- Instead of saying such formal greeting sentences. You can also expressing your respect toward those people by asking them some familiar questions, equivalent to “ How are you?”, “Have you had your dinner yet?”, and so on.
- About the handshake etiquette, in Vietnam, the older would be the one who offer his/her hand first. So you’d better not offer to shake hand until that person shows that he/ she is going to do so. Women, especially those in the countryside, still shy away from shaking hands, especially with men from their own country. It is best not to offer to shake hands with a woman unless she offers her hand first.

2. Describe a custom from your country that you would like people from other countries to adopt. Explain your choice, using specific reasons and examples.

That’s about the custom of giving gifts.

- If gifts are taken for the family, they should be items that they could not easily obtain themselves. To take something that they could buy easily would be a bad reflection on their economic means. They love anything oversea, and it does not have to be expensive. If you give the children things, each should have a separate gift. It is not polite to

take a whole bag of candy and give it to them as a group.

- Gifts for brides and grooms are usually given in pairs, including blankets. A single item indicates the marriage is not expected to last long. Two less expensive items are more desired than one nicer one.

3. Can you tell me something that foreigner should not do in Vietnam:

There are numerous taboos on all aspects of life in Vietnam. A few of them are as follows:

- Don't express lavish admiration for a new baby, because the devils might hear you and steal the child because of his desirability.
- Going dutch with a Vietnamese is not appreciated. If you run into someone at a restaurant and you join his table, let him pay the whole bill or pay it all yourself. The senior person usually pays.
- Hats are not usually worn inside churches, even Catholic ones.

4. When people move to another country, some of them decide to follow the customs of the new country. Others prefer to keep their own customs. Compare these two choices. Which one do you prefer? Support your answer with specific details

- This is a difficult choice, and the decision is not always conscious. Many practical and social factors influence people.
- Very often it depends on age
- Older people have spent a lifetime doing things a certain way. Their social customs are part of who they are as people. It's very hard for them to start doing things differently.
- The younger generation finds it easier to leave behind the culture of their native country and adapt to the customs of their new country. They are not as set in their ways as adults are. Children also feel the pressure to fit in from the other kids in school.
- A major part of adapting to the customs of a new country is learning that country's language.
- Children learn the language in school, and use it daily while going to class and playing with other people.
- But many times adults coming to a new country don't have time for formal language classes. Their first priority is getting a job. Sometimes they work with people from their own country, and they don't have to use the new language. Or they may find a job that doesn't require much speaking at all. This means even if they're trying to learn the language, they don't have a lot of opportunities to practice that
- For my part, I believe that people who want to make their home in a

new country need to find a balance. They should keep the best of their native culture and adopt the good things they find in their new country.

5. Sometimes it is very difficult to learn the way people do things in a new culture. What can we do to make life easier for newcomers?

- Obviously, time can help them.

The longer they settle their life in that new country, the easier for them to adapt with lifestyle of the new culture due to constant observation and contacts with the local people.

- Studying the new language

Language and culture is closely related to each other. If they can speak the living country's language fluently, it is much easier for them to understand and adapt the new culture. Also, studying new language also means studying new culture

- Making new acquaintance with the local people. These people can directly tell new resident about their habits and customs that they expect this person to observe.

6. Where is Vietnamese culture stronger, in the country or the city? Can you give some examples?

In Vietnam, culture is stronger in the country than in the city. Let's have a look in one of the most famous custom of Vietnam: the custom of chewing betels and areca nut.

- A quid of betel consists of four materials: an areca nut, betel leaf, a chay root, and hydrated lime.

- The custom of chewing betel-nut is unique to Vietnam. Old health books claim that "chewing betel and areca nut makes the mouth fragrant, decreases bad tempers, and makes digesting food easy".

- A quid of betel makes people become closer and more openhearted. At any wedding ceremony, there must be a dish of betel and areca nut, which people can share as they enjoy the special occasion.

- During festivals or Tet Holidays, betel and areca nut is used for inviting visitors and making acquaintances.

- Nowadays, the custom of chewing betel remains popular in some Vietnamese villages and among the old. But in the urban, it is not of so popular.

7. Do traditional cultures contribute to the development of modern societies? Why? Why not?

8. Give some prominent features of your culture:

- It can be said that there were three layers of culture overlapping each other during the history of Vietnam: local culture, the culture that mixed with those of China and other countries in the region, and the culture that interacted with Western culture.
- The most prominent feature of the Vietnamese culture is that it was not assimilated by foreign cultures thanks to the strong local cultural foundations. On the contrary, it was able to utilize and localize those from abroad to enrich the national culture.
- The Vietnamese national culture emerged from a concrete living environment: a tropical country with many rivers and the confluence of great cultures. The natural conditions (temperature, humidity, monsoon, water-flows, water-rice agriculture ...) exert a remarkable impact on the material and spiritual life of the nation, the characteristics and psychology of the Vietnamese.
- The Vietnamese nation was formed early in the history and often had to carry out wars of resistance against foreign invaders, which created a prominent cultural feature: a patriotism that infiltrated and encompassed every aspect of life.

Topic 2 (continued)

SECTION 2: FESTIVALS

9. What are some important festivals in your country?"

Beyond the national festivals mentioned onwards many local festivals take place throughout the year around the country. There are also scores of regional festivals, often jointly celebrated by collections of villages. Many ethnic groups also celebrate festivals.

Tet - Vietnamese and Chinese New Year- With a history that dates back thousands of years, the Tet festival was originally a celebration held by Vietnamese farmers to thank the gods for the arrival of spring, sometime between late January or early February. Although officially a three-day affair, festivities may continue for a week or more with every effort made to indulge in eating, drinking, and enjoyable social activities. It is also a time for family reunions, and for paying respect to ancestors and the elders. Gifts of food are made to friends, neighbors and relatives in the days before Tet.

Mid-Autumn or Children's Moon Festival (Tet-Trung-Thu)

- The essence of Tet-Trung-Thu - celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month - is to promote education, culture, music, sports,

arts and crafts, and poetry.

- Beginning at noon and ending at midnight, the festival includes:
- folklore displays.
- Children's games.
- Lantern processions.
- Dragon Dances.
- Multicultural performances.
- Delicacies include moon cakes, sticky rice, fruits and various sweets.

10. Describe a Vietnamese traditional festival:

Vietnam has many traditional and religious holidays but none can be compared to New Year festival, Tet Nguyen-Dan or, in short, Tet.

- Where and when does it take place?

Tet starts on the first day of the first lunar month and is the first season of the new year (according to the lunar calendar).

Tet has become so familiar, so sacred to the Vietnamese that when Spring arrives, the Vietnamese, wherever they may be, are all thrilled and excited with the advent of Tet, and they feel an immense nostalgia, wishing to come back to their homeland for a family reunion and a taste of the particular flavours of the Vietnamese festivities.

- Do you have special food or dress for this festival? tell me about it.

The Banh Chung has been a "must" during the Tet holidays. The Banh Chung is very nutritious, has an original tasty flavour and may be kept for a long time. All of its ingredients and materials, from the green wrapping leaves to sticky rice and pork, green peas and pepper inside, are all medicines (according to Oriental Medicine) that act to keep harmony between the positive and the negative, thus helping the blood circulate well and preventing diseases. Certainly, no other cakes could be of such cultural significance and produce such medical effects as the green Banh Chung of Vietnam.

- What do people do to prepare for such occasion? How do people celebrate?

- The first signs of the impending holiday show up a month before Tet. Workmen start building stalls near the markets to sell holiday items such as New Year's greeting cards, candied fruits and decorations. Prices for everything begin to rise.

- Houses and buildings get a new paint. People buy new clothes, exchange greeting cards, wish each other Happy New Year Chuc Mung Nam Moi).

- It's auspicious if the branches bloom on the first morning of Tet: apricot blossoms are reputed to keep demons out of the homes at this time. The ideal is to have the flowers bloom just at Tet, so much care is given in picking just the right braches. Some families buy entire apricot tree and decorate it with greeting cards from well-wishers. Families also paste up strips of red paper "cau doi" with sayings of wealth, happiness, prosperity, and longevity; They also buy fruits with names reminding of their wishes for the coming year.
- Family gather making the traditional Banh Chung, the cake of sticky rice, and fruit candies (Mut).
- Traditionally, no cooking is done during the three day holiday, so all food must be prepared beforehand.
- **What happens during this festival?**
- At midnight on New Year's Eve, a ceremony called "Giao Thua" is held in which a sacrifice for the spirits and the ancestors is made on a lovely candle-lit altar in the open air near the home.
- After this, the family may break off some new buds from the special new plants and trees recently purchased for Tet and go to the Pagoda. There, they place incense before the altar and pray for the prosperity of the new year. When they leave the pagoda, another new bud is picked from a plant or tree and placed on the top of a column at their home on returning. This symbolizes good luck.
- The next morning, the family arises early and dress in their new clothes. Dishes of special foods are prepared to be placed on the family altar for the ancestors who are back in the home during Tet. This will be repeated twice daily until Tet is over.
- Everyone offers each other New Year wishes, and the children are given lucky red envelopes containing money.
- On the fourth day of Tet, the Vietnamese believe that their ancestors return to their heavenly abode. The stores begin to re-open and life regains its normalcy. People visit graves on this day acting as an escort for their departing ancestors.
- During Tet festival, all stores are closed and businesses are interrupted for at least 3 days.
- **Things not to do in Tet festival:**
- Some things are considered to be very bad luck if done at Tet. A few of them to do at Tet are as follows.
- Never clean house during Tet.
- Do not insult others or misbehave.
- Do not use profanity (rude words).

- Do not look fretful or show any anger or grief.
- Do not break any dishes.
- Compare how people celebrate it now with how people may have celebrated it in the past.
- Preparing food: buying processed food instead of doing it, even Chung cake.
- Better living standard -> a more expensive "Eating Tet".
- How might this festival change in the future?

The growing popularity of Western festivals, like Christmas or New Year Festival will somehow reduce the meanings and make some activities in Tet lose its unique character: Family reunion, house redecoration, giving lucky money, for instance, can take place in the above occasions instead of Tet.

The increasingly improved living standard will give people no sense of a special menu on Tet days. They can enjoy any delicacy during the year, unnecessarily falling in Tet occasion.

- Do you think such a traditional festival should be preserved? Why? Why not?

Of course it should be. Any country should preserve its own culture which is best presented in Festivals.

- Festivals have long been considered the traditional cultural activity of the Vietnamese people. They are attractive to all social classes and have become a necessary part of people's lives for many centuries.
- Festivals are the crystallization of cultural, spiritual, and physical activities that have been chosen, maintained, and improved over many generations.
- Are you concerned about the possibility of losing traditional cultures? Why? Why not?

11. Could you tell me about a special festival in your hometown?

Mid Autumn ->hometown

• For a long time, Vietnam and some other Asian countries who follow the rite of worshipping the Moon Genie, welcome the Mid-Autumn Festival on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month. This is the time when the moon is full, the farm work is at rest, and the weather is cool and fresh. Apart from the Lunar New Year, the Mid-Autumn Festival is the most impressive event for the Vietnamese, particularly the children. There is no other event in the year other than this festival that provides them with as much entertainment, toys, cakes, candies, and fruit.

- About half a month before the event, various kinds of colourful items, mostly cakes, candies and toys, are displayed for sale along the streets, in the shops and at the markets . Everyone, both domestic and foreign, is eager to go either shopping or sight-seeing. On the festive day, some families cook outstanding food to offer their ancestors during the daytime. In the evening, the mid-autumn festive party is prepared with cakes, candies and fruits. Cakes are various, but a "must" is the banh deo (glutinous-rice dumplings) and banh nuong (cakes) in the shape of the moon and fish. Fruit , including longans, simmons, bananas, grapefruits, etc., are also abundant and diverse.

- The Festival is exceptionally interesting for the children who play happily with the bright new toys. The toys are made from various different forms: the lion lead, the animal in folk tales and stories. The lanterns are colourful and of various kinds, such as the rabbit, the carp, etc. Besides traditional carton paper toys, plastic and bamboo plates, ships, tanks, etc. made of plastics with batteries and having remote controls are also on sale. This is understandable due to the economic improvements of the people. Whether organized in the city or countryside, the preserved tradition of the Mid-Autumn Festival is reflected in the way the children play games such as seek-and-hide, lion dancing, lantern marching, etc.

- The welcome-the-moon party in the evening is a good opportunity for the children not only to enjoy the food, but also to learn more from their grandparents and parents. They are told how to prepare the party in the most attractive way. To decorate the party, there is always a "doctor" made of paper or dough, which reminds the children of the high achievements to be obtained in their studies. The time to start enjoying the party is solemnly shared by the whole family and becomes the most sacred moment of the Mid-Autumn Festival. In the bright moonlight, clear sky and fresh environment, everybody is relaxed with a pure and detached joy.

12. What role do you think festivals have in your society and is this role changing?

- Expressing reverence.
- Maintaining ancient traditions
- Remembering dead heroes
- Commemorating important events
- Entertaining the community

Vietnamese culture has a long tradition of colourful festivals.

13. Are some festivals too commercial these days?

14. Tell me about the way people celebrate a wedding in your country

- Wedding is very important to Vietnamese, not only to the couple involved, but also for both families. Thus, it is usually including quite a few formal ritual observances.

- The Wedding day is usually chosen well in advance by the groom and the bride's parents.

- On the wedding day, the groom's family and relatives go to the bride's house bringing a lot of gifts wrapped in red papers. These gifts are similar to those of the engagement: betel leaves and areca nuts, wines, fruits, cakes, tea ...

- The groom's family would stop in the front of the bride's house. The leading couple should enter the house first bringing a tray with wine and tiny cups on it. They would invite the bride's parents to take a sip. By accepting the toast, the bride's family agree for the groom family to enter their house.

- The groom's family would introduce themselves and ask permission for their son to marry his bride.

- The Master of the Ceremony (usually a respected person among the bride's relatives) instructs the bride's parents to present their daughter.

- The bride then follows her parents out. She is in Vietnamese traditional wedding Ao Dai which is usually in red. Followed are her bride maids.

- The wedding ceremony starts in front of the altar. The bride and the groom would kneel down and pray, asking their ancestors' permission to be married, also asking for blessing on their family-to-be.

- The couple then turn around and bow down to the bride's parents to say thank for raising and protecting her since birth.

- They then bow their head to each other, which means to show their gratitude and respect toward their soon-to-be husband or wife.

- The groom and the bride then exchange their wedding rings.

- The ceremony is ended with a round applause.

- Today, a lot of Vietnamese couples have their wedding ceremony done in Temples or Churches which is very much similar to American and Western style, including exchanging vows and wedding rings. However, they still maintain Vietnamese traditional ceremony in the bride's home before heading to temples or churches.

- The newly wedded couples then leave for their honey moon.

End of topic 2

Topic 3: Economic issues

retirement - commercial - Employment -Other economic issues

SECTION 1: RETIREMENT

1. In some countries the average worker is obliged to retire at the age of 50, while in others people can work until they are 65 or 70. Meanwhile, we see some politicians enjoying power well into their eighties. Clearly, there is little agreement on an appropriate retirement age. Until what age do you think people should be encouraged to remain in paid employment? Give reasons for your answer.

• advantages of early retirement:

- the young people have chances to work.
- Secondly, young people are more efficient than the old, because they are young and strong.
- Thirdly, young people have many new ideas about products.
- Finally, young people react more quickly than old people.

• Disadvantages of early retirement:

- One point is that old people have lots of experience.
- What is more, they can train young people.
- Moreover, if old people can continue to work, they will feel happy.

2. Businesses should hire employees for their entire lives. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL36.

What is important consideration in today employment?

- Job performance, speed and change due to harsh competition.
- Performance: skilled workers, match with the tasks.
- Need to produce goods or services quickly -> need young people who are willing to put in long hours, be aggressive and will push themselves to do their job faster.
- Have to be innovative. Changing workforce -> bring in new ideas.
- skilled workers do not want to be tied down to one company, they want the flexibility to improve their opportunities.
- Loyalty is not practical today.

SECTION 2: COMMERCIAL

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Advertising can tell you a lot about a country. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL – unavailable.

4. Some people say that advertising encourages us to buy things we really do not need. Others say that advertisements tell us about new products that may improve our lives. Which viewpoint do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL117

What is the purpose of ad.?

- encourage customers to buy things they don't need.
- Their primary goal is profit.

In which way can ad. persuade customers buy things they don't need?

- Begin with children: they want to be like everyone else, they want to have what everyone has.
- Throughout our life: Advertisement define ourselves by what we own rather than by who we are. It encourages a competition of false values and shallow measurements of what matters in our lives.

What is the advantage of ad.?

- Enhance economy.
- People buy products -> other people have jobs.
- Keep us informed about new products that may actually help us in some way.

5. As the number of commercial is on the increase on our TV, many viewers feel annoyed and claim that commercials should be banned. Do you agree with this idea?

[b](tobe continued)

Topic 3 (continued)

SECTION 3: EMPLOYMENT

5. What are some important qualities of a good supervisor (boss)? Use specific details and examples to explain why these qualities are important. TOEFL18

- justice: treat all her employees fairly.

- Know how to give clear and understandable directions: not change too constant.
- Delegating authority well: know how to use the skills of her employees to best advantage.
- Know how to evaluate her employees on a reasonable set of criteria.
- Sets the standards for her employees by her own behavior.

6. The idea of having a single career is becoming an old fashioned one. The new fashion will be to have several careers or ways of earning money and further education will be something that continues throughout life.

Why does each person need have several careers or ways of earning money and lifetime education?

- The enormous changes in technology
- No matter what their field of expertise, people are no longer able to cope with today's fast changing workplace unless they upgrade their skills through further study.
- Many jobs have become obsolete in recent years.
- For example, robots have taken over factory assembly lines in the automobile industry
- Bank employees have lost jobs because now people use ATMs or their home computer for ordinary bank transactions.
- Similarly, travel agencies and retail stores have gone online and the people who used to do these jobs have been faced with a mid-life career .
- The marketplace has become global.
- Competition has increased, and small businesses have been swallowed up by large corporations that are often multinationals.
- Many industries that once flourished in North America, like the textile industry or the shoe industry, now only distribute foreign-made goods here.
- Labour is cheaper in the developing world and so these industries no longer employ the large workforce in North America that they once did. As a result, people have had to retrain and find jobs in other fields.

Technological change will not slow down in the 21st century and so it is likely that more occupations will become obsolete in the future and we will all have to upgrade our technical skills regularly and have some employment flexibility if we are to remain competitive in the workforce.

7. The world of work is changing quickly:

• today:

- people often have the same job for 30 or 40 years.
- Most people retire at 60 or 65.
- The working week is 7 or 8 hours per day for 5 or 6 days.
- Millions of people work in factories.

• future:

- people will learn new skills and change job more often.
- Most people will retire at 50 or 55.
- Shorter working week. Also there will be more part – time jobs -> more free time.
- Computers and robots will do a lot of the work in factories.

• Opinions:

- in the past, people had to work far too hard. Their jobs controlled their lives. It's not going to be like that in the future. We'll have more time to enjoy ourselves. That's great...why work if a robot can do it for you?
- People need to work. If you've got a job you're a part of society. If you haven't got a job you're outside society.

8 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The most important aspect of a job is the money a person earns. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

TOEFL61.

What does earning a lot of money mean?

- Indicator of success: buy anything you want.
- Indicator of a smart person: stupid person can not earn much money.
- Indicator of a good candidate for marriage: any girls want to marry a rich man.

What are other factors affecting job – satisfaction?

9 What is a very important skill a person should learn in order to be successful in the world today? Choose one skill and use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. TOEFL46

- What are necessary skills?
- Tolerance.
- Computer skill.
- Foreign language skill.
- Why we need tolerance?
- The world is becoming increasingly mobile -> work with different kinds of people -> tolerant each other.

- What should we do when there is a difference in opinion:
- Learn to be tolerant of one another.
- Respect these different in opinion.
- Find a common background, an idea we can both agree on.
- -> easier to settle differences in other subjects.

10. Qualities a person needs to become successful in today's world can not be learnt at university or similar academic institution. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?

11. Some people prefer to work for themselves or own a business. Others prefer to work for an employer. Would you rather be selfemployed, work for someone else, or own a business? Use specific reasons to explain your choice. TOEFL

12. In the field of industrial relations, employees going on strike is not a valid way of resolving conflict. There are better approaches to resolving differences in the workplace.

- What are the purpose for employees going on strike?
- effective way to resolve industrial disputes.
- What can be disadvantaged by those strikes?
- Loss of production
- Possible loss of customers for companies.
- Loss of wages for the striking employees.
- In some cases striking employees also put their own jobs at risk
- Directly through possible dismissal by their employer
- Indirectly through weakening the competitive position of the company they work for.
- It has been shown in many case studies of strikes tend to increase conflict and to hurt both parties through the economic damage they cause.

Strikes are an exercise in power, and do not get to the underlying cause of industrial disputes, which is a conflict of interests between employer and employee.

13. Do you think that public sector workers such as teachers, doctors, nurses and fire fighters should be allowed to strike?

B: Not if they're properly rewarded. Their unions should come together with the employers and negotiate no-strike agreements.

A: What if the employers decide to introduce new working practices? After all, things can't remain the same for ever.

B: Any change in conditions should be negotiated as well.

A: And what happens if the two sides can't agree?

B: Then the dispute should go to arbitration. What's needed is an independent body to mediate in industrial disputes. It might sometimes have to impose a settlement.

A: Surely, nobody can force people to go to work, if they really don't want to.

B: Then they risk losing their jobs. It is wrong to leave hospital patients without doctors and nurses. Likewise, strikes among teachers can severely disrupt the education of our children.

A: So you don't think everybody should have the right to strike?

B: Well, I think everybody should have the right to join a trade union. This allows free collective bargaining. You can't have every worker making separate deals with management. The strike weapon should only be used as a last resort if arbitration fails. Employees should know that management may impose a lock-out.

Is there any other better alternatives?

- Both sides must also realise that they need each other
- Be prepared to negotiate a compromise solution in situations where conflicts arise.
- Employers should realize that their employees are an invaluable resource.
- They should use every avenue to encourage employees to contribute their ideas to improving the work environment.
- Employees should realize that they have more to gain by working constructively with employers than by opposing them.
- Where communication is encouraged at every level, relations will be better, and strikes much less likely to occur.

14. If you were an employer, which kind of worker would you prefer to hire: an inexperienced worker at a lower salary or an experienced worker at a higher salary? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. TOEFL –unavailable.

15. The employment market is rapidly changing, posing impacts on job seekers. Discuss the causes of such changes in employment opportunities.

How rapid is employment market changing?

- Changes in technology -> require new skill.
- Global workforce market ->more competitive, new way of working.
- The increasing participation of female -> more competitive.
- Rising population -> more competitive.

What are new requirement toward new job – seekers?

- Need global skills: foreign language, computer skill.

- Ability for teamworking.
- Technique for applying for a job: dynamic, interview skill.
- Ability to earn money in some ways.

16. We all work or will work in our jobs with many different kinds of people. In your opinion, what are some important characteristics of a co-worker (someone you work closely with)? Use reasons and specific examples to explain why these characteristics are important. TOEFL22

- Cooperative: get along with others, finish task efficiently and in time.
- Adaptable: with changes in schedules or routines, having job description revised.
- Helpful: willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done, have sense of communitive.
- A sympathetic listener: not gossip.

17. People work because they need money to live. What are some other reasons that people work? Discuss one or more of these reasons. Use specific examples and details to support your answer. TOEFL

- feeling of success.
- Feeling of useful.
- Job satisfaction: Enjoy working what they interest
- Like the sense of accomplishment.
- Interact with people, help others.
- Pursue their interested field.
- Social status.

18. Some people prefer to work for a large company. Others prefer to work for a small company. Which would you prefer? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice. TOEFL55

Why large company?

- advancement, promotion.
- Variety of jobs -> can be trained in a variety of positions and would have valuable experience.
- More prestige.

19. Some people like to do only what they already do well. Other people prefer to try new things and take risks. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. TOEFL58.

Why take risk?

- Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

- New opportunities.
- New challenges, despite failure -> take experiences, lessons.

20. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Businesses should do anything they can to make a profit. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

TOEFL66.

- What should businesses do?
- Satisfy employees.
- Trust of customer.
- Play an active part in the community.

21. Is it more important to be able to work with a group of people on a team or to work independently? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer. TOEFL- unavailable.

22. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to be a member of a group than to be the leader of a group. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL111.

- What are desirable characters of a leader?

- Ability to anticipate what happen.
- Good planner, persuasive person
- Initiative
- Action – oriented
- Responsible.
- Why should I be a leader?
- Feeling of being success.
- Gaining social respect.
- Contribute the most to surrounding people and the community.

SECTION 4: OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES

23. A university plans to develop a new research center in your country. Some people want a center for business research. Other people want a center for research in agriculture (farming). Which of these two kinds of research centers do you recommend for your country? Use specific reasons in your recommendation. TOEFL102

What can research center for business bring?

- Improve a country's economy in relation to other countries

Why not approve business center?

- Business practices in the US already serve as a model for many other countries.
- Business are already well – connected internationally. They have

the advantages of the Internet and other means of electronic information transmission.

- Businessmen would get richer. For the rest of the country's people, there might be little obvious benefit.

What can research center for agriculture bring?

- Help all people: food prices can be reduced as farmers discover more effective means of food production.

- Natural resources are eroding.

- Farmers need to build stronger network across the country and internationally much as businessmen already have done.

Other possible questions for interview section regards this topic:

1. What are some of the main industries in your country?"

- Agriculture: Vietnam is still basically an agriculture society, although it continues to take steps toward an industry-oriented development.

- One of the world's largest exporters of rice.

- The Vietnamese economy is dominated by agriculture, which employs over 60% of the labour force, and comprises 40% of total exports.

- Though rice is the main agricultural product, the country also produces maize, sweet potato, vegetables, yam and beans.

- Vietnam is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of coffee.

- Mineral Industry:

- Rich in natural resources, with most of its reserves relatively untapped, coal is Vietnam's second most important mineral in terms of export earnings, after petroleum. Vietnam became an oil-producing nation in 1986.

- The industrial sector is also an important contributor to the country's economy.

- Employing about 12% of the labour force.

- Manufacturing industries include food processing, textiles and leather, building materials, packaging, wood processing and paper, engineering and chemicals.

2. Describe a job that you think would be ideal for you.

You should say:

- what this job is.

- What qualities or pre – conditions people usually have to have to get this kind of job.

- Why you think this job would be ideal for you.

- And explain why it is likely or unlikely that you will have a job like this in the future.

3. How important do you think it is to have a job that you enjoy?

4. Compare the importance of salary and job satisfaction in choosing a job or career.

5. Evaluate the importance of good relationships in a work environment.

6. Are there any jobs or fields of work, which you consider to be more appropriate for males or females? Why?

7 Consider employment in Vietnam. Do you think it is more or less segregated in terms of gender than in previous generations? What TV commercials do you like? Why?

8 What's your favorite commercial?

9 What is the purpose of advertising a product?

10 Do you think there are subliminal messages?

11 When you drive or walk, do you get distracted by advertisements on buses or billboards?

12 When you go food shopping, do you buy foods you've seen in TV commercials?

13 Do you like the Benetton's advertisements? If not, why? (You can substitute any company's name.)

14 Do you think it's right to see naked women in TV commercials selling beauty products?

15 Which job are you best at?

16 Which job would you never do?

17 Which jobs do you think are the most prestigious?

18 Who among the people you know has the most interesting job? What is it?

19 Why did you leave your last job - did you resign or were you sacked?

20 Would you be upset if your boss was a woman?

21 Would you consider the military as a career choice? Why or why not?

22 Would you like a job in which you traveled a lot?

23 Would you like a job that required you to sit at a computer all day?

- 24 Would you rather be a doctor or a banker?**
25 Would you rather work inside or outside?

End of topic 3

KIENHSG có định thi IELTS không mà mò sang tận đây thế này! 😊
Anyway thanks for supporting me! 😊

Following is topic 4: Education (writing+interview) , which covers:

- Uniform -homework
- teacher – student
- secondary- tertiary education
- compulsory – coeducation
- education's role
- specific subjects
- examinations
- others



Topic 4: Education

Section 1: UNIFORM - HOMEWORK

1. Some high schools require all students to wear school uniforms. Other high schools permit students to decide what to wear to school. Which of these two school policies do you think is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL

- What are advantages of wearing uniform?

- Make thing more equal for all students.
- Equal on an economic level
- -> Prevent envy and jealousy about stylish clothes
- -> Form friendship based on personality not clothes.
- reduce unequal treatment by teachers.
- Enhance solidarity
- Encourage the individual students of a school to feel like part of a bigger group.

- What are disadvantages of wearing uniform?

- School uniforms limit children's individualism in clothes.
- Some families can't afford those uniforms.

2. Many teachers assign homework to students every day. Do

you think that daily homework is necessary for students? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. TOEFL – unavailable.

3. Apart from uniforms, what do you think should be done to improve the equality among the children of different economic backgrounds?

4. Are school children in Vietnam required to wear uniforms?

5. What are some of the benefits of requiring children to wear uniforms to school?

6. What are some of the disadvantages of compulsory school uniform?

7. Do you think compulsory school uniform can be justified on educational grounds?

SECTION 2: TEACHER - STUDENT

1. When students are in large classes it is very hard for the teacher to give every student individual attention. What can educational authorities do about this?

2. Evaluate a teacher's power to influence a student's whole life.

3. Some people believe that students should be given one long vacation each year. Others believe that students should have several short vacations throughout the year. Which viewpoint do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. TOEFL115.

Why several short vacations throughout the year?: (3 months per year, each time last for 1 month).

- Easier for parents to schedule vacations.
- Hard for parents to make a plan for the time in long vacation: expensive, unsafe for children.
- Better for economy and tourism.
- Overcrowded in holiday seasons.
- Children are better focused on study

Why one long vacation in the year?

- School buildings are air – conditioned -> in summer: hot.
- Students can take part in the real world: working for experiences.

4. Some people think that they can learn better by themselves than with teacher. Others think that it is always better to have a teacher. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons to develop your essay. TOEFL17.

Why we need teachers?

- Teachers bring with them varied and useful background.
- Trained teach individuals in different ways depending on their style -
- > which way is best for each student:
- Discussion.
- Writing.
- A good teacher can adapt her teaching to your needs,
- Teachers help you to focus on what you are learning.
- Keep your attention on the subject.
- Know how to approach a subject logically, taking it one step at a time. Study by yourself -> skip parts you think you don't need.
- A broader way of learning.
- Information in the written materials as well as the teacher's own knowledge of the topic.
- Provided extra materials to broaden the scope.

5. To be successful in education it is more important to be a good student than to have good teachers. Do you agree?

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

Teachers should be paid according to how much their students learn. Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL.70

- Why shouldn't teachers be paid according to how much their students learn? = how good do their students perform in examinations
- Students will miss out on a lot of education that can't be measured on a test, because teacher will start to teach only what students need to get high test scores.
- Some less able students would be disadvantaged. Teachers may ignore students who have learning difficulties because they have to push the majority of the students.
- On what basis should teachers be paid?

7. Some students prefer to study alone. Others prefer to study with a group of students. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL154

What are advantages of studying alone?

- In case the group don't take studying seriously -> distracted, interruptions.
- Absolutely quite.
- Depend on your habits and personality.
- If you are sociable -> too tempted to socialize.

What are advantages of studying in a group?

- Exchange information about the topic: comparing notes, discuss

various aspects of a topic -> clearer arguments.

- Focused on studying: good discipline -> no wasted time.

What are disadvantages of studying in a group?

8. Schools should ask students to evaluate their teachers. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL75

- Why students should evaluate their teachers?

- Help teachers to perfect themselves: Inform teacher of how students react both to their teaching methods and to them as individuals.

- Encourage teachers, give them confidence.

- Helpful for school administrators assessment of the quality of their teachers.

- Good exercise for students -> understand better what is expected of them.

- Teach students responsibility: Give students feelings that they have a voice in what happen in their schools.

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? High schools should allow students to study the courses that students want to study. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL110.

- What subjects are mandatory?

- Mathematics, literature, and science.

- Hardly any students choose these despite neccessity.

- What subjects are elective? Why?

- Music, art, journalism, various kinds of team sports.

- Chance of experiment.

- Get a head start on what going to study in college.

- Because students interested in different subjects. Later on, no time for studying their interested subjects.

10. Some students like classes where teachers lecture (do all of the talking) in class. Other students prefer classes where the students do some of the talking. Which type of class do you prefer? Give specific reasons and details to support your choice. TOEFL145

Advantages of lecture:

- Teacher give the student the information at their best.

- Students gain their experience and knowledge.

Advantages of discussion:

- develop students' activeness.

- Develop students' interactive skill.

- Teachers feel more comfortable.
- Students study more effectively:
- One effective way of studying is: making mistake.
- Discussion is always a better way for gaining information.
- Students have to consider the problems right at the class to know to what extent they understand.

11. Disruptive school students have a negative influence on others. Students who are noisy and disobedient should be grouped together and taught separately. Do you agree or disagree? – INSIGHT186

- Why shouldn't we separate disruptive students?

- Limiting their educational opportunities.
- A sort of prison -> never recover from the experience -> problems for the wider society.

What's the alternative?

- Investigate for the reason:
 - The work is too easy.
 - Teachers are uninspiring.
- > solve it

12. Many students have to live with roommates while going to school or university. What are some of the important qualities of a good roommate? Use specific reasons and examples to explain why these qualities are important. TOEFL – unavailable.

(to be continued)

topic 4 (continued)

SECTION 3: SECONDARY- TERTIARY EDUCATION

12. What were some of the rules you had to follow at your high school?

- Which rules did you think were unfair?
- Did you ever get caught breaking any school rules?
- Were you allowed to smoke on campus?
- Were you allowed to eat food in the classroom?

13. To what extent should university courses be geared to the economic needs of society?

14. The government of your country is going to offer a number of university scholarships. In which academic subjects should

these scholarships be offered to benefit your country? Cuc 31

- Why offer scholarships to excellent students committed to agricultural science and technology?

- Vn is an agricultural country.
- The production is limited due to the lack of advanced agricultural technology and farming methods.
- Vietnamese students would be encouraged and facilitated to acquire advanced agricultural science and technology to apply to the farms and rice fields
- 70% population would enjoy increased production, higher quality products, more job opportunities, and higher incomes.

- Why offer scholarships to excellent students committed to information technology?

- Pivotal role of this field in pushing up their economies.
- Vn enjoy comparative advantages in human resource since our students rank high in international and regional computer science and maths contests.
- Ignoring computer science in this IT world, vietnam would risk lagging behind in the decades to come.

15. To what extent should universities function as training grounds for employment?

16. Some universities require students to take classes in many subjects. Other universities require students to specialize in one subject. Which is better? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL –unavailable.

17. In some countries, teenagers have jobs while they are still students. Do you think this is a good idea? Support your opinion by using specific reasons and details. TOEFL24.

Why shouldn't teenagers have jobs while they are still students?

- Negative impact on their learning, and eventually on their grades.
- Disrupt a teenager's home life.
- He's missing out on the fun of being young. He has a whole lifetime in which he'll have to earn a living

18. Children should never be educated at home by their parents. Do you agree or disagree?

19. Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes. Others believe that going to classes should be optional for students. Which point of view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to explain your answer. TOEFL14

- Why should attend the class?

- Personal experience can help people learn about themselves and the world outside the classroom, but when it comes to learning about academic subjects, students need to be in class.
- In class, students receive the benefit of the teacher's knowledge.
- Attending classes on any subject teaches more than just facts. It teaches students how to learn , how to absorb information and apply what they've learned to other situations.
- Teach them how to work with the other members of the class.
- Teach students responsibility and discipline.

20. Some people believe that a college or university education should be available to all students. Others believe that higher education should be available only to good students. Discuss these views. Which view do you agree with? Explain why.

TOEFL80.

Why everyone should have the opportunity to attend college?

- education is a valuable investment in future career earnings.
- People with college degrees make more money and have more opportunities later.
- Everyone should have a period to learn about themselves before they begin to work and earn money.
- College is a time to meet different people, separate from your parents, and begin to define you as a person.
- Anyone should be given a chance to see how far she can go.

Why tertiary should be available to only good students?

- Higher education is very expensive.
- Might be a waste of money to send someone to college who might not be able to handle the course work.
- A big investment of time.
- A weak student should get a job and earn some money.

21. Students at universities often have a choice of places to live. They may choose to live in university dormitories, or they may choose to live in apartments in the community. Compare the advantages of living in university housing with the advantages of living in an apartment in the community. Where would you prefer to live? Give reasons for your preference. TOEFL78

Why live on campus their first two years?

- freshmen and sophomores need the stability of campus life
- living on campus makes it easier to get oriented to the way things are done.

- You get the whole university experience
- You interact more with other students.
- The older students in the dormitory can be a big help for the new students
- Major task is study.
- Feel more a part of the university community.
- More opportunities for becoming involved in university activities and networking with student leaders and university administration.

Why live off campus their last two years?

- Juniors and seniors need the independence of off - campus life.
- Finding an apartment, dealing with leases and landlord's regulations, cooking meals, and figuring out budgets are all good practice for life after graduation -> grow into adulthood.
- A better perspective on what is going on around them.

22. You have been told that dormitory rooms at your university must be shared by two students. Would you rather have the university assign a student to share a room with you, or would you rather choose your own roommate? Use specific reasons and details to explain your answer. TOEFL72.

Why let the university assign?

- Student should meet new people and be open to new experience.
- We can change roommate in the next semester if not comfortable.
- We can play an decisive role when making a list.
- Someone who is different from us would be interesting.
- Chance to get a roommate from another culture.

SECTION 4: COMPULSORY - COEDUCATION

23. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Boys and girls should attend separate schools. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL - unavailable

24. Education is recognized as vital to the future of any society in today's world. Governments throughout the world should make education compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

What are benefits of compulsory education

- At a young age, students are unlikely to be sufficiently mature to make sensible decisions about their lives.
- In today's society, where increasingly high levels of skills and knowledge are required of the workforce -> need at least basic

education.

- The governments provide a basic education for children for free; their parents have nothing to lose.
 - Some parents who do not want to follow the policy do not realize the necessity of a basic education.
 - In fact, a basic education is a major foundation for every career.
- What are disadvantages of compulsory education** - Low income families may not be able to afford to keep their children at school.
- Children can help bring in much needed income.
 - Compulsory schooling might be psychological damaging for the students who are not motivated to learn

SECTION 5: EDUCATION'S ROLE

1. Should developing countries concentrate on Improving industrial skills or should they promote education first?

2. Education is a critical factor in a country's development.

Opinion is divided, however, on whether a developing country with limited resources should give priority to improving and expanding basic education for the masses or to providing a high quality tertiary education for the future leaders. Pd(1)

- Why should improve and expand basic education?

- Everyone born to this world is equal and, hence, is entitled to receiving basic education.
- Only by improving basic education could a poor nation encourage its people to discover their potential, which would translate into their knowledge and skills to be employed at work, thus/thereby improving productivity and , ultimately, living standards.
- It's common people who make up the largest part of the workforce.
- The moral question of equal opportunities for everyone. On what criteria can a young person be judged as a potential future leader or just as a common person?
- Deprive the involved individual of higher education opportunity to explore his/her full potential, and might also deprive the nation of a potential clever leader.

3. Describe the major purpose of education in society.

- Well – educated and good citizens.
- Skillful and qualified workforce.

4. Too much education is dangerous. If people receive more education than they need to function in their job, it only breeds dissatisfaction. For or against? -Preparation and practice –141

Too much education is dangerous?

- Education gives people unrealistic ambitions: the law of the market decrees that not every one can be a managing director.
- There is very little point in training people for a level of job that they can never hope to achieve.
- Education is expensive. Overeducation is a waste of time and money.
- Students tend to be a disruptive influence on society: found at the forefront of radical organisation.

Why should invest in education?

- Most countries need a high standard of human resources in order to compete in the world market.
- Uneducated people unable to show initiative.
- Constantly changing technology means that the workforce has to be flexible and receptive to new ideas in order to be of value to employers.
- Moral question: who has the right to say how much education a person is entitled to? What criteria could be used to decide a level of schooling?

5. Topic19: Education is the single most important factor in the development of a country. Do you agree? Cuc 2

Why education is the most important factor?

- Education provides basis for other skills.
- Literacy improves working person's capability.
- Creates self/ national respect.
- Education provides basis for healthy population.

Why education is not the most important factor?

- Health is more important than education.
- Economic development is important, and may only need unskilled workers.
- Difficult to find enough trained teachers.

SECTION 6: SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

- 1. ... why you chose your particular field of study.**
- 2. Would you force your children to study a particular subject (or subjects) or would you allow them to choose their own profession?**
- 3. What do you dislike most about your studies?**
- 4. Did you enjoy studying at your university? What interested you?**

5. Describe a subject that you have found interesting. Say:

- **What the subject is.**
- **Why you chose to take it.**
- **How you felt about the subject.**

And explain why you found this subject particularly interesting.

SECTION 7: EXAMINATIONS

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

Grades (marks) encourage students to learn. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL

2. Topic36: Examinations are not a good way to judge a student's ability

3. Too much importance is attached to exams at school. Do you agree? –Pd- Qui.

- **Why say too much importance is given to exams and that it is time to change the way we monitor out children's development at school.**
- **Firstly, I think that the examination system is unfair because sometimes two students with the same ability in a subject get very different exam results. This is because one is much better at taking exams than the other.**
- **Apart from this, exam questions often test how much a student has remembered about the things he or she has been taught in the classroom.**
- **As a result, students are often encouraged to learn facts by heart, instead of how to use the information and how to think for themselves.**
- **Lastly, it seems to me that exams sometimes have a bad effect on teaching, as teachers are usually judged by the exam results of their students.**
- **Consequently, they are often more interested in preparing their students for the exams than in making their lessons lively and stimulating.**

SECTION 8: Other relevant questions

1. Is it important to study hard when you are young or can you enjoy your life and return to study when you are grown-up?

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying when you are... a) young b) mature

3. What is your opinion of your education system? What are the good and bad points and how could it be improved?

4. What do you think are positive and negative aspects of your country's education system?"
5. Should governments spend more on education than they do at present?
6. Are teachers paid enough?

End of topic 4 😊

Topic 5 Environment – population – pollution- Animal

Section 1: population -urbanisation.

1. In general, people are living longer now. Discuss the causes of this phenomenon. Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.
2. Factors affecting population growth and effects of population control programme.

Factors affecting population growth:

- the level of medical care available.
- The availability of food
- Attitudes to family size.
- The rate of death amongst children and adults -> inconfident that their children will survive.

Aims of population control programme:

- reduce child mortality by better medical care available
- Effect: In long term, giving parents more confidence that their children will survive.
- Make family planning information and services accessible.
- Encourage the idea of small families

3. In the late twentieth century, the proportion of the world's population living in cities has increased substantially. People have moved in ever-growing numbers from rural to urban areas. As migration from rural areas to cities continues, it is inevitable that the infrastructure in these cities will collapse. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

4. The world is experiencing a dramatic increase in population. This is causing problems not only for poor, undeveloped countries, but also for industrialised and developing nations. Describe some of the problems that overpopulation causes, and suggest at least one possible solution. 101 hints –165

Consequences:

- In poor countries it is difficult to provide enough food to feed even the present number of people. In addition, education to limit the number of children per family is not always successful.
- Poorer countries usually have a lot of unemployment too, and an increase in population simply makes the situation worse.
- The environment also suffers when there are too many people living on the land.
- In rich, industrialised and developing countries it is very difficult for governments to provide effective public services in overcrowded cities.
- Moreover, there is usually a great deal more crime, which is often due to high rates of unemployment. Further large increases in population only cause more overcrowding, unemployment and crime.

Solution:

- Everywoman who is pregnant, but who does not want to give birth, should be allowed by law to have an abortion.
- Governments must educate people to limit the size of family.
- In China, couples are punished financially if they have more than one child. This may seem cruel, but the "one-child-policy" is beginning to have an effect in the world's most populous nation. Eventually, similar policies might also be necessary in other crowded nations such as India, for example.

5. Some governments say how many children a family can have in their country. They may control the number of children someone has through taxes. It is sometimes necessary and right for a government to control the population in this way. Do you agree or disagree? – cambridge 2 –165.- Reasons for government to control the population:

- In the past, populations were partly regulated by frequent war and widespread disease, but in recent years the effects of those factors have been diminished.
- Countries can be faced with a population that is growing much faster than the nation's food resources or employment opportunities and whose members can be condemned to poverty by the need to feed extra mouths.

Population control as a means of raising living standard.

Solution:

- The best approach would be to work by persuasion rather than compulsion.

- Clearly, this whole area is a very delicate personal and cultural issue. Many people feel that this is not a matter of the state. They feel this is one area of life where they have the right to make decisions for themselves.

- This could be done by a process of education that points out the way a smaller family can mean an improved quality of life for the family members, as well as less strain on the country's, perhaps very limited, resources.

Section 2: Animal - Zoo

1. To what extent is the use of animals in scientific research acceptable? Should we use animals in scientific experiments?

Animal 2.doc

- Most scientific research has to rely on the results of animal experiments. Other alternatives, such as computer modeling, that could replace animals are very limited. Some people think that using animals in scientific experiments is immoral and cruel.

- In my point of view, only animals can fulfill the requirements of scientific experiments in a real world. For example, some medical universities use dogs as a substitute to allow students to be trained in their surgical techniques. Most people understand that we cannot use humans in experiments because it may be harmful and dangerous for humans. In other laboratory experiments, scientist often use animals like rats, frogs and rabbits to observe the results because only these animals have a similar organs as humans. Therefore, we can not deny that animals contribute a lot to the development of science.

- Although it seems impossible to replace animals in scientific experiments, we should not give up on these matter. Furthermore, we should try our best to reduce the use of animals in scientific experiments. In addition, we should try to reduce pain and distress of the animals during the experiments. For example, we can anaesthetize them before doing any experiments.

- To summarize, we should put more effort into finding the better alternatives than using animals in experiments. In the mean time, we could improve our abilities to reduce the suffering of the animals in the experiments.

2. Many people have a close relationship with their pets. These people treat their birds, cats, or other animals as members of their family. In your opinion, are such relationships good? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your

answer.152 –unnecessary.

3. Some people think that human needs for farmland, housing, and industry are more important than saving land for endangered animals. Do you agree or disagree with this point of view? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL45

Disagree:

- there is a delicate balance of nature. Of one small part is removed, it will effect all the other parts.

- Our environment has been affected by the absence of certain animals. Certain flowers are pollinated by butterflies which migrate from CANada to Mexico. Some of the breeding grounds of these butterflies was destroyed. Now these flowers are disappearing from certain areas. We will no longer be able to enjoy their beauty.

- The quality has been changed. America used to be covered with giants trees. Now we have to visit them in one small park. Rain forests around the world are being cut down to make room for humans. We will never be able to see or study this fragile ecosystem.

- I would encourage us humans to look for other altanatives for our farmlands, housing and industries. We have alternatives, the animals do not.

4. Topic13: Are our zoos cruel to wild animals? Discuss.

5. We should not keep marine mammals in captivity. Agree?

Click here

6. Topic14: Zoos are sometimes seen as necessary but not poor alternatives to a natural environment. Discuss some of the arguments for and/or against keeping animals in zoos. Animal 1

Zoos are common places for people around the world. Animals are kept in zoos for several positive reasons: entertainment, education and conservation. On the other hand, zoos also cause some problems for animals, such as restrictions in their freedom or the destruction of the “wild” character of animals. This essay will discuss advantages and disadvantages about keeping animals in zoos.

Firstly, zoos are entertaining and interesting places for children. Virtually all children like to see animals in zoos. These are good places for families to relax. Zoos are not only interesting places for children, but they also give a chance for people who live in big cities get close to nature.

The next point is the scientists can research animals' lives when they

are kept in zoos easier than they are still living in forests. Scientists can study animals' relationships, their life cycle, or their habits. In addition, researchers can learn how animals take care of each other such as how mothers look after their offspring. Moreover, researchers have acknowledged the importance of how to breed animals, which can reduce animal extinction.

Furthermore, endangered animals such as tigers, lions can be kept in captivity. Some animals that risk extinction might still exist because they are kept in safe from hunting.

However, zoos are not suitable for animals because they are kept in the limited area, in limited food for a long time. They may lose their freedom and their socialization with other animals. Besides, some animals have lost their "wild" character. For example, tigers might lose their hunting skills; platypuses might die because they are not used to live in limited areas.

Also, zoos cost a lot of money for land, animals' food and labours. This may charge expensive entrance fees for people who want to go into zoos.

In summary, zoos are interesting places to people of all ages and zoos are also safe places for some species of animals. Yet, zoos' owners should look after all animals and give them enough food and suitable captivity, as this will give being better advantages for animals' lives.

7. Topic18: Zoos are both necessary and entertaining. -above

8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A zoo has no useful purpose. Use specific reasons and examples to explain your answer. TOEFL above

(to be continued)

Topic 5 (continued)

Section 3: Environment

1. Problems and solutions

- **Rain forests:**

- solution: governments in rainforest countries need to plan and work together. They should also protect certain areas and plant new forest.

- **energy:**

- at the moment, 94% of the world's energy comes from fossil fuels.

There's enough coal for the next 300 years, but oil is only enough for next 50 years. What happens then? Well, one answer is nuclear energy. But after the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, many people think nuclear power isn't safe.

- The green solutions: they all use natural energy already in the environment:

- Wind energy
- Solar energy
- Wave energy
- Geothermal energy (from hot rocks under the Earth)

• Acid rain:

- solutions: Industrial countries should control their levels of pollution. This is already happening in some parts of Europe.

• Wildlife:

- Animals are a part of the environment, too. Millions of them are killed or treated cruelly by man every year. There are five main groups:

- Animals used for scientific research: rabbits.
- Animals killed for sport; foxes.
- Animals killed for fur, skin: crocodiles.
- Animals – their environment are in danger: gorillas.
- Animals kept in cruel conditions on farm: chicken, cows.

- solution: groups like Greenpeace have already helped to stop whale hunting. Now, they want to stop fur hunting, too -> they believe in animal rights. Animals shouldn't suffer. The cruelty must stop.

2. Why is protecting environment important?

• We need a healthy environment in order to survive so we must protect it. We need to protect the environment now to help prevent health problems, to maintain the ecosystem and to preserve the earth for our children.

• Pollution from factories and cars can cause damages to the environment. Moreover, pollution cause health problems, particularly for children and the elderly who have weaker immune system. We need to ensure that there are controls on the amount of pollution when possible so as to prevent health problems caused by breathing dirty air.

• We also need to pay attention to the ecosystem. Trees, plant life, and people all depend on each other. An unhealthy environment can have harmful effects on the ecosystem. For example, if a plant dies

because of changes to the environment and that plant is food for an animal, that animal won't have any food. If human uses that animal as a food source there could be big problems.

- If we do not respect our environment now, it will continue to get worse and our children will suffer the consequences. They wouldn't have the same quality of air to breath or natural beauty to admire. That would be sad.
- Without clean air to breath, a healthy ecosystem and a future for our children the human race would not survive. That's why protecting our environment is important.

3. "Action such as recycling cannot be left up to the good will of the individual. It must be forced on us by government." Discuss this statement and suggest how governments can encourage people to be more aware of environmental issues. - ideas
How can the government encourage/force us to recycle? 3

- new laws
- introduce fines
- provide special collection services for different types of rubbish
- promote recycling through a media campaign
- teach children about recycling and environmental issues at school.

Why should we recycle? 1

- too much rubbish - nowhere to put it
- using up important resources too quickly
- rubbish causes pollution, e.g. plastic which is not biodegradable.

What are the disadvantages of government legislation to encourage/force people to recycle? 4

- people wouldn't need to think about the environment - they just follow the law
- may be an expensive policy
- checking and fining people who don't recycle would be expensive to do, so the government might have to raise taxes to pay for it

Why don't people recycle without government law? 2

- it's easier not to recycle - people are naturally lazy
- people are not aware of environmental issues

Where do people recycle a lot? 5

- Germany, for example.

How much should the government fine people who do not recycle? 3 - add to the other ideas above

- High fines to make people do it.

Who should check if people are recycling? The police? 4

- very difficult point - police are too busy
- maybe local council officials

4. To what extent is the continuous use of fossil fuels acceptable given the evidence of global warming?

5. Topic15: To what extent should economic planning be influenced by the need of environmental conservation?

6. Many parts of the world are losing important natural resources, such as forests, animals, or clean water. Choose one resource that is disappearing and explain why it needs to be saved. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL123

- what are examples for the loss of such important resources?

- forests.

- Animals

- Clean water

- Why they are being lost?

- due to human beings' activities like: exploration for natural resources.

- Polluted environment

- What is the obvious example? Give evidence

- Our trees.

- Hundreds of thousands of acres of trees disappear in countries all around the world.

- what is the reason?

- Trees are used for fuel.

- Trees are destroyed to build housing developments and shopping centers.

- Why this resource is important?

- Trees are essential to our survival. They are a major part of the process of photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the process in which green plants use carbon dioxide to produce oxygen, and oxygen is something all of us need. The fewer trees there are, the more this affects our ability to breathe.

- Trees are also important in the development of many medicines. Many drugs come from the leaves of certain trees, along with other herbs and plants.

- Trees are important to soil conservation. This is why you'll usually see trees lining a field. Tree roots help keep the soil in place, and are also a factor in water distribution deep beneath the ground.

- Trees provide so much pleasure.

- What can be done to protect this disappearance?

7. The environment is the most important issue in the world today. Discuss.

8. The United Nations should be given a stronger role in global economic management in order to ensure that the world's resources are used wisely.- British Council.

In the twentieth century, many countries have been developing their economies and improving the standard of their people. The “ Tiger economies” of East Asia provide a very good example of this. At the same time, it is true that there are some environmental problems with development, such as air and water pollution, and the cutting down of large areas of rain forest in some countries.

I do not think the UN is the best organisation to take on a management role to try and find a balance in such matters. It has become clear in recent years that the UN is not very good at managing its own affair. Some people sent to work for UN seem to have more interest in their own advancement than in serving the greater cause of mankind. As a result there have been serious problems with waste and inefficiency in the work of the UN.

I would argue that problems of development and of conservation have to be solved by the countries concerned. As standards of living rise in the developing economies, people in those countries will start to fight against pollution and demand a better standard of living. These countries will eventually follow a path like that of the developed countries and issues of conservation will become increasingly important.

The best role that the UN can play is to help countries get together to sort out problems of mutual interest which cross national borders. There are also special global problems, such as the hole in the ozone layer, where the UN can provide a forum for countries to seek common solutions. But this is a very different matter from giving the UN a stronger role in global economic management.

9. Topic43 :The forests are becoming smaller and the planet is more polluted everyday.” Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of economic development. (250 words) economic What's the connections between bad sides of economic development and environmental issue?

- First, and most importantly, economic development of many countries makes massive problems, which damage the environment.
- For example, if some countries have a good economy, they will

want to spread the prosperity to outside countries. Therefore, sometimes they have to cut down a forest to build buildings or factories. As a result, the forests are now becoming smaller.

- Moreover, there are many kinds of industries, such as chemical or petroleum industries that cause the planet to be polluted everyday. So we should not overlook these problems while we are developing an economy.

10. To what extent should industry be made to pay for environmental pollution?

11. To what extent can individuals ensure that the environment is protected from pollution?

12. Some people believe that the Earth is being harmed (damaged) by human activity. Others feel that human activity makes the Earth a better place to live. What is your opinion? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

TOEFL30

13. Human beings are rapidly destroying the planet earth – cuc 28

14. What are activities of human beings which destroy the planet earth?. British Council

- Pollution

- Polluted the air and land.

- Cars and factories are very dirty -> dangerous for people, wildlife and the environment.

- 2 serious pollution problems are:

- **Acid rain:** this happens when gases and chemicals mix with water in the air. The mixture travels for hundreds of miles and finally falls back to earth. Because “Acid rain” contains a lot of chemicals - It kills fish and trees.

- **The Greenhouse effect:** gases and chemicals are the reason for this problems, too. Some of them stay in the air like a blanket around the world. Because of this blanket, the Earth’s climate is changing and getting hotter.

- Desserts: soil erosion:

- More people -> fewer trees -> greater use of land -> thinner soil -> erosion -> famine.

- Water: in the developing world, clean water is rare -> dig deep wells.

- Rain Forest: in the last 40 years, half of the world’s forests have disappeared. If this continues for the next 40 years, millions of

species of plants and animals will become extinct. And that's just the beginning.

- Why is the crisis happening?

- Because developing world farmers don't have enough land for places growing food and places living.
- Rich countries depend on rain forest products.
- Modern life in the developed world depends on rain forest products.

These includes:

- Mineral
- Wood
- Medicine
- rubber

- effects of the crisis:

- the world's rainforests are facing a total disaster. Some scientists says it's even worse than the effect of nuclear war.
- The rainforest fires in Africa are so big that they appear in satellite photos. But it's not just a question of disappearing of tribes, trees and species.
- It's a question of climat, too. Our planet needs healthy rainforests to control its temperature. Without them, the greenhouse Effect will just get worse and worse.
- Used most of the Earth's oil, gas and coal.
- Completely killed more than 500 kinds of animals, birds and plants.
- 2030: 25% of animals, birds, fish and insects may be extinct.

- Reasons:

- Pollution: millions of animals die every year because man has polluted their natural home or habitat.
- Hunting: man hunts and kills millions of animals every year.
- Environment itself:
 - smaller: man cuts down more trees, build more road, uses more land for farming ->fewer jungles, fields and forest for wild life.
 - Made and used atomic bombs.
 - Grown in numbers from 1 billion (1830) to more than 6 billions today.
 - natural resources: water source, biological source, energy resources are harmed by human's exploration:
 - strip mining devastate whole regions, leaving bare and useless ground.
 - Deforestation removes old growth trees that can't be replaced.
 - Too much fishing may harm fish populations to the point where they

can't recover

- Overpopulation:
- Many areas suffer too much development
- Economic development

pollution to environment:

- traffic congestion.
 - polluted air (emission from factories)
 - polluted water (waste from companies and communities)
 - Waste present everywhere: barrels of industrial waste, radioactive waste.
 - What have human beings done to make the earth a better place?
 - rescue and build the explored resources.
 - Rehabilitate the earth.
 - In the last 20 years there has been a Green revolution.
 - Today, many scientists and world leaders realize that the earth is in danger.
- > It is really very simple: Either we stop killing the Earth or we will kill ourselves. We need a cleaner, healthier planet.

15. A company is going to give some money either to support the arts or to protect the environment. Which do you think the company should choose? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL

Why protect the environment important?

- prevent health problems.
- Maintain the ecosystem.
- Preserve the Earth for our children.
- The earth planet is now in danger w.r.t environment.
- Click here

16. Forests are the lungs of the earth. Destruction of the world's forests amounts to death of the world we currently know. To what extent do you agree or disagree? –BC

17. Topic16: Damage of the environment is an inevitable consequence of worldwide improvements in the standard of living. Discuss. Click here

18. Describe an environmental problem that Vietnam has.

- The disappearing of forests.BC
- Deforestation rates in Vietnam have been high with net annual loss of forests estimated at 100 000 - 125 000 ha in recent years.

Reason:

- Local demands for industrial wood

- Improved market prices as part of the process of economic rationalisation.
- Trees are used for fuel.
- Trees are cut down illegally by criminals for profits.
- Forest fires in the south of Vietnam in recent months. The recent fire in Uminh (camau) forest rain in Vietnam caused more than 6000 ha destroyed completely.
- Trees are destroyed to build housing developments and shopping centers, giving places for growing foods and providing living space for new – added population.

Why this issue is important?

- Forest is the major habitat for animals, birds, plants
- Trees are essential to our survival. They are a major part of the process of photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the process in which green plants use carbon dioxide to produce oxygen, and oxygen is something all of us need. The fewer trees there are, the more this affects our ability to breath.
- Trees are also important in the development of many medicines. Many drugs come from the leaves of certain trees, along with other herbs and plants.
- Trees are important to soil conservation. This is why you'll usually see trees lining a field. Tree roots help keep the soil in place, and are also a factor in water distribution deep beneath the ground.
- Trees provide so much pleasure.

19. What do you think can be done to solve this problem?

- Serious efforts are being made to establish forest plantations in Vietnam with a parallel program of plantings as scattered trees in home gardens, and along dykes and roadsides. have already proven to be the driving forces towards the reforestation of barren land and private tree planting in home gardens and on marginal lands alongside roads and dykes.
- Better management in forests: the forestry team need better training.
- Launch effective campaigns to enhance mass' awareness of the importance of protecting the forest.
- Find other alternatives from the tree –plant areas to build buildings: tall building should replace one –two floor house.
- This issue must be taken into account when developing the industry.

20. What do you think that ordinary people can do to help protect the environment?

- Take part in the process of popularizing the necessity of protecting the environment in the mass.
- Plant trees more in surrounding living region.
- Each action must show respect to the environment protection:
- Never throw waste into wrong places
- Never make harm to the green trees.

21. Do you worry about the state of the environment in the world? Why/ Why not?

- Natural resources: water source, biological source, energy resources are harmed by human's exploration:
- strip mining devastate whole regions, leaving bare and useless ground.
- Deforestation removes old growth trees that can't be replaced.
- Too much fishing may harm fish populations to the point where they can't recover
- Overpopulation:
- Many areas suffer too much development
- Economic development

pollution to environment:

- traffic congestion.
- polluted air (emission from factories)
- polluted water (waste from companies and communities)
- there are many kinds of industries, such as chemical or petroleum industries that cause the planet to be polluted everyday.
- Waste present everywhere: barrels of industrial waste, radioactive waste.

22. Speculate on the effects of environmental change on the lives of future generations.

23. To what extent is environmental damage irresistible?

24. What do you think is the most serious problem in the world?

- Why do you think so?
- What can we do as individuals to solve this problem?

25. What types of noise pollution do you hate the most?

End of topic 5.

Thank you embemuathu. I am glad that you find my work useful. 😊

For your information, in composing this document I did refer to:

- Almost all IELTS reference book available by year 2002

- Some TOEFL reference book
- Some books of essay collection.
- Documents in British Council
- All relevant IELTS +Toefl websites I managed to find
- Websites relevant to answering questions relating to Vietnam
- Handout documents for AUSAID student
- Handout documents in Mrs. Duc's class
- And any useful documents I had by that time.

Having this material would save you guys time searching documents, surfing net, & organizing your documents. you can use this as the syllabus of your studying. 😊

I spent lots of time doing this (more than 1 month working intensively), but in the end it seemed to be of no use because just before taking exam I got the information that I didn't need to sit for IELTS. 😊

Anyway, now when sharing with all of you this work I no more feel that my time was used wastefully!

Topic 6: Family –children- women

section 1: children

1. It is better for children to grow up in the countryside than in a big city. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to develop your essay.20

- Growing up in the country means a certain amount of isolation. You are in a small town or on a farm and not with a lot of people. Even more important, the people you meet every day tend to be just like you. Most will be the same race as you, have the same background as you, and will have gone to the same schools as you.
- In the city, you meet with a variety of people. There are different races and different cultures. You get a more interesting mix.
- there isn't the sense of community in the city that you have in the country because city people tend to come from a lot of different places and move around a lot. People in the city can live in the same apartment building for twenty years and never get to know their neighbors.
- In the country, everybody knows everybody. For a child, this means the country is more secure. A child can get lost or hurt in the city and

have no one to turn to. In the country, everyone is a neighbor. People in the country feel connected to each other.

- A child growing up in the city has the advantage of a lot of interesting and exciting places to visit. He or she can go to the zoo, museums, art galleries and concerts. There are a lot of restaurants with different kinds of food. It's easy to see every new movie that come out. Children in the country don't have a lot of these activity nearby.

- All in all, I think a childhood in the city is better because it prepares you more for what real life is like.

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

Parents or other adult relatives should make important decisions for their older (15 to 18 year-old) teenage children. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. –51.

- **Agree:**

- no one knows me as well as my parents. No one wants the best for me like my parents. It is natural that I should allow my parents to make important decisions for me, concerned education, social life and future career.

- They are much more wise and deep thinker.

- They are experienced.

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A person's childhood years (the time from birth to twelve years of age) are the most important years of a person's life. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.106

Are childhood years of a person the most important years in his/her life?

- **Agree:** these are the years that form us. These years determine what kind of a person the child will become.

- **Why?**

- The time when we learn about relationships.

- Our parents and siblings, then about rest of the world.

- Learn how to respond to others based the treatment we've given.

- If we are loved ->know how to love others.

- Form our ideas about our own self – worth from the way others treat us during these years. They can convince us we are worthless, or they can teach us we deserve love and respect.

- The years when we begin our formal education.

- Acquire the basic skills –reading, writing, working with numbers – use throughout out lives.

- Learn how to analyze information and use it.
- Develop our moral sense of what's right and wrong.
- Develop our self – discipline to live according to our morals.

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? There is nothing that young people can teach older people. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.99

- **What can older people teach young people?**
- **Is there anything that young people can teach older people?**
- Technology.
- Youth culture: popular music is generally youth – oriented.
- Youth – related social issues: AIDS and school – violence.

5. As part of a class assignment you have to write about the following topic. In some countries children have very strict rules of behaviour, in other countries they are allowed to do almost anything they want. To what extent should children have to follow rules? You should write at least 250 words.children.doc

- It would be unwise, indeed foolhardy, to impose the same rules of behavior on all children in every part of the world.
- Acceptable rules of behaviour can vary greatly from one country to another, with factors such as age and family values influencing what is deemed to be acceptable in that particular society. Even the sex of a child can greatly influence these rules.
- A basic factor that must be considered is the age of the child.
- Other factors which must be considered include maturity and household rules
- Whatever the situation, rules of behaviour do need to be imposed on children. In all societies rules are an integral part of life and if imposed from an early age a child will develop a more disciplined approach to life and as a result develop into a well balanced adult to deal with an ever more complex world.

6. What are the important qualities of a good son or daughter? Have these qualities changed or remained the same over time in your culture? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL54.

- Obedience
- Loyalty
- Respect

7. Children learn best by observing behavior of adults and copying it. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

8. Some people think that children should begin their formal education at a very early age and should spend most of their time on school studies. Others believe that young children should spend most of their time playing. Compare these two views. Which view do you agree with? Why?

- Should children begin their formal education at a very early age?

There are many things that could affect the outcome of the argument.

- What kind of school is it?

- It could be a school where children sit at their desks all day long memorizing dates and facts.

- Or it could be a school where the teacher helps the children learn what they want to learn -> better.

- What kind of play we are talking about?

- The child could be alone all day long watching television, which could make him or her bored and lonely.

- The child could be involved in group activities with neighborhood children of the same age, which could help him or her learn how to get along with others.

- At which age should children begin their formal education?

- 6 years old -> why?

- What role does "play" take towards a child?

- Learn how to get along with others.

- What is more important to a child, education or playing? Why?

- Both are important.

- What is the best balance?

- An ideal school with proper break in which children can play.

9. It is very important that children should study hard at school.

Time spent playing is time wasted. Do you agree? children.doc

Why education is very important for children?

- It is believed that if children study hard at school, they will have many opportunities to find a good job.

What are the disadvantages of studying hard?

- Health: strain is the cause of bad health effects such as high blood pressure, heart attacks and eyesight problems.

- Communication: they may not communicate with their families and friends -> difficulties with their colleagues and their bosses.

Children should manage time: how long should children study and play.

10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Children should be required to help with household tasks as soon as they are able to do so. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL107.

What are the advantages for children of doing household tasks?

- Household tasks build skills -> make life a lot easier.
- Family happier: parents less busy -> family relax together; parents won't feel like the servants to their "couch potato" offspring.
- Responsibility, better organization and time management skills -> more likely to be successful in life.

11. "When teenagers under the age of 18 commit crimes, their parents should be held responsible." Write an essay discussing this statement and suggest ways to combat teenage crime.

12. The government should provide more financial assistance to parents who use childcare. Childcare –available

What are the advantages of using childcare?

- Firstly, childcare centres may assist children in their early development.
- They give children an opportunity to mix with other children and to develop social skills at an early age.
- Indeed, a whole range of learning occurs in childcare centres.
- Moreover, parents and children need to spend some time apart.
- Children become less dependent on their parents
- Parents themselves are less stressed and more effective caregivers when there are periods of separation.
- In fact, recent studies indicate that the parent-child relationship can be improved by the use of high-quality childcare facilities.
- In addition, parents who cannot go to work because they don't have access to childcare facilities cannot contribute to the national economy.
- They are not able to utilise their productive skills and do not pay income tax.
- In fact, non-working parents can become a drain on the tax system through dependent spouse and other rebates.
- In conclusion, government support for childcare services assists individual families and is important for the economic well-being of the whole nation.

13. What are some of the qualities of a good parent? Use specific details and examples to explain your answer. TOEFL149.

- Love us in any circumstance: marriage, religion, ... -> unconditional love

- Trust: trust each other.

Respect their children. Treat them as individuals. Accept our differences.

SECTION 2: FAMILY AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

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

Parents are the best teachers. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.2

What parents can teach us?

What are disadvantages of parents in the position of teachers?

- They may be too close to their children emotionally: sometimes limit a child's freedom in the name of safety.

- They may expect their children's interest to be similar to their own.

- Different generations -> disadvantage of parents: narrower views of life, can't keep up with rapid social and technological changes.

What is the real teacher of one's life:

- Our parents

- Our teachers.

- Our peers.

- Books and newspaper and televisions.

They are all valuable.

15. Some people think that the family is the most important influence on young adults. Other people think that friends are the most important influence on young adults. Which view do you agree with? Use examples to support your position.87

- what role does family play in young adult's life?

- A family is permanent, while friends come and go. They give you support throughout your life

- Your parents are your role models. They will encourage you to do your best to push yourself, and to improve your self. A family is ambitious for you.

- Your family teaches you about love.

- What is their friends's role?

• Which is more important?

*** Relevant questions for interview section:**

1. Do you have any brothers or sisters? What are they doing at present?

2. Where does your father or mother work?

3. Do you live with your family? Why?

4. What do you and your family do together?

5. Describe the role of the family in your life

- give motivation -> life is more meaningful: have people to care for.
- Give lifetime support ->confidence.
- Lifelong friends: never betray, always love me and want the most beautiful thing for me.

6. Speculate on how life would be without any family.

- Lack of motivation.
- Lack of orientation.
- Life is less meaningful.

7. Describe the most interesting member of your family. Say:

- His/her relationship to you.
- What this person does.
- How you feel about this person

And explain what makes this person interesting.

8. A person who has the most influence in your life. (please write your own answer for this question 😊)

Who is the person? It is very my father that makes the most important influence in my life. He hasn't only helped me form my own character but also given me strength to lead a better life. Moreover, he indeed made a great contribution to all my achievements up till now. For me, he is an ideal Father.

How does this person influence on you?

- He was the person who make great contribution to my academic performance.

- From his view, a succesful person must be an well educated person. That's why he always encourage us, his four children, to study and study more. He made us awared that intellectual is the most precious thing any person can possess, much more than money.
- He worked hard for earning enough money for providing us the best conditions for our studying. Take my self as an example. When I just entered my high school, and appeared to have good ability for computer science subject, he had no hesitation to buy me a good computer despite the fact that our family was not well-off at that time and computer was not cheap at all.
- Four children in the same age group is indeed a heavy burden for any parents. Although he is only a normal electrical engineer with moderate salary but he managed succesfully rearing us. All of us have successfully entered into best universities and performed really

well in our academic results. Anyone looking at our family would admire my father for his effort of bring up us.

- What's more, he serves as a pattern of a good person for us to follow:

- He is a soulful man not only in family but also in his relationship towards friends as well as colleagues..

- He knows how to tackle his lifetime thorny problem. Take his youth time as an example. His rule was always doing the best in given conditions.

9. Describe the role of the family in traditional Vietnamese society.

The long turn should include:

- **The roles and responsibilities of the various generations.**

- **The benefits to children, the elderly etc. of a family like this.**

- **Any disadvantages.**

- **And describe any changes to the traditional family structure that have occurred or are in the process of occurring.**

(to be continued)

Topic 6 (continued)

SECTION 3: WOMEN

1. Describe the role of women in a typical family in Vietnam

• the tasks women usually perform in the home.

• Whether men have different responsibilities to women

• What roles male and female parents take in bringing up children

How satisfied males and females are with the current situation.

2) Topic51:"Fatherhood ought to be emphasized as much as motherhood. The idea that women are solely responsible for deciding whether or not to have babies leads to the idea that they are also responsible for bringing the children up." To what extent to you agree or disagree? here

Why fatherhood should be emphasized as much as motherhood in the raising of children.

- If the decision to have babies is shared by both parents, then the responsibility for raising children is more likely to be shared as well.

The role of father should have the same importance as that of

mother.

- Fathers are important to children as male role models.
- Traditionally, Japanese fathers are expected to teach their children about the real world and the importance of work.
- More and more women are working outside their homes to make ends meet despite the fact that they are still raising a family.
- As more and more women elect to have both family and career they need more help from their husbands.
- For example fathers should share household chores with mothers in such areas as cooking, cleaning and laundry.
- Women also need psychological support from men since the raising of children – especially younger children – can be exhausting.
- In conclusion, the father's role and the mother's role should be equally emphasized because not only does shared parenting ease the burden, but also gives children a broader perspective on behaviour.

3. The position of women in society has changed markedly in the last twenty years. Many of the problems young people now experience, such as juvenile delinquency, arise from the fact that many married women now work or are not at home to care for their children. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? The Cambridge 2 –163., Cuc 22. here

How disadvantages of working women toward juvenile?

- Most working married women have no time for their children.
- As a result they are no longer an authority for their offspring.
- Their jobs take 8 hours of their day or sometimes even more, so children are not able to communicate with their mothers and do not receive information and knowledge from them.
- Consequently Children do not want to obey their parents' rules. They trust and believe more in their friends than their parents and therefore get involved in more trouble than if they had listened to their mothers.
- **Second, the personal values of married women who work change so they care more about their jobs than their children.**
- In response, children protest and do bad things to attract their mothers' attention.
- Work brings money and personal satisfaction for the married women but it affects children's education so they are more likely to be involved in criminal action.

Why this is not a direct cause of the indisputable increase in juvenile – related problems during this period?

- It is now accepted that young women should find work on leaving school; indeed to rely totally on their parents' financial support is no longer an option in many families.
- Likewise, once they get married, the majority of women continue working since the financial pressures of setting up a house and establishing a reasonable standard of living often require two incomes.
- Twenty years ago it was common for women to give up work once they had children and devote their time to caring for their children.
- This is no longer the general rule and the provision of professionally run child care facilities and day nurseries have removed much of the responsibility for child rearing that used to fall to mothers.
- However, these facilities come at a cost and often require two salaries coming into a family to be afforded.
- the increase in the number of working mothers has not resulted in children being brought up less well than previously.
- By giving mothers the opportunity to work and earn money children can be better provided for than previously.
- There is more money for luxuries and holidays and a more secure family life is possible.
- Of course there are limits as to the amount of time that ideally should be spent away from home and the ideal scenario would be for one of the parents (often the wife) to have a part – time job and thus be available for their children before and after school.
- It is important to establish the correct balance between family life and working life.

4. Fathers are just as capable as mothers of taking care of children, so men should share parenting work more equally with women. Agree/ disagree?

5. Many people believe that women make better parents than men and that this is why they have the greater role in raising children in most societies. Others claim that men are just as good as women at parenting Write an essay expressing your point of view. Give reasons for your answer. ParentCambridge 2 – 157.

- I believe that child – rearing should be the responsibility of both parents and that, whilst the roles within that partnership may be different, they are nevertheless equal in importance.

- In some countries, it has been made easier over the years for single parents to raise children on their own.
- However, this does not mean that the traditional family, with both parents providing emotional and role – models for their children, is not the most satisfactory way of bringing up children.
- how we define 'responsible for bringing the children up'.
- At its simplest, it could mean giving the financial support necessary to provide a home, food and clothes and making sure the child is safe and receives an adequate education. This could be the basic definition.
- Another possible way of defining that part of the quotation.
- That would say it is not just the father's responsibility to provide the basics for his children, while his wife involves herself in the everyday activity of bringing them up.
- Rather, he should share those daily duties, spend as much time as his job allows with his children, play with them, read to them, help directly with their education, participate very fully in their lives and encourage them to share his.

The economic and employment situation in many countries means that jobs are getting more, not less, stressful, requiring long hours and perhaps long journeys to work as well. Therefore it may remain for many a desirable ideal rather than an achievable reality.

6) Topic: Most high level jobs are done by men. Should the government encourage a certain % of these jobs to be reserved for women?

You should spend no more than 40 minutes on this task. You should write a minimum of 250 words. – Cuc 11

- Most of the jobs in society that are high-paying, powerful, and demand a lot of responsibility are held by men. I do not believe this situation arose because women are incapable of doing high-level work. I believe society could benefit if more women were in positions of power and therefore I think the government should reserve a percentage of these jobs for females.

Why should government encourage a certain % of high level jobs for women?

- This situation is not because of the incapability of women
- Firstly, the problem of unfair employment distribution appears to come from social convention and not competence or true ability.
- At a young age most girls are not encouraged to pursue political office, business success, or professional prestige .

- On the other hand, boys are told to do these things.
- As a result, men hold the high level jobs but this does not mean they are very good at what they do.
- If the government set a quota for hiring women to do high level work, such as working in the government itself, then perhaps women would be more inspired to be ambitious in their life plans and contribute to a less-than perfect society.
- Regulations in the workplace for hiring women would not be a new thing.
- Although not written or made into law, there seems to be rules for who can and cannot have high-level jobs.
- For instance, if a man and a woman both competed for the presidency of a company or even the country, and both were equally qualified and had the same experience and background, there is little doubt who would get the job.
- Even more, if the man was less qualified and less experienced than the woman, the man would still probably get the job because of his sex.
- Therefore, to legislate a percentage of high level jobs for women would work to fight the unwritten sexist rules of the workplace.
- A quota system would break down some barriers in the short-term. Sexism in the workplace will not just magically disappear.
- **Why should not?**
- The injustice and discrimination could be reversed.
- This is to say that some qualified men might be denied a job while some unqualified women would be given one.
- Also, the problem of sexism at work could be worsened instead of being overcome. People would doubt whether a woman with a high level job was "truly capable"--men might feel bitterness and resentment, while women might think less of themselves and begin to depend on government "charity".
- Furthermore, there is the problem of defining what is a high-level job and determining an appropriate percentage. (Final statement that supports my opinion again.)

7) Women will play an increasingly important role in the work place of the future. -Preparation and practice –152.

Why women will make up a large percentage of the workforce?

- Due to the recession in the developed world, companies are reluctant to take on full – time workers, who usually expect health care, a pension scheme and redundancy payments when dismissed.

- Instead, many employers prefer to hire people at an hourly rate. These employees tend to be women.
 - A lot of women can't commit themselves to a forty – hour week as they have children to look after. This is particularly true for single parent families, where the woman have to look after the children herself.
 - There may also be the perception that a woman is only working to supplement her husband's income and so full –time work is not as important.
 - It is also be true to say that increasing sexual equality has meant that more women are reaching management positions.
 - This in turn would mean that the number of women also increase in lower positions, as women would be keen to employ other women.
 - If this is the case, this trend must be expected to continue.
- It seems likely that the number of working women will continue to increase over the next few years as companies continue to seek a workforce that would be easily dismissed and is more flexible in their working hours. Although this may be a good thing in terms of sexual equality, it is a major setback in terms of worker rights.

8. When mothers go out to work, their families suffer.

9. Have the changing roles of women good for women and society? –cuc 25

Both women and society have been disadvantaged by women's emancipation. She supports this argument by showing that the changing role of women has caused:

- regression of women's conditions to 19th century level
- after having been freed of work outside the home in the 19th century, women are now doing both paid employment and housework again.
- lowering of the breadwinner's wage.
- Collapse of family solidarity.
- Men neglectful of their families.
- Juvenile delinquency.
- High unemployment.
- Women to be dissatisfied with homemaking but still performing similar tasks in the new employment area –service.
- Women to accept inappropriate and unpleasant jobs.
- Women to deny their feminine nature.
- Casual attitude to sex, resulting in:
- Baby hunger.

- Infertility.
- Sexual transmitted diseases.
- Abortion.

End of topic 6.

Topic 7. Food –Drink -health-Welfare

Section 1: Drink

1. What's your country's drinking habit?

Tea - An Indispensable Drink for the Vietnamese

As you walk along the streets, somewhere near a lamp post, under the shade of a tree, or next to a door, there is a low table with glass pots containing different kinds of candies, roasted ground nuts, and sugar coated cakes. Usually next to these treats, there is a humble tea cozy with a tray of cups. Around the table are several small wooden stools. This is traditionally a complete description of a make-shift tea shop, which is a very popular part of Vietnamese street life. This drink is considered indispensable to every inhabitant of the city. Tea is drunk every day from the early morning until late at night. People drink tea at their homes, at their work places, and even in tea shops on their way to and from work.

Whenever the Vietnamese feel thirsty, they are likely to look for this drink. It is drunk in both the summer and the winter months. In the winter, a sip of hot tea makes you feel warm inside and better able to cope with the cold temperatures outside. Unlike northerners, whose preference is for a cup of hot steamy tea, people in the south like to drink their tea cold, tending to add ice cubes.

How do we make a good tea cosy?

The owner skillfully lifts the cap of the tea cozy, takes out the tea pot, and then pours the hot tea into a small cup. The owner then hands the cup of steaming tea to the customer

Section 2: health

1. People do many different things to stay healthy. What do you do for good health? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL135

- Our health is the only thing we really have in the world. You can take away our money, our house, or our clothes and we can survive.

Take away our health and we will die. That is why I eat healthfully, exercise regularly and keep up my social life.

- Eating healthfully is important to maintain one's health. I try to avoid foods high in fat like french fries or cookies. I also try to limit the amount of animal protein I consume. I never eat more than a few ounces of fish or chicken a day and I rarely eat meat. I eat a lot of vegetables and fresh fruit which are full of fiber and vitamins. It is important to know how to cook these foods so the nutrients are not lost in the cooking process.
- Your muscles must continue to be strong to support your body as it grows older. Exercise helps the bones build density and helps you maintain your posture. A regular exercise program of cardiovascular training and weight training is an important part of keeping your health.
- Friends are an important part of one's health. Studies have shown that people with a wide range of social contacts get fewer colds and have fewer complaints than those who don't. Laughing is also an important part of health. I like to laugh with my friends and I always feel better when I am with them than when I am alone.
- By eating properly and exercising regularly, I can keep my body at an appropriate weight and can maintain my health. By spending time with my friends, I can keep my mind as well as my body happy. It's all a part of my recipe for healthful living.

2. Prevention is better than cure. Out of a country's health budget, a large proportion should be diverted from treatment to spending on health education and preventative measures. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement -Cambridge 2 –159., CUC 20?

Of course it goes without saying that preventing is better than cure. That is why in recent years, there has been a growing body of opinion in favour of putting more resources into health education and preventive measures. The argument is that ignorance of for example, basic hygiene or the dangers of an unhealthy diet or lifestyle needs to be combated by special nationwide publicity campaigns, as well as longer – term health education.

Obviously, there is a strong human argument for catching any medical condition as early as possible. There is also an economic argument for doing so. Statistics demonstrate the cost effectiveness of treating a condition in the early stages, rather than delaying until more expensive and prolonged treatment is necessary. Then there

are social or economic costs, perhaps in term of loss of earnings for the family concerned of unemployed benefit paid by the state. So far so good (up till now everything has gone on track), but the difficulties start when we try to define what the proportion of the budget should be, particularly if the funds will be diverted from treatment. Decisions on exactly how much of the total health budget should be spent in this way are not a matter for the non – specialist, but should be made on the basis of an accepted health service model.

This is the point at which real problems occur – the formulation of the model. How do we accurately measure which health education campaigns are effective in both medical and financial terms? How do we agree about the medical efficacy of various screening a programmes, for example, when the medical establishment itself does not agree? A very rigorous process of evaluation is called for, so that we can make informed decisions.

3. Health: spend large sums of money on medical research or directed towards treating patients - Insight into Ielts – 184.

There is always some controversy over whether it is important to spend large sums of money on medical research or whether more of this money should be directed towards treating patients. Obviously some medical research is essential. Without it, we would have no vaccinations against diseases such as polio, no drugs such as antibiotics and no treatments like x-rays or radiotherapy.

Nevertheless, the field of medical research is very competitive and this has financial disadvantages. Take, for example, the current research being conducted on the HIV virus. In this field it is arguable that money is being wasted in that scientists throughout the world are working independently towards the same ultimate goal – to find a cure for AIDS –and with the same hope of becoming famous in the process. Surely it would be more productive and less costly if these scientists joined forces and an international funding.

4. Students can become very tired both emotionally and physically when they are preparing for an examination. How can they look after their health while they are studying? -question2.

5. People’s access to good health care should not depend on social factors such as their level of income or social status.

- All people should have access to adequate health care. It is difficult to argue against this proposition. In theory most people would agree with it. But in practice it is more difficult to find countries where it is

actually true.

- Health care systems, such as in the United States, where a large proportion of the population cannot afford health insurance, are most undesirable in social terms. People are not cared for properly if they suffer a serious accident or become seriously ill. Yet in the same country the very best in medical services are available to those with the capacity to pay. Are we at the point where we accept that the life of a rich person is worth more than that of a poor person?
- Governments have a responsibility to provide basic health services to all the population. However, governments always have limited resources, and they have a responsibility to use these in an efficient and effective manner. For example, it is difficult to justify governments spending money on expensive medical procedures such as cancer research, if this diverts resources away from the primary objective of equal access to health care for all. The argument then turns on what kind of health care system should be supported by governments.
- Preventive health care is one area where government needs to take the lead. Money spent on preventing disease is more than repaid by money saved in not having to treat that disease at a later time. Public health programs to eradicate diseases such as typhoid and smallpox are a good example where the benefits flow on to all people, regardless of income or social status. More recently, governments sponsored fluoridation programs have played a major part in reducing the incidence of tooth decay, with significant improvement in general health and enormous savings in dental bills for ordinary people.

6. Nowadays doctors can become very rich. Maybe they should not focus on profitable activities such as plastic surgery or looking after rich patients and concentrate more on patients health, no matter how rich they are?

7. How important is the patient's mental attitude towards his/her treatment in determining the effectiveness of the treatment? – Prepare for IELTS – 123.

A wide range of medical treatments is available today. Patients may wonder which will be the most effective, and whether their own mental attitude to the type of treatment might affect its success. This essay will consider the second of these questions.

Many people visit their doctor or go to hospital with complete trust in the expert care offered by conventional services. However, some people do not get a satisfactory result. For example, the drugs they

are prescribed may have unpleasant side – effects. Their initial positive attitude towards their treatment does them little good. Similarly, those patients who trustfully choose alternative treatment over traditional medicine may find themselves disillusioned. Less rigorous qualification standard among alternative practitioners may mean that some healers give ineffective or damaging advice. The result, again, is that a patient who entered treatment with confidence leaves that treatment disillusioned.

On the other hand, patients may try a style of treatment with some scepticism. A person used to conventional medicines and drugs may be suspicious of treatments based on diet and lifestyle changes. Yet if they follow such programs, they may in fact notice improvements in their condition, in spite of their scepticism. Equally, a patient opposed to conventional medicine may have an accident and be saved by the effective treatment of conventional emergency services.

In conclusion, it appears that the mental attitude of the patient is not the most significant factor in determining the outcome of the treatment. Patients who enter treatment confidently may leave disillusioned while those who begin treatment sceptical of the results may find themselves surprised with what they have gained. Patients should seek the advantages which each style of care can offer.

8. A number of different medical traditions are now widely known and used: Western medicine (using drugs and surgery), herbal medicine, acupuncture (using needles at certain points of the body), homoeopathy (using minute doses of poisons), and so on.

9. Health: should parents be obliged to immunise their children against common childhood diseases? Or do individuals have the right to choose not to immunise their children? Answer: Insight into Ielts – 185.

For:

- preventative medicine has proved to be the most effective way of reducing the incidence of fatal childhood diseases. -> lives have been saved and the diseases have been reduced to almost zero.

+ in previous centuries children died from ordinary illnesses such as influenza and tuberculosis and because few people had immunity, the diseases spread easily. Diseases such as dysentery were the result of poor hygiene but these have long been eradicated since the arrival of food sanitation and clean water. Nobody would suggest that we should reverse this good practice now because dysentery has been

wiped out.

- Serious disease such as polio and smallpox have also been eradicated through national immunisation programmes. In consequence, children not immunised are far less at risk in this disease – free society than they would otherwise be. Parents choosing not to immunise are relying on the fact that the diseases have already been eradicated. If the number of parents choosing not to immunise increased, there would be a similar increase in the risk of the disease returning.

- Immunisation is not an issue like seatbelts which affects only the individual. A decision not to immunise will have widespread repercussion for the whole of society and for this reason, I do not believe that individuals have the right to stand aside. In my opinion immunisation should be obligatory.

Ideas against:

- the issue of whether we should force parents to immunise their children against common diseases is, in my opinion, a social rather than a medical question. Since we are free to choose what we expose our bodies to in the way of food, drink, or religion for that matter, why should we question of medical “treatment” be any different?

- Medical researchers and governments are primarily interested in overall statistics and trends and in money – daving schemes which fail to take into consideration the individual’s concern and rights. While immunisation against disease such as tetanus and whooping cough may be effective, little information is released about the harmful effects of vaccinations which can sometimes result in stunted growth or even death.

- The body is designed to resist disease and to create its own natural immunity through contact with that disease. So when children are given artificial immunity, we create a vulnerable society which is entirely dependent on immunisation. In the event that mass immunisation programmes were to cease, the society as a whole would be more at risk than ever before.

- In addition there is the issue of the rights of the individual. As members of a society, why should we be obliged to subject our children to this potentially harmful practice? Some people may also be against immunisation on religious grounds and their needs must also be considered.

- For these reasons I feel strongly that immunisation programmes

should not be obligatory and that the individual should have the right to choose whether or not to participate.

(to be continued)

Topic 7 (continued) 😊

Section 3: Welfare

1. Topic33: A government's role is only to provide defence capability and urban infrastructure (roads, water supplies, etc.). All other services (education, health, social security) should be provided by private groups or individuals in the community. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion – prepare for ielts –124.

- Governments can only provide a limited range of services for citizens. Certain types of service, however, must be provided by governments, whereas both governments and private groups or individuals can share the responsibility to provide other services.
- A government must provide those services which are essential to a country. These include defence capabilities and social security. Private enterprise and the profit motive should not form part of these essential services. On the other hand, some services could be provided by either governments or private groups or both. Education and health care are examples of such services. A government must provide at least a basic level of education and health care so all citizens can have access to them. Private enterprise, though, could also provide services in these areas for those who wish to pay for them.
- Urban infrastructure is another area where governments and private groups or individuals can share responsibility. Governments must build and maintain a system of roads, but toll roads can be built and road maintenance carried out by private contractors. Similarly, other infrastructure, such as water or electricity supply, can be operated by private companies.
- To sum up, there are some services such as defence and social security which must be provided by government. Other services, for examples water supply or education, could be provided by both government and private enterprise. Consequently, it is not true to say that a government's role is only to provide some services while others

should be provided by the private sector. In fact, both government and private groups can share in the provision of most services.

2. 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.

Who should be responsible for our old people? Give reasons.

- Their children.
- Government.

3. What should a government do for a country to become successful?

- Human resources.
- Consolidate the national solidarity.
- Purify the government leadership.

4. Although abuses of the system are inevitable, social welfare payments are essential to protect the rights citizens have to a guaranteed income in a democratic society. Discuss – 202 exercise –120.

Social welfare is an essential element of an advanced society. Good systems are always abused, but that does not mean they are faulty. In my opinion, the two main reasons why welfare payments are necessary are as follows:

- first of all, critics forget that there are many forms of welfare besides payments to the unemployed. Their negative opinions harm those who are capable of earning a wage, such as single-parent mothers, the disabled, and the sick. Moreover, the unemployed have the right to an income, too. They are not always at fault for not having a job, and in most cases the tax they have paid in the past entitles them to assistance.

- The second reason is that crime increases when people have no means of support. The desperately poor inevitably turn to crime, which is not only dangerous but costly. Policing the streets is more expensive than providing welfare. A policeman's wage is four or five times higher than a "dole" payment.

- Certain members of society believe that people should look after themselves. They point out that welfare increases dependency on others and destroys dignity. This may be true, but in the case of the unemployed, the relief payments are usually temporary. It is surely the fault of the government if there are long – term unemployed. Welfare critics also believe that it is the responsibility of a victim's family to provide financial assistance. However, it is too expensive to

provide complete help for a severely disabled person.

- To conclude, it is vital to understand the need for welfare in a modern democratic society. Without welfare payments the poor are destined to become poorer. The first duty of a government is to provide a financial safety net for all disadvantaged persons, and that includes those without work.

5. The welfare state makes people less self-reliant: above question

6. A much debated issue these days is whether citizens should take out private health insurance or not

- A much debated issue these days is whether citizens should take out private health insurance or not. The cost of providing free medical care for both the wealthy and the poor is far too great for any government, and most people agree that if you can pay for insurance, you should. In this essay, I will argue that all who can afford it should be insured, but free medical care must be made available for those too poor to do so.

- The most important reason for encouraging people to take out private health insurance is the cost to the government of health care. Free health cover for people who are able to pay for it is a waste of public money. Of course, people will only pay health insurance premiums if they know that they are getting good value for their money. If they get sick, they should pay very little or nothing at all. In addition, the privately insured are entitled to special benefits such as having the choice of their own doctors, and being able to avoid long waiting lists for hospital beds.

- On the other hand, those who really cannot afford to pay private insurance premiums, which are often very high, are still entitled as citizens to the best medical care available - they cannot be expected to pay their own medical bills. However, if they are working, they should still pay a percentage of their wage (say 1 to 2%) as a tax which pays towards the cost of providing 'free' medical services.

- In conclusion, most people should privately insure their health, but it is unreasonable to suppose that all citizens can afford it. Therefore, a safety net in the form of a basic free health care system must exist for the very poor and the unemployed. (301 words)

Section 4: food

1. Nowadays, food has become easier to prepare. Has this change improved the way people live? Use specific reasons and

examples to support your answer. TOEFL3

- The twentieth century has brought with it many advances. With those advances, human lives have changed dramatically. In some ways life is worse, but mostly it is better. Changes in food preparation method, for example, have improved our lives greatly.
- The convenience of preparing food today is amazing. Even stoves have gotten too slow for us. Microwave cooking is much easier. We can press a few buttons and a meal is completely cooked in a short time. People used to spend hours for an oven-cooked meal, and now we can use that time for other, better things. Plus, there are all kinds of portable, prepackable foods we can buy. Heat them in the office microwave, and lunch at work is quick and easy.
- Food preparation today allows for more variety. With refrigerator and freezers, we can preserve a lot of different foods in our homes. Since technology makes cooking so much faster, people are willing to make several dishes for even a small meal. Parents are more likely to let children be picky, now that they can easily heat them up some prepackaged macaroni and cheese on the side. Needless to say, adults living in the same house may have very different eating habits as well. If they don't want to cook a lot of different dishes, it's common now to eat out at restaurants several times a week.
- Healthful eating is also easier than ever now. When people cook, they can use new fat substitutes and cooking sprays to cut fat and calories. This reduces the risk of heart disease and high cholesterol. Additionally, we can buy fruits and vegetables fresh, frozen or canned. They are easy to prepare, so many of us eat more of those nutritious items daily. A hundred years ago, you couldn't imagine the process of taking some frozen fruit and ice from the freezer, adding some low-fat yogurt from a plastic cup and some juice from a can in the refrigerator, and whipping up a low-fat smoothie in the blender.
- Our lifestyle is fast, but people still like good food. What new food preparation technology has given us is more choices. Today, we can prepare food that is more convenient, healthier, and of greater variety than ever before in history.

2. Some people prefer to eat at food stands or restaurants. Other people prefer to prepare and eat food at home. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.13

- Some people like to eat out at food stands and restaurants, while others like to prepare food at home. Often it depends on the kind of

lifestyle people have. Those with very busy jobs outside the house don't always have time to cook. They like the convenience of eating out. Overall, though, it is cheaper and healthier to eat at home.

- While eating in restaurant is fast, the money you spend can add up. When I have dinner at restaurant with a friend, the bill is usually over twenty dollars. I can buy a lot of groceries with that much money.

Even lunch at a fast – food stand usually costs five or six dollars for one person. That's enough to feed the whole family at home.

- Eating at home is better for you, too. Meals at restaurants are often high in fat and calories, and they serve big plates of food – much more food than you need to eat at one meal. If you cook food at home, you have more control over the ingredients. You can use margarine instead of butter on your potatoes, or not put so much cheese on the top of your pizza. At home, you can control your portion size. You can serve yourself as little as you want. In a restaurant, you may eat a full plate of food “because you paid for it”.

- It is true that eating out is convenient. You don't have to shop, to cook, to clean up. But real home cooking doesn't have to take up a lot of time. There are lots of simple meals that don't take long to make. In fact, they're faster than eating out, especially if you think of the time you spend driving to a restaurant, parking, waiting for a table, waiting for service, driving home.

- Both eating at restaurants and cooking at home can be satisfying. Both can taste good and be enjoyed with family and friends. I prefer cooking at home because of the money and health issues, but people will make the choice that fits their lifestyle best.

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Interview

1. Describe your favourite restaurant.

- Moca Restaurant - location
- The food:
- The service:
- The decoration:
- The price:
- The feature:
- The strength:
- Why suitable for foreigner:

2. Traditional food:

- **Which Vietnamese traditional dish do you particularly like?**

- Sticky rice cakes are a Vietnamese traditional dish that must be part

of Tet meals. As a matter of fact, every Vietnamese family must have sticky rice cakes among the offerings placed on the altar to their ancestors.

• **Do you know how to make the dish?**

- Banh chung is made of glutinous rice, pork meat, and green beans paste wrapped in a square of bamboo leaves, giving the rice a green colour after boiling.
- Making sticky rice cakes is a very meticulous job. To obtain the best cakes, rice has to soak in water for an entire day. The pork meat must include skin and fat, the green beans must be of the same size, and the bamboo leaves must be fresh.
- Squaring off and tying cakes with bamboo strings requires skilful hands.
- Sticky rice cakes are available at any time of the year, although one is sure to enjoy them with relatives and friends during Tet. During Tet, rice cakes are served with gio lua and hanh muoi—lean meat pie and salted sour onions.

3 Are Vietnamese people's eating habits changing? Can you give an example of such changes.

- Increasing number of people come to restaurant
- Improved standard and More dishes than before due to upgraded living standard.
- Rarely the whole family can gather due to business.

4. Do you think people in your country prefer eating traditional food to international one? Why? Why not?

- Traditional one.
- not many opportunities for trying international delicacies.

5. Speculate on a world in which people ate all the same kinds of food.

- not very favourable.
- Prefer a variety of delicacies.
- One part of each country's culture —one part of the country.

5. How is your country's traditional culture reflected in the eating habit of the people?

- Agriculture culture reflected in dishes.
- Close —knit relationship between family members.
- Traditional role of women.

End of topic 7.

I will try to upload topic 8 this late evening!

Now goes topic 8: 8. Happiness –friendship - marriage. 😊 . This topic is quite short in comparison with the others. 😊

Topic 8: Happiness –friendship - marriage

Section 1: Happiness-friendship

1. People remember special gifts or presents that they have received. Why? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL132.

Why we remember those gifts?

- Feel joy when looking at them: Feeling of being loved, recall good time together, etc.
- Pinpoint special events in lives.
- Recall memories of special people.

2) Good health is more important than money for a happy life.

Do you agree?

3. What do you want most in a friend — someone who is intelligent, or someone who has a sense of humor, or someone who is reliable? Which one of these characteristics is most important to you? Use reasons and specific examples to explain your choice. TOEFL

4. Some people prefer to spend most of their time alone. Others like to be with friends most of the time. Do you prefer to spend your time alone or with friends? Use specific reasons to support your answer. TOEFL83

Why want be alone?

- Have time think about my goals and to develop a strategy to reach them -> really think about my life and what I want to do with it.
- Good way to listen to the silence and relax completely: lower stress level, sharpen the power of concentration.
- Being alone -> have time to step back, see the real value of things without being influenced by the opinions of others
- If with others: distort our views of things, worried about what others think of

5. Some people prefer to spend time with one or two close friends. Others choose to spend time with a large number of friends. Compare the advantages of each choice. Which of these two ways of spending time do you prefer? Use specific reasons to support your answer. TOEFL84

What does friendship give us?

- Learn how to trust each others.
- What to expect from others.
- How to profit from experiences.

Why the more friends the better?

- Always available when we need them, not only in times of trouble but also in times of happiness.
- Want to have people around me that surprise me. Each has his own way of reacting to a situation -> learn how to deal with different kinds of people.
- Teach us about life. lots friends = plenty of information and experience.

6. Some people choose friends who are different from themselves. Other choose friends who are similar to themselves. Compare the advantages of having friends who are different from you with the advantages of having friends who are similar to you. Which kind of friend do you prefer for yourself?

Why? TOEFL90

Why different from us?

- Giving you different ways of looking at the world.
- Introduce you to new interesting things.
- Correct your weakness: spontaneous kind of person -> well organized.
- Experiences from different fields.

Why similar to us?

- Enjoy doing the same things.
- Understand each other -> easy to share problems.

7. Use specific reasons and examples to explain your answer. It is sometimes said that borrowing money from a friend can harm or damage the friendship. Do you agree? Why or why not? Use reasons and specific examples to explain your answer.

TOEFL143

How can borrowing money harm friendship?

- How to know the lender can afford or not? -> embarrassed
- When you'll back the loan? -> awkwardness.
- Interest issues -> hurt feelings -> harm to friendship

Interview

1. Talking.

- What kinds of people do you most like to talk with?

- Sense of humor: comfortable, relaxed.
- What do you usually talk about?
- Life, career, everything involved both.

2 Who do you think are better in conversation – men or women? Why?

- Women: sensible, emotional, understanding.

3 What advice could you give to someone who is shy about talking?

- The more she talks the more confident she is.

4. What role do friends play in your life?

Why we need friends?

- Help you to solve problems.
- Share happiness.
- Giving you the sense of love and being loved
- Share knowledge and experience.

5. Describe your best friend.

- **Why do you get known each other?**
- **What is his character?**
- **How do you feel about your friendship with him?**

4. What are some of the differences between a Vietnamese friend and a foreign friend?

- **characters:**
- **topics for talking:**

SECTION 2: MARRIAGE

1. The advantages and disadvantages of arranged marriages.

*. **Advantage:**

- Financial security. Lack of money -> stress in any relationship.
 - Parents make better choice than their children.
 - + Parents are older and wiser
 - + Experience: at assessing characteristics (experiences) -> know what qualities are desirable in a spouse.
 - + Better judges of character than young people, who often let emotions influence their judgement.
- parents choose with their head not their heart.

• **Disadvantage:**

- Misery for 3 people if they have fallen in love with the other.
- Likelihood of unhappy life for their children. The basis of the marriage is love. Lack of love -> unsuccessful marriage for their

whole life. Love can make people more tolerance (enhancing sympathy to each other).

- Unfair for their children: Their daughter and son are mature enough to make their own decision for their future spouse. Parents would rather be the advisors, not decision maker.

- Life has changed. Parents choices are probably no longer suitable for their children. For instance, in World War II, hard- working is a desirable character for any person. However, in these days, it's active and well – educated ones that are desirable for a spouse.

2. Young people should live together before getting married?

• Advantages:

- Enhancing mutual understanding:

+ In daily life: cooking, living habit, ...

+ Their family life: behavior with their relative

- An effective way to examine if they are a good couple or not. Easy to solve problem if they are not suitable to each other: financial issues and children.

• Disadvantages.

- Greater likelihood of breaking – up relations, which would lead to a lot of serious consequences, due to no legal bond between them.

One minor argument can cause their break, for instance.

+ women are vulnerable if their relation are broken up: difficult to find a replacement because of prejudice.

+ In case there are children of this un – married couple -> they are of misery: not perfect parents, an unhappy childhood, obsession about their parents.

- For society: the increase of infectious disease due to a lease sexual living style: HIV, ... -> a great threat to the whole society.

3. Do women usually work after getting married in your country?

• A common phenomenon in several countries: many women drop their full-time employment after marriage. Instead they find some part –time job and spend more time caring their family issues: housework, children rearing, family health care, etc.

• In Vietnam, it's not of so popular. In fact, Vnese women continue their employment after marriage. They share nearly the same responsibility of bread – winner like their husbands.

Some other relevant questions relating to "friendship":

• Are there any famous stories of friendship in your culture?

- Describe one of your closest friends.
- Do you have any childhood friendships that are still strong today? Tell us about them.
- Do you have any long distance friends?
- How do you keep in touch with your long-distance friends?
- How often do you see your long-distance friends?
- Have you made any friends over the Internet?
- How often do you write to them?
- Have you ever met them in person?
- How are your friendships different now than they were when you were a child?
- How do you maintain a good friendship?
- How do you make new friends?
- How many people do you consider your "best friends?"
- Is it common to have friendships across generations?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of these types of friendships.
- Do you have any friends from a different generation than you?
- There is a saying "To have a good friend, you need to be a good friend."

How can you be a good friend?

- What do you usually do with your friends?
- What factors may result in the breakdown of a good friendship?
- What is the longest friendship that you have had?
- What makes friends different from family?
- What qualities do you think are important in a friend?

(End of Topic 8)

Those notations were there for my own reference in case I wanted to trace back the full article or essay.

"Drug", " Death, "click here", and some strange words you see were links to the files I saved in my computer.

english-net_com.htm ..

\\.\comprehensive site\task1-task2.htm

are links to the websites I found the sample essays. I have checked back some websites but the documents were no longer be there, it was already 2 years 😞

"Cuc" is my friend's name; those notation with her name refer to the collection of handout for Ausaid students she passed me! 😊

pd - collection of essay from Mrs. Duc's class.

BC - British council (cat linh).

Toefl: Collection of Toefl essays - Barron (I don't remember the exact name of the textbook but highly recommend you to look for this book 😊)

And here is the list of those textbooks I used for Ielts:

1. 101 hints
2. 202 useful exercises
3. Ielts Cambridge 1
4. Ielts Cambridge 2
5. Ielts Handbook
6. Ielts practice now
7. Ielts strategies for Studying
8. Ielts to success
9. Insight into Ielts
10. Listening skills ELTS skills series
11. Passport to Ielts
12. Practice tests for Ielts
13. Preparation and practice (Reading and Writing)
14. Preparation and Practice for Ielts (Listening and Speaking)
15. Prepare for Ielts
16. Toefl – Essay collection – Author: Barren. (recommended)
17. 556 essays - a collection of the new essays and writings for all purposes, topics and levels. By: fernando – Rajamanikam. (relevant for practising interview section).
18. Cuc – collection of handout from Ausaid students
19. BC – Documents in British Council (Cat Linh).
20. C. Duc – handout collected from Mrs. Duc's class.

For topic 9 unfortunately I lost my final version of the topic and just keep a less detail version. therefore you will find quite few answers in this topic. 😞

Topic 9: Social problems –housing-History –religion- Politic – climate

Section 1: Climate -history - religion.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important for students to study history and literature than it is for them to study science and mathematics. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

2. What kind of climate does your country have?"

The climate of Vietnam, just as its geography, is subject to many variations.

NORTH VIETNAM

- The climate in the north is very similar to that of southern China. It is characterized by great seasonal differences in temperature, and sudden changes are not uncommon.

- There are two main seasons in North Vietnam, winter and summer. Winter generally lasts from November to April with rather pleasant cool weather. This season is usually rather dry. The summer season begins in May and lasts till October. It is a time of tremendous heat, heavy rainfall, and typhoons.

SOUTH VIETNAM

- The south has a monsoon climate. There are two main seasons--- wet and dry. The dry season lasts from November to April with barely a day of rain and then changes to the rainy season which lasts from May to October.

- The hottest and most unpleasant time in South Vietnam is generally between February and April when the atmosphere is humid and the many storms seldom break into a cooling rain.

- In Central Vietnam, the climate is a transition between the climates of the north and south.

HOTTEST MONTHS

- NORTH VIETNAM

- June, July, and August.

- SOUTH VIETNAM - March, April, and May

Section 2: Social problems -politic.-

Housing

1. Why immigrants leave their own countries?

- some are in political danger at home.

- Join relatives who already live abroad.

- A third group simply want a better social and economic future for their families.

2. problems caused by immigration:

- take jobs from other people.
- Refuse to integrate with the rest of the population.
- Contribute to social problems (drugs, crimes, etc).

Why debate:

- those problems caused by immigration are worse in recent years: unemployment, crime and prices increase.
- The death of the Communism -> freedom to travel –multi –racial.
-

3. Any lives are in danger when hastily erected buildings collapse because safety standards have been sacrificed to hopes of a quick profit. To prevent disasters of this kind, governments should play a greater role in setting and enforcing safety standards for building construction.

4. Safety standards are important when building people's homes. Who should be responsible for enforcing strict building codes – the government or the people who build the homes?

5. Should a city try to preserve its old, historic buildings or destroy them and replace them with modern buildings? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL

6. Students at universities often have a choice of places to live. They may choose to live in university dormitories, or they may choose to live in apartments in the community. Compare the advantages of living in university housing with the advantages of living in an apartment in the community. Where would you prefer to live? Give reasons for your preference. TOEFL

7. A country's first duty to its citizen is to protect them. Therefore it is logical that defence should take up a significant proportion of national budget. For or gainst?..\\comprehensive site\task1-task2.htm

8. In the late 20th century, many cities are being rapidly redeveloped. In this process, the needs of special interest groups, such as people with physical disabilities, are sometimes taken into account. How can society improve conditions for people with physical disabilities?

**9. A public figure should not expect to have his/her private life.-
PD**

Others questions:

- Do you agree that teachers should use corporal punishment as

a means of discipline?

- Do you think in vitro fertilisation should be available to parents so they can choose the sex of their child?
- In an overpopulated world, should people be free to have as many children as they want?
- Is there public assistance in your country?
- What are some expectations parents have for their children?
- What are some reasons that people become homeless?
- What are some things people can do to eliminate discrimination and prejudice?
- What do you think is the most serious problem in the world?
- Why do you think so?
- What can we do as individuals to solve this problem?
- What types of noise pollution do you hate the most?
- Who takes care of the elderly when they are no longer able to care for themselves?

Topic 10: Hometown.

1. You have decided to give several hours of your time each month to improve the community where you live. What is one thing you will do to improve your community? Why? Use specific reasons and details to explain your choice. TOEFL6

- I will organize a contest for the initiatives of improving the living of people in my hometown among themselves.
- Consolidate the solidarity in the hometown.
- Get a lot of nice ideas for the purpose of improving the community. Two heads is always better than one.

2. What change would make your hometown more appealing to people your age? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. 60

- entertainment facility: -> have a place to go after school: socialize, have meetings, and just relax.

3. If you could change one important thing about your hometown, what would you change? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer. TOEFL

4. Where do you come from?

5. Describe your hometown to me.

6. What is your hometown well-known for?

7. What is life like for you in your home town? What are the good

and bad points about living there?

- Environment:
- People:
- Living pace:
- Education:
- Facility:

8. Describe some of the changes that have taken place in your home city recently?

6. What changes have happened recently in your town and what do you think will happen in the future?

- Facility: Road system, entertainment.
- Education:
- Tourism:
- Transport means

7. What are the effects of such changes on the local people's socio-economic lives?

- Living standard upgraded.
- Spirit life improved.

8. What are the reactions of the local people to these changes?

- Positive: enjoy a better life.
- Negative: transport, factory -> polluted air

9. What are your reactions to these changes? Which of them do you like? Which don't you like?

- Positive: enjoy a better life.
- Negative: transport, factory -> polluted air

10. If you could change something in your city, what would you change? Why?

11. What are your local industries?

12. Describe a famous beauty your hometown:

13. After you graduate do you want to live in your hometown? Why or why not?

14. Do you like your hometown? Why or why not?

- Yes.
- The place I was born and there had witnessed my beautiful childhood memories

15. What is the best thing about your hometown? .

16. ... the night-life in your city/town.

17. What is the worst thing about your hometown? .

18. What's there to do in your hometown?

answer to these questions are up to each person therefore i don't post my answer here. Please prepare yourself for these questions. I think it is quite important for the interview section.

Topic 11. Media- television -communication -Reading – watching movies

section 1: Movies -films

1. It has recently been announced that a new movie theater may be built in your neighborhood. Do you support or oppose this plan? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. 27

How useful is a new movie theatre?

- more opportunities for recreation.
- Reduce juvenile delinquency: teens need activities to keep them busy and out of trouble.
- Lead to several improvements in the town.
- Help other businesses: more visitor ->shopping, better road.

2. Films can tell us a lot about the country where they were made. What have you learned about a country from watching its movies? Use specific examples and details to support your response.153

What have you learned about a country from watching its movies?

People all around the world are alike in their goals and emotions.

Goals: knowledge, earning a living.

Emotions: want to be entertained, spend time with family and friends, enjoy some form of sports, music and dancing.

3. Movies are popular all over the world. Explain why movies are so popular. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.150

- people want to watch other people's lives ->find excitement: adventurous and glamorous.
- Like to live vicariously: cry (sad movies) and laugh(comedies).
- Escape out own lives, share other emotions, and imagine ourselves as someone else (prepare in advance).

4. Some movies are serious, designed to make the audience think. Other movies are designed primarily to amuse and entertain. Which type of movie do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.65

Prefer movies that amuse and entertain.

- make me relax, laugh
- keep me in good spirit.

6. In your opinion what factors contribute to a good movie?

Section 2: Reading -watching

5. Pop music:

Opinions

- Pop is an international industry – it's as simple as that. Record companies are in business to make a profit.
- Pop music gives pleasure to billions of people. It saves lives, too. Think of all the money that Band Aid sent to Africa, for example. Things like that are important.

Pop in the '80s:

- The most important musical event of the '80s was "Band aid". the program was for the purpose of raising money for the starving people of Ethiopia in 1984. That concert, on 13 July 1984 raised over \$ 100 million, with the contribution of famous music performers. It showed that top musicians and their fans could change the world.
- Something else changed in the 80s, too: musical technology. In less than ten years, video compact discs and computers all became important in the pop industry.
- Thanks to video, every single suddenly had its own three minute film.
- Thanks to compact discs, the quality of recorded sound was better than ever.
- Thanks to computers it was possible to play and record thousands of new sounds.
- Pop has come a long way since the days of Elvis Presley.
- In the 50s it was fun
- In the 60s it was escape
- In the 70s it was big business
- In the 80s it became part of an international youth culture.

6. A singer that you like.

Michael Jackson.

Data: born 29 August 1958.

First in the Jackson Five, then a solo artist, MJ has been a superstar from the age of eleven. Today, he really is a living legend. What's more, media reports of plastic surgery, exotic pets and strange beliefs only seem to increase his fame. Behind it, though, stands one of the

greatest: - singers – dancers – video – makers – performers, pop has ever seen.

Greatest hits include: Ben, Off the wall, Thriller, Billie Jean, Beat it, Bad, Smooth Criminal, Dirty, Diana, I can't stop loving you.

7. How do you think about the books on the screen?

Pros:

- On the screen -> it reaches a huge new audience. So if more people can enjoy a story by seeing it in a visual form, what's wrong with that?
- A successful screen adaptation helps to promote the original book and increase its sales.
- Pictures make stories more vivid and life like easier to understand of complex and old – fashioned languages.
- Publishing industry develop.
- People lead busy lives these days. They don't want to spend a week reading a novel when they can watch the film version in two hours. It's a question of convenience.
- Make more choices for people: read or watch or both, in which order?

Cons:

- reading is active... your mind has to work and create images. Watching is passive. You just sit there and all the work is done for you. It's less satisfying.
- Reading -> free to stop and start other jobs. Watching you don't have the freedom to stop and think for 5 minutes before you carry on.
- Screen adaptatons are never as subtle and complex as the book or plays they're based on. Characters are cut out, scenes removed -> fit in 2 hours.
- Books can tell you what characters are thinking.
- Vital differences between a novel and a seri.
- Unfair influence on the book industry. Books not filmed -> not good selling.
- Bad screen version of your favourite book can ruin the original novel for you.

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

Reading fiction (such as novels and short stories) is more enjoyable than watching movies. Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.100

Agree. Reasons:

- The more you read, the stronger your imagination becomes.

Reading exercises your imaginative powers

- Develop your storytelling skill. The more reading you do the better you become at creating plots and characters.

Movies advantages:

- the images in movie are much more vivid: in a large screen in a dark room.

- Sitting in a large screen with other people is fun.

9. Is the ability to read and write more important today than in the past? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.134

Agree. Reason:

- communicate through email using the Internet.

- Getting information through Internet.

- E – commerce: advertising on net.

10. People learn in different ways. Some people learn by doing things; other people learn by reading about things; others learn by listening to people talk about things. Which of these methods of learning is best for you? Use specific examples to support your choice. 89

• Best: learning by doing is the method work best.

• give a learner- first-hand experience.

• Disadvantages of other forms:

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

People should read only those books that are about real events, real people, and established facts. Use specific reasons and details to support your opinion.96

- Why should reading other kinds of events?

- Half of all the great books that have ever been written, not to mention the plays, short stories and poetry are imaginary.

- Reading stories as a child help develop our creativity.

- Storytelling is an emotional need for human beings.

-> fictions is too important to our culture, our minds and our emotions.

12. A folk story in your culture that has significance.

Banh Chung, Banh Day –printed.

13. The plot of a good book you have read recently.

- The fiction called “Gone with the wind”

- The author: Magarret Michel.

- The background: the American civil war.

- The plot:

- The story covers 12 years in the life of a very beautiful and haughty

girl, named Scarlett O'Hara, also the main character, who were having the most beautiful days of her life in a noble family at the time the war happened.

- Surrounding her were numerous young, handsome guys who loved her with all their hearts.

- Due to the war the O'Haras lost all their properties to their enemies.

- Being an innocent snobbish girl, Scarlet was suddenly put under heavy burden of rearing all her younger sisters and caring for her mental father. She served as the breadwinner for a large family in an extremely difficult period.

- In her way, Scarlet had to cope with a lot of obstacle. However, with the essence of a resilient, resourceful girl, Scarlet managed to get her family overcome the most hard interval in their lives.

- Indeed, Scarlet had left me a very intensive impression for her characteristic and her energy for solving her lifetime problem. One useful tip she used whenever facing with headache situation was: "Thinking of tomorrow. It is a different day with brighter view!". It is also useful for all of us.

- In fact, Gone with the wind is not only a historical and drama novel but also one novel of romance. The love affair between Scarlet and Rhett Burtler would be going on all the time. Although the novel ended with the fact that Rhett left Scarlet alone, I do hope that he would late on turn back with Scarlet because they did really love each other and both deserved.

14. Film:

- What type of films do you generally like? romance.

- Tell me about a film that you really enjoyed.

- Gone with the wind –230 minutes –1939 -color (above).

- The film get 10 oscars, which includes the best film, the best actress, the best director (Victor Flemming), and some others.

15 What do you think about all the advertisements shown before the film?

- If it last not too long, for about less than 5 minutes, I would be easy – going.

- But in fact, sometimes the time for advertisement reaches nearly ten minutes. Consequently, any audiences would be outraged. I am not an exception.

- I understand that the profits come to the media producer mainly from the advertisement fee. However, the editor should limit the time in an acceptable limit.

Section 3: Communication

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Face-to-face communication is better than other types of communication, such as letters, email, or telephone calls. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. TOEFL57.

Why face – to face communication is the best type?

- Eliminate misunderstandings immediately: body language.
- Cement relationship: eyes and hands -> stronger relationship.
- Encourage continued interaction: longer conversation.

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

Telephones and email have made communication between people less personal. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL –not available.

(to be continued)

Topic 11(continued)

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Section 4: Media -television

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1. Media – A world of information –miracle or Monster:

Today, thanks to modern – science, it's possible to send words and pictures around the world in seconds. International events can be followed by billions of people every day. History takes place in our homes. But what effect does all this information have on society? Does it make us more aware, tolerant, and peaceful? Or – on the hand – does it make some people confused, depressed and viloent.

2. what is news?what are factors that make a good newspaper story:

- It must be new.
- It has to be dramatic
- Not about ordinary, everyday life.
- invole in conflict and Danger -> news means bad news.
- There's Human Interest.
- People are interested in other people – rich, famous, powerful, like: pop stars, TV personalities, actors, politicians, royalty.
- Familiarity: stories about people, places and events which their readers know -> different from different regions.

3. your views of media:

- in my opinion, today's younger generation is the best informed ever. We're really lucky. And why do we know so much?... because of the media. OK – not all papers and programmes are good, I admit but so what? You don't have to read or watch the bad ones. It's like an information supermarket...you go in, look at what's available and choose what you want.

4. How do movies or television influence people's behavior? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.7

How do movies or television influence people's behavior?

- Positive effects:

- Broader window on the world.
- Exposed to people of different races and cultures ->overcome prejudices more easily.
- News, useful information in documentary programmes.
- Relaxation, reduce stress, enhance interest in art.
- Escape our own problems for a little while.
- Show positive ways to resolve problems.
- Educational program:
 - People will know many educational programs on the mass media such as cooking, driving, and animals' lives.

- Negative effects:

- More violent:
 - Attract viewers -> emphasize on violence
 - Even in educational flms, more or less, there are some violent scenes
 - Less sensitive to violent acts, can even commit ourselves.
- Less active: passive activity
- Unhelathy, both mentally and physically.
- Stop using imagination.
- Laziness both physical and mental.
- Wasting time to do other activities. Mostly popular television programs, such as cartoons or soap operas, are broadcast at night.
- Secondly, sometimes mass media influences people' s idea. Many people will misunderstand the issues.

5. News editors decide what to broadcast on TV and what to print in newspapers. What factors do you think influence their decisions? – cambridge1 –150. Media

- Before news is broadcast to the mass audience, it goes through a process called gatekeeping in which the editors decide what to

broadcast based on three major factors: politics, sponsorship and mass appeal.

- The first factor that influences this process is politics. If the TV station or newspaper is in favour of a political party, the topics broadcast will support that party or discredit the opposition party.
- Another factor that influences editors is sponsorship. If a newspaper is sponsored by a famous tobacco company, it surely contains few topics about the anti-smoking movement. Otherwise, the newspapers will lose its big sponsor.
- Moreover, editors tend to focus on the topics that the mass audience want to see, something that attracts attention right away, and something that is easy to understand. Thus, a TV company or a newspaper can attract more audience and thus gain more advertising.
- Nowadays, people accessing news from TV or newspapers tend to understand the world as they see it in the media. Gatekeeping influences the way people see the world and may distort what people see because of the factors associated with gatekeeping.

6. Television has destroyed communication among friends and family. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

7. Do we become used to bad news? Would it be better if more good news was reported? Paper

good news:

- it does not sell newspapers.
- Lack of listeners.

bad news:

- we have become immune to bad news and the newspaper and radio stations are aware of this.
- Main objective is to sell their products.

8. Watching too much television reduces people capacity to think for themselves -Preparation and practice –168.

- Firstly, watching television makes people lazy as viewers are given second – hand opinions, which can be used as a substitute for individual thought.
- Secondly, most television programmes are primarily entertainment as they are designed to attract viewers away from rival channels. Therefore they are aimed to appeal to the lowest common denominator and have little educational value.
- Unlike books or even radio, television leaves little scope for the imagination and so tends to dictate simplified role models of what life

should be like.

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

Television, newspapers, magazines, and other media pay too much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public figures and celebrities. Use specific reasons and details to explain your opinion.

- Is it too much?

- Television, newspaper, magazine and web sites dig up all kinds of past bad actions
- some of these are things people did as teenagers.
- Those incidents involve experiments with drugs or being reckless in a car.
- It has an effect on the celebrity's family, especially the children → they may find their career ruined → society lost one talented individual.
- → unjust → public don't need to know.
- Why they pay so much attention to such subjects?
- What are the disadvantages?

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

Watching television is bad for children. Use specific details and examples to support your answer.

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

Television has destroyed communication among friends and family. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

- Why is this an exaggeration?

- It depends on the kind of programmes and type of viewers:
- Empty program + passive viewers = destroy.
- Educational program + active viewers = enhance.

12. Are famous people treated unfairly by the media ? Should they be given more privacy, or is the price of their fame an invasion into their private lives? Pd

13. Describe in general the type of television programmes that are the most popular in your country.

- Educational programmes.
- Remote educational programme for 12 form students and university students.
- Cooking, decorating class 3 times a week.
- Informations providing
- News one per 2 hours.

- Documentary films.
- Entertainment programmes.
- For all age groups: movies – 3 films each day in different channels.
- Music, Sport.
- Interesting contests for different age -groups:

14. Compare the media now with how it was a generation ago.
In the past.

Now.

15. What kind of effect does the media have on young people and how might this change in the future?

- Main way for relaxation.
- Main way to access for information.

16. How necessary is media censorship in a modern society?

- necessary for reduce in crime and violence.

17. In what ways would you control your children's television viewing? Explain your reasons.

18. What television program do you like the most to watch?

You should say:

- what is the program about?
- How often you watch it?
- What is special about it?
- How long you have watched it
- And explain why this program draws your most attention?

Other relevant questions

- Do you like to watch cartoons?
- Do you like to watch horror movies?
- Do you prefer fiction or nonfiction books? How about movies?
- Do you prefer listening to the radio or watching TV?
- Do you think TV is educational?
- How often do you read comic books?
- If a book has been made into a movie, which do you prefer to do first, see the movie or read the book? Why?
- Should books be censored?
- Should movies be rated? Explain.
- What are some good books that you have read?
- What is the best book you have ever read?
- What are some of the good movies you have seen?
- What games are popular in your country? Why are they popular?

- What is one of your favorite TV shows?
- Why do you like it?
- When is it on?
- Does your father like it, too?
- What is the best movie you have ever seen?
- Who was in it?
- Why did you like it?
- Who was the director?
- What is the most popular drama/comedy/game show in your country, and what is the storyline (drama) or format (game show)?
- What is the worst movie you've ever seen?
- What is your favorite game? Why?
- What is your favorite holiday? Why?
- What is your favorite movie?
- What kind of TV programs do you usually watch?
- What kind of TV shows do you not like? Why?
- What kind of movies do you dislike? Why?
- What kind of movies do you like?
- What kind of music do you like?
- What kind of things do you like to read?
- What movie star would you most like to meet?
- What singer would you most like to meet?
- What types of TV program are there?
- Which type do you like best?
- What's your favorite magazine? (What are some of your favorite magazines?)
- Where do you usually read?
- Which do you like better, action movies or comedy movies?
- Who are some of the famous actors and musicians in your country?
- Who are some of your favorite actors and actresses?

end of topic 11

Topic 12: Music -Art- Fashion -Sport

Section 1: sport

1. Why do you think some people are attracted to dangerous

sports or other dangerous activities? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. – 49.

This person is often

- a risk taker in both sports and business.
- an optimist: they live for the thrill of the moment without a thought to the many things that could go wrong.
- A fatalist: they might plan for potential problems, but once they have done everything they can do, the outcome is out of their hands.

2. Some young children spend a great amount of their time practicing sports. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.103

Advantages:

- Better health: good habit of daily exercise.
- Learn how to work hard towards a goal.
- Strengthen their confidence.
- Make friends and learn teamwork.

Disadvantages:

- Their focus is very narrow ->neglect schoolwork.
- They should try out many different activities.
- under pressure from parents or coaches -> health and emotional problems.

Best: balance for each individual.

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

Playing a game is fun only when you win. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.109

“ it’s not whether you win or lose, it’s how you play the game”.

- time with friends: tennis.
- Learn new things: Scrabble.
- Work as a team: soccer.
- > Enjoy having a good time.

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

Playing games teaches us about life. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. 120

What lessons can games teach us?

- cause –effect relationship: Everything we do causes something else happen.
- How to deal with other people: teamwork.
- Follow rule to achieve something: learn to make plan, implement strategies, make adjustment..

- Life is colorful.

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

Games are as important for adults as they are for children. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.43

Regardless of your age, playing games can help you keep your mind alert, learn new things, and build friendship.

6. Some famous athletes and entertainers earn millions of dollars every year. Do you think these people deserve such high salaries? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.133

Why can those figures earn so much money?

- the market determines who get paid what.
- Teachers are paid by tax dollars.
- Sports teams make hundreds of million of dollars every year.
- Earn fabulous profits from radio and television rights, as well as everything sold at the concession stands.
- The same is true of movies. They are produced by studios that make profits annually.
- These enterprises can afford to pay their entertainers and sports figures huge salaries, because those athletes and film stars draw people to the entertainment.

Why are we willing to pay so much to see a ball game or a movie?

- We want distraction: we want to be entertained.
- We think of education as a right while entertainment seems like a luxury. We expect to pay for our luxuries.

Do they deserve?

- Disadvantages of athletes:

- Short careers.
 - Athletes may be too old in their early 30s.
 - Many of them gamble early in their lives on making it big in the sports or entertainment world, and deny themselves a good education.
 - Little chance of a stable career -> need to earn enough money to support them for a long time.
- > **conclusion:** it is hard to sympathize with people who do as they don't deserve the most value in our society.

7. When famous people such as actors, athletes and rock stars give their opinions, many people listen. Do you think we should pay attention to these opinions? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.129

Why we shouldn't pay attention to these opinion?

- Not just because of who they are: limited knowledge in a specific focus.

8. Should sports classes be sacrificed in High School so students can concentrate on Academic subjects?

9. Professional sport involves large sums of money and receives enormous coverage. Do you think this is justified?

10. Sports now receive too much attention from the public. Sport personalities are paid much more than they deserve. Agree?

11. Topic44: The dominance of black people in US sport is due to sociological rather than physiological factors. Discuss.

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

Attending a live performance (for example, a play, concert, or sporting event) is more enjoyable than watching the same event on television. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL

13. Describe your favourite sport. Say:

- whether you like playing it/them or you prefer watching it.
- What in particular you like about the sport.
- Whether you would like to change something about it. Explain why.

14. Describe the role of sports on humans' daily life.

15. Evaluate the effects of international sporting events on world peace.

16. Speculate the development of sports in future.

17. Which sports are popular in your country?

- Football is the most popular one.
- One match consists of 2 teams, each has 11 players: 1 goal keeper, 2 -4 backs, 2-4 half -backs and the left are striker.
- Each match need a major referee, 2 or 3 linemen.
- Each team will try their best to kick the ball into the opponent's net and if they are succesful they score a goal. The final score would be rate of goals each team has scored. One team may be the lose, winner or ended in a draw.

18. What problems are connected to sport? (e.g. drugs in sport)

- Drug abuse.
- Commercialization.
- Lost of identity.

Section 2: Art

1. Tell me something about Vietnamese handicraft.

- Vietnam is a country rich in handicraft products, thanks to the hardworking and creative qualities of the Vietnamese people. For a very long time, handicraft products have been a source of cultural pride and a source of income for the people.
- Tho cam handbags are unique works from the skilled hands of the ethnic women living in the Northwest regions, such as Cao Bang.
- Embroidered articles and silk products are famous from the regions of Ha Dong, Nam Ha, Thai Binh and Hue.
- Bat Trang is famous for its porcelain or china works.
- Wood products and wood carvings can usually be found in Phu Xuyen (Ha Tay), Haiphong, and Hue.
- There are thousands of types of handicraft products. Some of these handicrafts have been internationally recognized and popularized, such as lacquerware.
- While lacquer artists produce a limited number of paintings and sculptures, lacquer crafts have been part of Vietnamese life in many forms: vases, boxes, interior decorating items, jewelry, and office products.
- With about 2,000 years of history, Vietnamese lacquerware and other products made by a community of handicraft artists, have established a firm and growing position in the domestic and international markets.

2. It is generally agreed that society benefits from the work of its members. Compare the contributions of artists to society with the contributions of scientists to society. Which type of contribution do you think is valued more by your society? Give specific reasons to support your answer. TOEFL

Artists and scientists both make valuable contribution to our society. It may seem sometimes that artists are more valued. That's because those artist who are famous make a lot of money. However they are relatively few. The fact is that scientists are more valued. They get more respect from society for the work they do.

Artists reflect their times and their culture. A painter or a writer shows us in pictures and words what we're like as a people. They record our culture for future generations. Actors and other performer, like singers and dancers, entertain us. They take our minds of our troubles, and remind us how beautiful and exciting our imagination can be. Artists also help keep their societies mentally and emotionally healthy. For

example, children that participate in the arts, such as painting or music, in school do better in their other studies. Art of all types is necessary to the human spirit.

The contributions scientists make to society are more obvious. They include the cars we drive, the computer we use at home and at work and the appliances that help us cook our meals and clean our houses. All of these come from the ideas and the hard work of scientists. Because of scientific discoveries, we're living longer and more beautiful lives. Scientists also contribute to the arts. Movies are the result of science. So are television, radio, and the recording of music on CDs.

Generally, scientists don't make as much money as famous artists like film stars opera singers or successful painters. However, our society gives them more respect and they generally make a good living. Scientists are considered to be serious professionals while artists are sometimes viewed as flaky, irresponsible people. So overall, I'd have to conclude that we value scientists more.

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? All students should be required to study art and music in secondary school. Use specific reasons to support your answer. TOEFL

I agree that all students should be required to study art and music in high school. I've read that young children who study art and music in grade school do better in their other studies. That argument aside, we should study art and music for its sake alone. We should study art and music to learn more about our selves, our culture, and our world.

Both art and music feed students' imaginations and help them express themselves. There's a reason our ancestors in caves drew on the walls and made music with drums. Wanting to express ourselves is natural. It gives us an avenue for our emotions and fears. It may not be music other people want to hear or art others will appreciate but the activity itself is enjoyable. It shouldn't matter if the end result isn't perfect. In the process, we learn what we like and dislike.

Studying art and music means more than drawing or playing an instrument. Students usually go to art galleries and concerts, too. By studying the pictures on the museums' walls or by reading the program notes at a recital, students will learn what society has decided is worthy of praise. They learn what is important in their own culture. Students may also learn about other cultures by looking at art and listening to music from other countries. When they do that they'll see

similarities and differences with their own. They'll learn about what is important in other societies. Students will also learn how the art and music of other cultures affect our own.

By studying art and music in high school, students begin to understand themselves as well as their own culture and other cultures. What could be more valuable than that?

4. Describe a museum or art gallery that you have visited.

You should say:

- where is it?
- Why you went there.
- What you particularly remember about the place.
- The Museum of the Cultures of Vietnam's Ethnic Groups located in downtown Hanoi in Hanoi province, was established in 1960.
- It contains more than 4,000 documents, exhibits, and pictures, concerning all aspects of Vietnamese civilization.
- The museum also presents an extensive collection of agricultural, handicraft, and hunting tools.
- Typical ritual clothes with bright colors and decorative motifs of different ethnic minorities are also exhibited.
- The Museum of the Cultures of Vietnam's Ethnic Groups is a repository depicting the culture of ethnic groups living throughout the nation. It is also a place for people to learn about the origins and traditional cultural identities of every ethnic group in Vietnam.

5. Many people visit museums when they travel to new places. Why do you think people visit museums? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL

Because museums tell them a lot about the culture of those places, museums are also fun. Every museum will have at least one thing of interest to somebody.

When visiting someplace new, you can find out about the culture of that place in many ways. You can go to a movie or a place of worship or a nightclub. Another option is to sit in the park and listen to the people around you. The easiest way to learn about a place's culture, though, is by visiting its museums. Museums will show you the history of the place where you are visiting. They'll show you what art the locals think is important. If there aren't any museums, that tells you something too.

Museums are fun. Even if you're not interested in art or history, there is always something to get your attention. Many museums now have

what they call bananas- on exhibits. These were originally designed to keep children occupied while their parents were looking at exhibits. However museums have found that adults enjoy hands – on opportunities just as much as children. These exhibits have activities like pushing a button to hear about what you're looking at, creating your own work of art, or trying on clothes like those on the models in the museum.

People also enjoy visiting museums about unusual subjects. For instance, in my hometown there's a museum devoted to the potato... Museums are popular because they are about us. They reflect our creations, our values, and our dreams. No matter who you are or what you like, somewhere there is a museum that will amaze you and interest you.

(to be continued)

Topic 12 (continued)

Section 3: Music

1. Why do they love rock and pop so much?

- fast, loud music stimulates the human brain.
- It's an international youth language.
- It's fun to admire and follow the careers of rich, beautiful star.
- It's social. It brings people together at clubs, discos, and concerts.
- It's always changing.
- It has lots of different styles – heavy metal soul, acid house, reggae rock – so there's something for everyone.
- It's an escape from the problems and boredom of everyday life.
- It's a safe way to rebel against the older generation.
- It talks about love, imagination and freedom.

Negative sides:

- loud music (in clubs or personal stereos) can damage your hearing.
- Head – banging at heavy metal concerts can cause brain damage.
- Some kinds of music create feelings of aggression and violence.
- Rock cultures has strong connections with drug – taking (marijuana,... cocaine and ecstasy)

2. People listen to music for different reasons and at different times. Why is music important to many people? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. TOEFL139

- Music is one of the most interesting methods for people to communicate with each other (express their feelings, thinking,

intention or wish).

- Music is one of fundamental demands of human relaxation.
- Music participate in many aspects of human life (used to enhance the courage of soldier during wars, show grief in funerals, express the happiness at weddings and to praise/cheer victories).
- Music is something most people want and need. I think it's important because it can be a major part of both community and individual experience.
- People use music to express their innermost feelings, to encourage themselves while working and fighting, to educate their children in good traditions and national sentiment, to communicate with the invisible, and to sublimate their aspirations for a happy life.
- Music is a way of sharing a common bond or feeling.

We have national anthems to share our love and pride for our particular country.

- Music is also a major part of individual experiences.
- When we fall in love, music is usually part of that experience. People talk about having "our song". That means the song that was playing when they meet or a song they both liked when they fell in love.
- When we get married, we play music before and after and sometimes during the ceremony. It expresses how we feel.
- We play music to calm our nerves or to stimulate ourselves to get on with a task.
- We also play music for the simple enjoyment of listening to the sounds.

Music is special to us because it express our connection with our culture, and because it enhances our individual experiences. Nothing else seems to capture our feelings quite so well.

3. What kind of music do you like best?

Bac Ninh is very famous for one kind of Vietnamese traditional music: quan ho singing.

- The birth place of quan ho folk songs is in Bac Ninh province.
- During village festivals, which are held every year, particularly in spring, young men and women gather in the yard of a communal house or pagoda, on a hill or in a rowing boat, and sing quan ho.
- This is a style of singing where songs alternate from group to group, going back and forth from one to the other.
- Quan ho singing is a folk art of highly collective nature.
- Those who sing are not entertainers, but all are part of the

performance, and everyone is welcome to join.

4. What is/are your favourite music group(s)? why?

5. Describe your feelings when you listen to your favourite music/songs of your country?

6. Describe the role of music in your life. Say:

- **How important music is to you in your daily life.**
- **Whether playing a kind of musical instrument brings about certain benefits.**
- **What some of the possible benefits are.**

7. Compare/contrast the international music and the traditional music of different cultures. Which do you think is more valuable?

8. What cultural characteristic does Vietnamese traditional music reflect?

For the Vietnamese, music is considered to be an essential need; therefore, numerous musical instruments and genres intended for various purposes have been developed.

Vietnamese people use music to express their innermost feelings, to encourage themselves while working and fighting, to educate their children in good traditions and national sentiment, to communicate with the invisible, and to sublimate their aspirations for a happy life. The simple and primitive instruments, as well as the more sophisticated ones, have been preserved to form a rich musical treasure.

Numerous forms of songs and music have also been created and retained. They include lullabies, children's songs, ritual songs, festivity songs, various work songs, courtship songs, riddle songs, melodies, and poem narration. There are also songs and music for groups, as well as for traditional theatre.

Vietnamese traditional music is diverse due to the various genres that took shape during different periods of history. Songs of the same genre often differ very much in melody and expression from ethnicity to ethnicity. As a result, lullabies, for example, of the Kinh differ from those of the Muong.

Traditional music has played an important role in the lives of the Vietnamese.

Currently, music still occupies a considerable position in the spiritual lives of the Vietnamese.

Some genres of music still exist in rural areas, while others were brought to the stage to meet the demands of the population.

9. What do you enjoy about the traditional music of your country?

Quan Ho Singing

The birth place of quan ho folk songs is in Ha Bac province. During village festivals, which are held every year, particularly in spring, young men and women gather in the yard of a communal house or pagoda, on a hill or in a rowing boat, and sing quan ho. This is a style of singing where songs alternate from group to group, going back and forth from one to the other.

Quan ho singing is a folk art of highly collective nature. Those who sing are not entertainers, but all are part of the performance, and everyone is welcome to join.

10. Commercialisation of music

- Famous singers get very high incomes.

- **Reason:**

11. Compare the importance of music now with how it was when your grandparents were young.

12. What do you think will be the effects of music on future societies.

Youngsters do not find the glamour in the traditional musical instruments that they like in the gleaming Western instruments. However, there are still those students who attend the music schools in the country to study traditional music. No doubt, many of them are there to please their parents.

Those serious students of traditional music in the schools need more encouragement so that this art form in Vietnam will not be allowed to dwindle away.

It would be in very poor condition today were it not for the new interest in the modern theater which uses traditional music to accompany the acting. VNS-

But like pop acts the world over, Vietnamese bands have their critics. These critics say that Vietnamese pop is simply a copy of its Western counterpart and that it lacks Vietnamese identity.

Of course, this has not deterred the pop bands, many of which have gained international recognition, and their legion of young fans.

These young boys and girls say they will never give up their ways.

13. Do you recommend any theatre in Hanoi?

The Hanoi Opera House is situated on Trang Tien Street near the Red River and several hundreds metres East of Hoan Kiem Lake. It is an old theatre with French architecture and typical Gothic and

Mosaic characters reflected on the door domes and the glassed room respectively.

For a long time, the Hanoi Opera House has been a rendezvous for those who love theatrical performance and traditional songs and music, symphonies, opera and classical opera.

It is also a tourist attraction for local and foreign visitors.

Section 4: fashion

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People behave differently when they wear different clothes. Do you agree that different clothes influence the way people behave? Use specific examples to support your answer. TOEFL - unnecessary

2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? One should never judge a person by external appearances. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. TOEFL - unnecessary

3. Some people trust their first impressions about a person's character because they believe these judgments are generally correct. Other people do not judge a person's character quickly because they believe first impressions are often wrong. Compare these two attitudes. Which attitude do you agree with? Support your choice with specific examples. TOEFL - unnecessary

4. Do you think it is important to wear fashionable clothes?

5. (Do you think it is important to be in fashion?)

6. What kind of clothes do you usually wear?

7. How do you choose your clothes?

8. How does weather change your dressing style?

9. Where are some good stores to buy clothes in this area?

10. Would you like to be a fashion model? Why/Why not?

11. Tell me about Vietnamese traditional costume:

Traditional costumes of the Vietnamese people tend to be very simple and modest. Men wear brown shirts and white trousers. Their headgear is simply a piece of cloth wrapped around the head and their footwear consists of a pair of plain sandals.

For formal ceremonies men would have two additional items, a long gown with slits on either side, and a turban, usually in black or brown made of cotton or silk. Men's dress has gradually changed along with social development.

The traditional set of a long gown and turban gave way to more modern looking suits, while business shirts and trousers have replaced traditional long sleeved shirts and wide trousers. Traditional costumes still exist and efforts are increasingly being made to restore traditional festivals and entertainment which incorporate traditional costumes.

Young women wear light brown-colored short shirts with long black skirts. Their headgear consists of a black turban with a peak at the front. To make their waist look smaller, they tightly fasten a long piece of pink or violet cloth. On formal occasions, they wear a special three layered dress called an "ao dai", a long gown with slits on either side. Over time, the traditional "ao dai" has gone through certain changes. Long gowns are now carefully tailored to fit the body of a Vietnamese woman. The two long slits along the side allow the gown to have two free floating panels in the front and at the back of the dress. The floating panels expose a long pair of white silk trousers.

An elegant looking conical palm hat, which is traditionally known as a "non bai tho" (a hat with poetry written on it), is worn as part of a woman's formal dress. This traditional conical hat is particularly suitable for a tropical country such as Vietnam, where fierce sunshine and hard rain are commonplace.

In recent years some foreign fashions have been introduced to Vietnam; however, the traditional "ao dai" remains preferable to women in both urban and rural settings.

In general, Vietnamese clothing is very diverse. Every ethnic group in Vietnam has its own style of clothing. Festivals are the occasion for all to wear their favorite clothes. Over thousands of years, the traditional clothing of all ethnic groups in Vietnam has changed, but each ethnic group has separately maintained their own characteristics.

(end of topic 12)

Continue with the flow, now goes topic 13: 🍊 Computer – technology – nuclear- internet

This topic includes:

- Computer
- internet

- technology
- nuclear -others

Topic 13: Computer – technology –nuclear- internet

Section 1: Computer

1. We are becoming increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in businesses, hospitals, crime detection and even to fly planes. What things will they be used for in future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits? Cambridge 1 –152.

- What are the benefits of using computer?

- What are the future computers like?

- What are disadvantages of using the computers?

- We are now so dependent on computers that it is hard to imagine what things would be like today without them. You have only got to go into a bank when main computer is broken to appreciate the chaos that would occur if computers were suddenly removed world wide.

- In which ways we are dependent on computers?

- What are disadvantages of dependence on computer?

- How can we tackle this dependence?

Computers are a relatively new invention. The first computer were built fifty years ago and it is only the last thirty or so years that their influence has affected our daily life. Personal computers were introduced as recently as the early eighties. In this short time they have made a tremendous impact on our lives. We are now so dependent on computers that it is hard to imagine what things would be like today without them. You have only got to go into a bank when main computer is broken to appreciate the chaos that would occur if computers were suddenly removed world wide.

- In the future computers will be used to create bigger and even more sophisticated computers. The prospects for this are quite alarming. They will be so complex that no individual could hope to understand how they work. They will bring a lot of benefits but they will also increase the potential for unimaginable chaos. They will, for example, be able to fly planes and they will be able to co – ordinate the movements of several planes in the vicinity (neighbourhood) of an airport. Providing all the computers are working correctly nothing can

go wrong. If one small program fails –disaster.

- There is a certain inevitability that technology will progress and become increasingly complex. We should, however, ensure that we are still in a position where we are able to control technology. It will be all too easy to suddenly discover that technology is controlling us. By then it might be too late. I believe that it is very important to be suspicious of the benefits that computers will bring and to make sure that we never become totally dependent on a completely technological world.

What do you think about future computer?

- Modern computers are amazingly versatile:

- fashion: choose the most suitable.
- Crime: better identification process.
- Shopping.

- Future computer:

- Thinking machine:
- Understand spoken instructions.
- Work like the human mind.
- Think
- Analyse information.
- Remember
- Have ideas
- Communicate.
- diagnose illness.
- Understand and control the world's money markets.
- Find mineral.
- translation function.
- Replacing translator between two different nationality persons.

2. People in modern society use the computer to shop, to bank, to work, and to communicate with each other. However, a danger of using the computer is that it makes humans become isolated and lose their social skills. Agree?

3. As the computer is becoming increasingly popular, a lack of computer skills may be regarded as illiteracy. What do you think about this statement?

4. Computer may be considered the most important tool in modern society. Do you agree?

5. Can computerized data collection on individuals be justified even though it endangered the rights of individuals?

6. Computers can translate all kinds of languages well so our

children don't need to learn more languages in the future?

7. Some people say that computers have made life easier and more convenient. Other people say that computers have made life more complex and stressful. What is your opinion? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL-0.

8. A lack of computer skills = illiteracy? Cuc1b

Agree: no computer skill = no reading, writing

Reason:

Fact:

Computerize on a global scale

Use widespreadly computer.

+ industries: almost all jobs are done on the computer.

+ in business: the business would freeze if computer stopped working

-> computer skill is indispensable

+ Education: disadvantages for students if unable use computers -> lack of information, for instance.

9. Your school has enough money to purchase either computers for students or books for the library. Which should your school choose to buy —computers or books? Use specific reasons and examples to support your recommendation. TOEFL137

New computers will benefit the students more.

- computer can access up –to – date information on the Internet. If every student had access to a computer, we all could have the latest facts and figures on everything.

- “Information on demand” should be our slogan. Students need lots of information right away. Life goes by too quickly. It takes forever to identify a book that you think might have the information you need. Then you have to go to the library and look for the book. Usually it's not even there.

- With a computer, information searches are instantaneous. If we all had computers, we could access more information and access it faster by computer. We could have all the information we needed for our schoolwork. We could all improve our grades. For these reasons, I feel that purchasing more computers will benefit us more than buying more books.

10. Topic32: Are computers an essential feature of modern education? What subjects can be better taught using computers? Are there aspects of a good education that cannot be taught using computers? – Prepare for IELTS – 126. Computer

Sample answer

- Computers are now essential in many areas of life – modern banking, retail and information exchange among others. However, this is not true for education. At a simple level some subjects may be better taught using computers, but to explain concepts a human teacher is still indispensable.
- There are some subjects in which a computer can be used successfully to teach. Elementary mathematics, elementary language learning, any area which requires a student to memorise basic facts through repetition is well suited to computer learning. The computer can be programmed to provide an endless number of simple questions, and as the student answers these questions the facts are learned and reinforced.
- However, in the learning and practice of more complex ideas, the computer is not adequate. A computer can evaluate an answer as right or wrong, but it can not determine why. It cannot find out why a student is making mistakes, and then re-present important concepts in a different way so the student will understand. It cannot determine at what stage in a mathematics problem the student has made an error, it can only indicate that the final answer is wrong. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught by computers, as there are too many variables for a computer to deal with successfully.
- Thus, while computers may be useful as a tool for practising simple skills, they are not an essential feature of modern education, because they cannot monitor a student's grasp of concepts, nor evaluate a student's reasoning. Until further developments in computers are made the human teacher will remain indispensable.

one student's essay:

- Computers have become a very important tool in modern education and are used in many useful ways.
- Today, many universities and colleges use computers for lectures, conferences and communication with students. Professors, for example, post the content of their lectures on the web so that the students can review what they have done in the class. Professors often open online conferences and discuss with the students.
- The good thing about lectures using computers is that we can have a lot of visual information.
- For instance, those subjects such as chemistry or physics need many diagrams, images and pictures in order to be taught. Students many need some accurate images and they can get them if they use

computers.

- Geography is another subject which is more interesting because of computers. Instructors can project maps, charts and all kinds of visual data which makes lectures much more interesting.
- However, some skills cannot be taught using computers because those subjects require direct interactivity.
- Let's say that students have to debate a controversial issue in a history class. We can hardly debate on the web. You need to be in class and have some face to face discussion with others to learn the skills necessary to become a good debater.
- In addition, lab work cannot be done by computers. You have to be in class to do experiments yourself so that you can learn proper procedures.
- In conclusion, computers are used and will continue to be used in education, but there will always be a need for face-to-face interaction with teachers as well as fellow students.

another student's essay:

- In today's society, computers have become the most powerful tool in our lives. Especially in education, computers are very necessary in order to teach in a better way. By using a computer, we can reduce any unnecessary time during teaching. Also a more interactive class can be formed.
- First, better teaching can be performed in mathematics class. For example, computers may be able to calculate all the difficult time-consuming problems while students are learning more developed theories and concepts. Indeed, better visualization can be provided by using computers which can draw several complex graphs in the same time that students may draw only two or three graphs at most.
- Second, linguistics classes can be improved and students taught more effectively by using computers. Due to the computer's multimedia capability and interactivity, more effective language learning systems have been developed. As students see a word on the screen, the clear sound comes out through the speakers. Moreover, illustrations can be given to help the student memorize the word more easily. By networking several computers together, discussion and displaying students' opinions can be done in a convenient way.
- However, although students can discuss online using computers, this cannot replace face-to-face interaction which is also a necessary aspect of a good education.

- Students must learn how to express their ideas orally, to debate controversial subjects and to learn the body language and communication skills that are important in such activities. The anonymity possible in online discussion makes debate easier in some ways and so students do not learn the skills required by face-to-face interaction.
- In conclusion, computers should be used in the education field because they supply a better study environment to students. Even though computers may not be supportable in all subjects, students benefit from the computer's speed and precision.

11. Topic4: Technology is making communication easier in today's world, but at the expense of personal contact as many people choose to work at home in front of a computer screen. What dangers are there for a society which depends on computer screens rather than face-to-face contact for its main means of communication?

12. Do you use a computer very much?

13. Has this new technology changed the way you work, study, communicate etc.?

14. Do you feel that people spend too much time on a computer?

It depends on which kind of people you are referring to and also, how many hours per day they spend on using computer as well as for what purpose they are there.

For example, if we consider the situation of using computer in Vietnamese student, I think the answer is that they still spend too little time using computer, especially the Internet. In fact, many students in Vietnam have never accessed into Internet. The rest just spend a very small amount of time using computer.

But if we consider some specific individuals who spend long hours each day in front of the computer entertaining themselves with some music or movies web –sites or chatting with their friend, the answer of course is that they are wasting their time. And they'd better use that time in a more effective way.

In fact there are also many other people all over the world also spends a large proportion of their time using computer for beneficial purpose like; accessing the up – to – hour informations or doing some research. If they know how to make the balance between the time for the computer and that for other activities (meeting with people, doing exercises, etc.), nothing will go wrong. In the contrary, if they couldn't control their time themselves, it would be of no good.

**15. If you had children at what age would you want them to learn how to use a computer? And would you restrict the amount of time they spend on a computer each day?
(to be continued)**

Topic 13 (continued)

Section 2: internet

1. Some people say that the Internet provides people with a lot of valuable information. Others think access to so much information creates problems. Which view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

TOEFL

2. Will modern technology, such as the internet ever replace the book or the written word as the main source of information?

3. The internet will bring about a new freedom of information and so narrow the technology gap between developed and developing countries –My Essay

- world – wide communication possible

- greater access to information.

- Only the rich can afford access to the internet

- Computing skills are necessary to operate the internet so new technology gap developing.

- Makes the copyright laws hard to enforce so difficult to keep technology secret.

- Difficult to censor.

4. What is your experience of the internet?

5. What are the dangers of the internet?

6. What impact does the internet have on society?

7. What do you think will happen to the internet in the future?

Section 3: technology

1. In what ways has information technology changed work and working practices in the past 10 years?

2. Are traditional architecture and modern technology compatible?

... how space travel can be of benefit in the future

3. Topic5: Technology can bring many benefits, but it can also cause social and environmental problems. In relation to new

technology, the primary duty of Governments should be to focus on potential problems, rather than benefits. Technology, ..answer1.html

It is true that new technologies can create serious social and environmental problems. The question is whether governments should focus on these problems when they are formulating policies relating to new technology.

Some people would argue that governments have an important watchdog role to play and that they should attempt to establish whether a proposed technology is likely to have any harmful effects. This is seen as an aspect of government looking after the public interest and showing concern for the welfare of its citizens. These people would invest government with the power to veto the introduction of certain technologies.

The problem with this approach, however, is that it is very difficult to know in advance what the full effects of any new technology will be. The history of science and technology has many fascinating examples of unexpected developments. Sometimes a technological advance in one area can lead to a surprising breakthrough in another, seemingly unrelated area. For example, technology which originated from the US space program has been further developed and applied in many other areas of life. And one certainly cannot depend on government bureaucracies to make accurate assessments about these matters.

Another problem is that, where one government might decide to ban the use of a new technology, another country may well go ahead with its introduction. In an increasingly competitive global economy the first country may severely disadvantage itself by such an action. New technology is essential for a country's economic development. The best approach is to positively encourage the development of new technologies and to focus on their benefits. Any problems that may arise can be dealt with after implementation.

4. Topic5p: Technology and tradition are incompatible. Pd(4). Cuc -1

In today's technological society, many people are concerned about the possibility of losing the traditional cultural values. They fear that the whole world may eventually become a "melting pot" since traditional cultures will have to be sacrificed for industrialisation and modernisation. In the final analysis, however, I am unconvinced that technology and tradition are necessarily incompatible.

Firstly, I do not think that we have to choose between technology and traditional culture, though, admittedly, technological development may change our culture in part. For example, most societies, Western and traditional alike, have had to shift from the traditional norm of extended family to nuclear family pattern which is more easily manageable in this industrialised world. But this change is necessary, if not essential, because if there were no change, there would be no progress. After all, sustainability means adaptability. Time has helped us filter out the no longer suitable traditions and retain only the part of our traditional cultures suitable for today's socio-economic and cultural life. In fact, good examples of the harmony between modern technology and traditional culture can be seen in Japan, South Korea, France, among numerous other countries world wide. I would argue, therefore, that traditional culture and technology can be happily married to each other.

Moreover, thanks to technological advances, we are now capable of preserving many of our priceless cultural works so that our future generation can still see the wonders of the past with their own eyes. The restoration of the Pyramids in Egypt or of the Angkor Temples in Cambodia, for instance, has been effectively and effortlessly done thanks to the application of high technology. But that is not all. Technology also helps protect traditional culture by improving people's living standards: enabling them to have the knowledge, skills, money, time, and will to conserve traditional culture. Starving people would not care about anything other than finding enough food to feed themselves and their families.

For all these reasons, I strongly believe that we can have both technology and traditional culture, rather than have one and lose the other. If wisely managed and properly used, our age-old traditions will continue to live with us, however developed technology might be.

5. Topic6: Computer technology benefits modern society in many ways, but its disadvantages should not be overlooked. Discuss the dangers of computer technology. Computer; cuc (4)..\\writing\writing task 2\english-net\IELTS task 2 models from english-net_com.htm

It is certainly true that communication has changed rapidly this century, particularly over the last few years. Even international contact, for example, can be made at the touch of a button using fax or e-mail. More and more people spend more and more time in front of computer screens, both at work and in their leisure time. Those

who say that such technology has an entirely positive effect should ask themselves if there are any dangers or disadvantages to this new lifestyle.

There are quite serious health consequences of a sedentary life in front of a computer - the most obvious being eye strain. Sitting at a computer screen for long periods of time is generally unhealthy, as the individual does not get any exercise. However, it is the social consequences that are the most alarming. The computer and the internet have made direct human contact less and less necessary. People have the illusion of community through the web, when in fact there is no such community. Nothing can replace real contact with real people in real streets. We contact people by e-mail because it is convenient to us - this is not the same as a natural relationship, which may be anything but convenient. We understand others only through what they write in e-mails, which is not the same as reading the subtle changes in emotion on a person's face. We may find in the future that people find human relationships too inconvenient and confusing, and prefer to stay with virtual friends rather than real ones..

In the rush to make life more convenient, we must be careful not to lose our humanity. Although the benefits of computer technology are extremely tempting, we need to analyse whether it is actually improving our quality of life, or making our lives faster but more soulless.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? With the help of technology, students nowadays can learn more information and learn it more quickly. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL42

Technology has greatly improved the way we get information. Students can now get more information, get it more quickly, and get it more conveniently.

The internet and the World Wide Web has opened every major library and database to students around the world. Information comes not only in print form, but also in multimedia. You can get audio and video data. You can get information about events in the past as well as events that unfold as you watch your computer monitor.

Information comes at the speed of the internet which is to say in nanoseconds. You can type in a few key words in your search engine, and the engine will search the entire WWW to find

information on your topic. You don't have to spend hours pouring over card catalogs in the library and looking at the shelves. This research is done for you instantly on the Web.

It is certainly more convenient to sit at home and do research on your computer. Your computer is open 24 hours a day, unlike a library or office which has limited hours and limited resources. You can do research in your pajamas while you eat breakfast. What could be more convenient?

Technology, especially the Internet, has certainly changed the quantity and quality of the information we get. The speed and convenience of a computer helps students learn more, more quickly.

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

Technology has made the world a better place to live. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL0

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

Modern technology is creating a single world culture. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL0

9. Some people think that governments should spend as much money as possible on developing or buying computer technology. Other people disagree and think that this money should be spent on more basic needs. Which one of these opinions do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. TOEFL68

When we see photographs of starving children, it's hard to say that we should spend billions of dollars on space exploration. But that's just what we should do. Children don't need to be starving, but we do need to explore space. Right now, we have enough money to feed every person on

Earth. Children are starving because of mismanagement of resources and simple human greed. Those are problems we can solve right here on earth. That shouldn't stop our need to find out what's beyond our own solar system.

We may never make contact with whatever other species there may be out there in space. Even so, there are still two very practical and positive consequences of space exploration. One is certainty and the other is a possibility. The certainty is medical research. Yes, we can conduct research here on earth. But much of the research done in space, for example, on the effects of gravity on bone marrow, is making a difference in medicine here on Earth. When we do research in space, we also learn more about space exploration. Also, many of

the inventions that were developed for space travel have been adapted to good use on Earth.

The possible consequence of space exploration is finding another planet human beings can colonize. Overpopulation is a huge problem on our planet. People are living longer, more healthful lives, and that's a good thing. But it means there are fewer people dying and more people being born. Eventually we'll have less space, fewer people resources and major distribution problems. If we can find another planet to live on, we can relieve the problems of overpopulation on our planet.

It's a tragedy that there are human beings suffering on Earth. However, if we wait until everyone has a perfect life, we will never explore space – and that, too, would be a kind of tragedy.

10. Modern technology has increased material wealth, but not happiness. To what extent do you agree with this statement? – my essay

11. Does modern technology make life more convenient, or was life better when technology was simpler? agree

12. In what ways has information technology changed work and working practices in the past 10 years?

13. "Telecommuting" refers to workers doing their jobs from home for part of each week and communicating with their office using computer technology. Telecommuting is growing in many countries and is expected to be common for most office workers in the coming decades. How do you think society will be affected by the growth of telecommuting? Telecommunication

Developing telecommunications affect our society in many ways in areas such as education, commerce and entertainment. In this essay, I will explain why telecommunications have had a huge impact on our education.

To start with, let's start at the advantages of telecommunications. The Internet is a consequence of telecommunications and part of our lives. We can see the Internet all around us, such as in companies, universities and schools. We can search for everything we want to know from the Internet, because the Internet is the biggest library on earth.

Moreover, nowadays some Masters' subjects can be studied via the Internet or television. This is called distance-education. Therefore, telecommunications make education convenient for students. For

example, Monash University offers Master of Business Systems for distance education to many students in Asian countries. The students do not need to come to Melbourne. They can save a lot of money. However, there are many disadvantages from the use of telecommunications. Firstly, a computer is very expensive. It costs \$1,500 at least. Not all students can buy computer. Secondly, people will lack human communication. In the future, people will only sit in front of a screen and communicate via the Internet, so they will lose their sense of community. Moreover, physical conditions, such as eye diseases and back pain, result from watching a screen for too long. Some programmers have problems with their eyes and sometimes they have headaches. In conclusion, although we can gain comfort from telecommunications, we may lose much more than that. Disadvantages include expenditure, physical problems and the loss of human communication. In my opinion, we should use telecommunications properly and realize that telecommunications are just a tool for education.

14. Describe a piece of technology that has been useful in your life. Say:

- What the item is.
- How you use it.
- How important it has become to you.

And explain how this piece of technology has changed your way of doing things.

15. In what ways have new technologies changed your life in the past 5 years?

16. In general, would you say that technology is a good thing in society?

17. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of the way society adopts new technologies?

18. How do you think the childhood of your children will be different to your own childhood as a result of new technology?

[b](to be continued)

Topic 13 (continued)

Section 4: nuclear -others

1. To what extent is nuclear technology a danger to life on Earth? What are the benefits and risks associated with its use?

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These days, many people are afraid of nuclear technology because of the dangers associated with its use. In my opinion, although it is true that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to life, the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes also carries some serious risks.

Nuclear power stations provide an important source of cheap power for many industrialized nations and some developing countries. However, there is always the danger of radiation leaking from these plants. Even though safety precautions are taken, there have been numerous disasters such as the explosion of a nuclear plant in Russia not long ago.

Nuclear technology is even used to help cure some diseases such as cancer. Radiation can be applied to the body to burn away cancerous cells. This is, however, a dangerous procedure, and the application of radiation is almost always painful and not always successful.

The most worrying aspect of nuclear technology, though, is its use for military purposes. Enough atomic bombs have already been built to completely destroy the planet, and the real danger is that one day some country will start a war with these weapons. Too many countries now have the technology required to make such bombs, and there is currently much debate about how to control the situation.

In conclusion, nuclear technology certainly has positive uses, but is, nonetheless, dangerous. However, it would have been better if it had never been used to create nuclear weapons. If life on earth is to continue, all the nuclear nations of the world should agree to disarm as soon as possible.

2. Topic64: The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy. The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.

3. There are other difficulties involved with space exploration, but these are three of the most important ones. SPACE CHALLENGES.DOC

4. Should scientists be left to work as they please or should they be made to develop programs decided by the government?

5. Do you agree or disagree that progress is always good? Use

specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

TOEFL39.

Who would disagree with the statement "progress is good"? Without progress, there would be no change. Without progress, there would be no change in our economy, our standard of living, or our health. Progress is required to keep the economy moving forward. New products need to be developed; new services need to be created. Without progress, our economy would stand still. There would be no change. Without progress, there would be no supermarkets with fresh produce brought in from all over the world.

Progress is required to improve our standard of living. Our homes today are more efficient and use less natural resources thanks to improvement in home construction techniques. Our clothes are warmer and safer thanks to developments in textile manufacturing. Our educational system is better thanks to the use of the computer and the internet.

Progress is required to improve the health of the world population. Without progress, there would be no vaccine against deadly disease like smallpox. Without progress there would be increased infant mortality. Thanks to progress our lives are longer and healthier.

Progress is a natural state. Without it, we would not evolve. Without it, our economy, our standard of living, and our health would deteriorate. Who could deny the necessity of progress?

The 21st century has begun. 1. What changes do you think this new century will bring? Use examples and details in your answer. TOEFL148
Now that we are in a new millennium, we can assume there will be changes in the world. I predict that the changes will be in the areas of information dissemination, global alliances, and family structure.

In the past decades, the computer was responsible for changing the way information was organized. Now the computer plus the internet is changing the way information is spread. Information will now be universally available to anyone with a computer. You will not have to go to libraries to do research. You will not have to travel to visit scholars, you will not have to go to a bookstore to buy a book. You can do all of this from your home on the computer.

In the past decades the nations of the world aligned themselves with the United States, the former Soviet Union, or with one another in a loose alliance. In the future these alliances will be more fluid. Some countries will align politically with one country but economically with another. Some countries will share technology and other

informatio, but will not trade together. Some countries, which have long been enemies, will align militarily for regional security. The family structure will not be based on a mother/father/child patern. Single parent families will be more common and often the child will not be a biological child of a single parent, but will be adopted. Other family structures like domestic partnerships will become more accepted.

Whatever the changes may be, whether in the way we receive information, the way nations align one another, or the way family units are defined, you can be sure that there will be more change. Change is a constant.

6. The twentieth century saw great change. In your opinion, what is one change that should be remembered about the twentieth century? Use specific reasons and details to explain your choice. TOEFL130

There have been many changes both technological and cultural in the twentieth century. I believe that outstands out above the rest: advances in medical science. The changes in medical science go together with the changes in technological and cultural areas. One can move ahead only with the help of the other. We can see the results of medical advances in three areas: development of vaccines and antibodies expanded access to health care and improved surgical techniques.

7. Topic62: some government are now spending trillions of dollars constructing human colonies in space. This is a huge waste of money on an unrealistic idea...Pd (2)

8. Some people think governments should spend as much money as possible exploring outer space (for example, traveling to the Moon and to other planets). Other people disagree and think governments should spend this money for our basic needs on Earth. Which of these two opinions do you agree with? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer. TOEFL

9. Atomic energy is the best source for the world's growing energy needs.

Topic 14: Tourism –travel -holiday

1. Why travel more than the past:

- The twentieth century travel revolution.
- Longer holidays.

- Higher salaries -> millions of people travel at least one foreign trip per year.

2. Why should travel?

- chance to relax.
- Have fun.
- Explore new places.
- Create new jobs.
- Create vital incomes for all countries.

3. bad effects of modern tourism:

- pollution.

- Tourism is now a major cause of pollution in some of the world's most beautiful countries. And it's not just a question of litter dirty beaches and polluted sea water. There's also the problem of air pollution from cars and coaches. In many places this is now so bad that it causes acid rain.

- Damage to famous historic buildings:

- These days, famous historic buildings receive millions of visitors each year. The results of its popularity are long queues and in many cases serious damage to the buildings themselves. Here are some examples of famous sites which are slowly being destroyed by their own popularity: the Parthenon (Greece); The Pyramids (Egypt).

- Crowded beaches.

- Pressure on local resources:

- Many tourist areas, especially in the third world have limited water, food and electricity. Since visitors use large amounts of these resources, this often means that local population has to suffer.

- The destruction of local communities.

- Over development:

- Hundreds of popular resorts around the world have become over – developed in the last 30 years. The result in many cases is an ugly “ concrete jungle” of hotels, restaurants, apartments and shops, which

- Damage the resource's natural identity.

- Weaken its traditional culture.

- Make the local population too dependent on jobs connected with tourism.

- Less space for birds and animals –Danger to wildlife.

- **The tourist industry also affects birds and animals.** This happens in two main ways.

- Many are killed (often illegally) so that their furs, skins, shells or feather can be sold as souvenir.

- Their natural habitats are destroyed to make way for new hotels and apartments.

- **Fewer jobs in traditional industries.**

4. What tourists should do?

- go in spring/ autumn -> cheaper, stop overcrowding in popular resorts during the high seasons.

- Walk, hire a bicycle or use public transport instead of hiring a car.

- Be aware that supplies of water and electricity might be limited -> not waste them.

- Avoid souvenirs which are made of – fur – skin – feathers –shells.

5. Useful tips for a foreigner coming to Vietnam. How to become successful in everyday communication in Vietnam. Give recommendations for a tourist.

• Greeting customs

• **Some taboos:** a baby, no question, go dutch, no touch in one's shoulder or head.

• Giving gifts.

• Recommendation:

• Halong bay.

6. Tourism is becoming increasingly important as a source of revenue to many countries but its disadvantages should not be overlooked – IELTS Practice now – 134

• faster planes and cheaper flights are making it easier than ever before for people travel. In most developed' societies, visiting exotic places is a sought – after status symbol. The tourism industries of both developed and developing countries have recognised this fact and are learning to take advantage of it.

• There are however some problems associated with this new industry. Firstly, there is the increasing crime rate. Some locals see tourists as easy prey because, not only are they in unfamiliar territory and therefore less able to take care of themselves, but also they carry items of wealth, such as cameras and jewellery which can be disposed of quickly for a profit.

• Another major problem is health. With greater mobility comes greater danger of spreading contagious diseases around the world. One carrier returning home could easily start an epidemic before their illness was diagnosed. Moreover the emergence of many diseases which resist antibiotic is causing scientists to be increasingly concerned about this issue.

• Also to be considered is the natural environment, which can be

seriously threatened by too many visitors. Australia's Great Barrier Reef, for example, is in danger of being destroyed by tourists and there are plans to restrict visitors to some of the more delicate coral cays.

- These are just three of the reasons why any country should be wary of committing itself to an extensive tourism development program.

7. Does travel help to promote understanding and communication between countries?

8. You have the opportunity to visit a foreign country for two weeks. Which country would you like to visit? Use specific reasons and details to explain your choice.127

- If I had chance to visit a foreign country, I will choose Australia without any hesitation –and especially Sydney city –the largest and oldest city of Australia.

- Firstly, I like the scenery there:

- Sydney opera house: a dramatic building, look like a sailing boat: one of the world's most famous sights.

- Sydney Harbour Bridge –Coathanger: long 500 metres, 8 lanes.

- Bondi Beach: go shopping, visiting pubs, restaurant... as well as several kms of golden sand.

- Darling Harbour

- Stunning complex of: museums, shops, exhibition halls, out door leisure areas.

- Moreover, my closest friend is now studying there. We haven't met for nearly 2 years and I would like to take this chance to see her again. Both of us must be very happy. She has told me a lot about her living there. It's really exciting and interesting. The community of Vietnamese students in Sydney, in particular, often hold up cheerful parties, which I am really fond of taking part in.

9. Some people like to travel with a companion. Other people prefer to travel alone. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. TOEFL52

I think that I will travel with a companion. If that is my special friend, it would be more, more interesting.

- Firstly, I don't want to be disturbed by strangers in the place I come to. If I went alone, it would be dangerous for me because I am a young girl.

- Moreover, when I come to a new place, everything is completely new for me. Maybe I have to cope with some difficulties, misunderstanding of the local customs for instance; my friend will

help me to tackle those situation. Too heads is always better than one. Even he/she can not help me, I would also feel more comfortable and confident because I have him/her by my side.

- Finally, enjoying a beautiful scenery is much more memorable if you have someone beside you to share such feelings. You can talk, criticize, and debate on some thing noticeable in your trip with your friend instead of talking on your own.

- For all those reasons, I am sure to travel with a companion instead of travelling alone.

10. Have you had any opportunities to travel?

During my secondary and high school days, I used to travel with my family to beautiful beaches of Vietnam. Listing...

Since entering my university, I have more opportunities to travel with my class mates. We often visited beautiful resorts which are not too far from Hanoi. tell more...

11. what is the furthest place you have traveled to?

12. In what ways do you think that we can minimise the dangers of travelling?

- accidents: referring to Transportation.

- Crimes: clicking here

13. Tell me about your most exciting travelling experience

3 years has elapsed since that experience took place; however, it is still very apparent in my mind since it was indeed a memorable experience.

Although it appeared to be a small story it left me unforgettable impression...

14. A foreign visitor has only one day to spend in your country. Where should this visitor go on that day? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice. TOEFL

Because he has only one day, so I will recommend him spend that day making a tour around Hanoi.

There are many interesting places in Hanoi he can visit.

You know, Van Mieu (Temple of Literature)

The Temple of Literature was built in October 1070 for the worship of sages and saints of Confucianism. Six years later (1076), the National College was established at the Temple of Literature and built at the rear. In the beginning, it was only for princes, but later was broadened to admit bright students nationwide. The Temple of Literature is completely surrounded by brick walls while inside the complex there are walls separating it into five areas. The first area

begins at the main gate on which the words "Van Mieu Mon" (Disciple of Temple of Literature) have been inscribed. Under the gate, there are two stone dragons bearing the style of the Le So Dynasty. The main path leading to Dai Trung Mon gate starts the second area where there are two small gates on both sides. The same path leads to Khue Van Cac (literary coterie to enjoy the beauty of Khue star). There are also two small gates on both sides of Khue Van Cac. The third section is formed by the area from Khue Van to Dai Thanh Mon. In the middle of this area, there is a square lake called Thien Quang Tinh (the clear Holy Pond) which is surrounded by walls. On both sides are the two gardens of steles on which the names of those who attained Ph.D. degrees were engraved. In ancient times after years of study, students were able to participate in the first-degree examinations held once every three years. Those with the highest marks in this exam were named bachelors. A year later, these bachelors would come to the capital to take part in the first stage of the examinations. Those with the highest marks in this exam were called 1st Ph..D. Being a Ph.D., the scholar could then be promoted to mandarin. At present, there are 82 steles, the oldest of which notes the 1442 palace exam and the most recent, the 1779 exams. These are the most valuable relics of the Temple of Literature. Walking through Dai Thanh gate, we come to the fourth area. There is a large playground where two pavilions were built on both sides for the Confucian scholars to worship. At the rear of the playground is Dai Bai House, a palace with majestic architecture. There are various precious objects located here: a bell cast in 1768 on the left and on the right is a musical stone upon which a story is engraved telling of the usefulness of this musical instrument. At the rear of the Dai Bai area is the Imperial College of the Le Dynasty, the then university. When the Nguyen Dynasty moved this college to Hue, this area was converted into a temple dedicated to Confucius' parents that was damaged during the war. The Temple of Literature is a place with a lot of diversity and points of interest for the scholar and tourist alike.

15. Which resort you recommend most in Vietnam?

Tell me:

- Where is it?

Situated in the North-East region of Vietnam, Halong Bay is a bay in the Gulf of Tonkin comprised of regions of Halong City, the township of Cam Pha, and a part of the island district of Van Don

- What is it famous for?

Halong Bay is made up of 1,969 islands of various sizes, 989 of which have been given names. This densely concentrated zone of stone islands, world famous for its spectacular scenery of grottoes and caves, forms the central zone of Halong Bay, which has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- Give me a short description of that place?

- see above

- Halong Bay resembles a geographic work of art. While exploring the bay, you feel lost in a legendary world of stone islands.

- There is Man's Head Island, which resembles a man standing and looking towards the mainland.

- Dragon Island looks like a dragon hovering above the turquoise water.

- La Vong Island resembles an old man fishing.

- There are also the islands of the Sail, the Pair of Roosters, and the Incense Burner, which all astonishingly resemble their namesakes.

- The forms of the islands change depending on the angle of the light and from where the islands are viewed.

- At the core of the islands, there are wonderful caves and grottoes, such as Thien Cung (Heavenly Residence Grotto), Dau Go (Driftwood Grotto), Sung Sot (Surprise Grotto), and Tam Cung (Three Palace Grotto).

- It has been proven by scientists that Halong was one of the first cradles of human existence in the area at such archeological sites as Dong Mang, Xich Tho, Soi Nhu, and Thoi Gieng.

- It is also a region of highly-concentrated biological diversity with many ecosystems of salt water-flooded forests, coral reefs, and tropical forests featuring thousands of species of animal and plant life.

- What do you like the most in that place?

Bai Chay is a low gently sloping range of hills that runs along the sea for more than 2 km. Blended in among the pine trees are large hotels and small villas with distinguished architectural styles. Traveling down the asphalt road along the coast, visitors see long white stretches of sand and green rows of Casuarina trees, tucked under which are small family-run restaurants. After swimming at the beach, tourists can enjoy cold drinks and cool off in the breeze that sweeps in from the sea.

- Is it internationally recognized?

- The 18th meeting of the Committee of the World Heritages of

UNESCO (in Thailand on December 17th, 1994), officially recognized Halong Bay as a natural heritage site of worldwide importance

Other questions:

- **Have you ever been abroad?**
- **Where have you been?**
- **Are you planning on going anywhere for your next vacation?**
- **If so, where?**
- **Who with?**
- **How long will you stay?**
- **Could you live in another country for the rest of your life?**
- **Describe the most interesting person you met on one of your travels.**
- **Describe your best trip.**
- **Describe your worst trip.**
- **Did your class in high school go on a trip together?**
- **If so, where did you go?**
- **How long did you stay?**
- **How did you get there?**
- **Do you have a driver's license?**
- **Do you like to travel with children? Why or why not?**
- **Do you like to travel with your mother? Why or why not?**
- **Do you prefer summer vacations or winter vacations?**
- **Do you prefer to travel alone or in a group? Why?**
- **Do you prefer to travel by train, bus, plane or ship?**
- **Do you prefer traveling by car or by plane?**
- **Have you ever been in a difficult situation while traveling?**
- **Have you ever been on an airplane?**
- **How many times?**
- **What airlines have you flown with?**
- **Have you ever been to a foreign country?**
- **Have you ever gotten lost while traveling? If so, tell about it.**
- **Have you ever hitchhiked? If so, how many times?**
- **Have you ever taken a package tour?**
- **How do you spend your time when you are on holiday and the weather is bad?**
- **How many countries have you been to? How many states?**
- **How many times have you traveled abroad?**
- **How much luggage do you usually carry?**
- **If you traveled to South America, what countries would like to**

visit?

- If you went to ___(Insert a country name)___, what kind of souvenirs would you buy?
- If you were going on a camping trip for a week, what 10 things would you bring? Explain why.
- What are some countries that you would never visit? Why would you not visit them?
- What are some things that you always take with you on a trip?
- What countries would you like to visit? Why?
- What countries would you most like to visit?
- What countries would you not like to visit? Why?
- What country do you most want to visit?
- Why?
- Do you think you will ever go there?
- What do you need before you can travel to another country?
- What is the most interesting city to visit in your country?
- What is the most interesting souvenir that you have ever bought on one of your holidays?
- What languages can you speak?
- What place do you want to visit someday?
- What was the most interesting place you have ever visited?
- What's the most beautiful place you've ever been to?
- When was the last time you traveled?
- When you are on a long car journey do you play games or sing songs to occupy your time?
- What kind of games?
- What songs?
- Where are you going to go the next time you travel?
- When are you going to go?
- Who are you going to go with?
- How long are you going to go for?
- What are you going to do there?
- What kind of things do you think you will buy?
- Where did you go on your last vacation?
- How did you go?
- Who did you go with?
- Where did you spend your last vacation? Your summer vacation? Your Christmas vacation?
- Where will you go on your next vacation?
- Would you like to take a cruise? Where to? With who?

- **Would you prefer to stay at a hotel/motel or camp while on vacation?**
- **Would you rather visit another country or travel within your own country?**
- **Do you find more fulfillment from your leisure activities including vacations than from your job?**
- **Do you think the type of vacation one takes reflects one's social status?**

End of topic 14!

Topic 15: Transport

1) Problems created by modern transport:

- cars and lorries are a major cause of air pollution.
- Thousands of people die in road, rail and air disasters each year.
- Levels of traffic in many large cities are reaching crisis point.
- Tourism is damaging some of the most beautiful parts of the world.

2) The high road toll is robbing our society of many people who could otherwise be leading useful and productive lives. How can society protect itself from these losses? -below

3) Present a written argument or case to an educated non-specialist audience on the following topic:

The best way to reduce the number of traffic accidents is to make all young drivers complete a safe driving education course before being licensed to drive. You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence. TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.DOC

Providing a safe driving education course can help to reduce the number of traffic accidents. Particularly, it would be effective for young primary drivers. There are some following reasons why they should take the course before being licensed to drive.

Firstly, all primary drivers can gain their knowledge for road rules and conditions. Ignoring speed limits, traffic signs and lights are main causes for common traffic accidents. Sticking with road rules is the most effective way to reduce the accidents. Secondly, practising with specialists can be helpful for safe driving. They can have enough “on-the-road” driving skills before they are faced on actual situations such as changing lanes, approaching intersections, driving highways and crossing railways. Thirdly, all primary drivers also can learn advanced

driving skills by both theoretically and practically, such as for hazardous situations, driving at night, towing, and other unexpected situations. Finally, all primary drivers can pay more attention to driving carefully whereas non-educational drivers cause a common reason for traffic accidents.

However, all traffic accidents are occurred not only by young drivers but also aged people. Actually, all drivers are losing their driving skills with age for no particular reason. The education course should be provided for all drivers whenever it is necessary. Checking other skills regarding with driving is also essential such as eye test, basic health conditions, or reaction time against approaching hazard.

As conclusion, a safe driving educational course is effective and necessary for many reasons. No matter in what age or category, drivers should take the course and keep brushing up their driving skills to contribute to reduce the number of traffic accidents.

(270 words)

4. Some people think that the automobile has improved modern life. Others think that the automobile has caused serious problems. What is your opinion? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL

5. How far is it the responsibility of governments to reduce the number of road accidents which occur per year.

6. The private motor vehicle has greatly improved individual freedom of movement. Moreover, the automobile has become a status symbol. Yet the use of private motor vehicles has contributed to some of today's most serious problems. How can the use of private motor vehicles be reduced? – Prepare for IELTS 128.

- the private motor vehicle has given us a freedom our ancestors could only dream about. We can travel swiftly, and usually safely, over the roads which have been built to accommodate our cars. People can display their wealth by driving a car which may cost as much as another person's home.
- Sadly the car has become a disadvantage as well as a boon. The car pollutes the atmosphere, may be involved in serious accidents, and by its very numbers block roads and chokes cities. How can we reduce its use?
- The car is only desirable if we can use it easily, so we might begin by reducing access to parking spaces in the cities and simultaneously increasing the quality and availability of public transport. Cars could

be banned from certain parts of the city, thus forcing people to walk or to use public transport.

- The expense of buying and running a car can be raised. If the motorist is faced with a high purchase price, high road tax, high insurance premiums and substantial fines he or she may reconsider the purchase. A corresponding reduction in the price of public transport would help this financial argument against car ownership.
- Neither of these arguments will sway the super rich who can afford the status cars, but it would perhaps encourage them to look another ways of demonstrating their wealth. However we do it, reducing the number of cars on the road will reduce the problems of pollution and the congestion which can bring cities to a standstill.

7. Transport issues are becoming increasingly important. What arguments are there for restricting the use of the motor car?

8. If countries are serious about solving traffic problems, they should tax private cars very heavily and use the money to provide free or very cheap rail travel. -Preparation and practice – 140 – 143; ..\..\comprehensive site\task1-task2.htm.

9. The rising levels of congestion and air pollution found in most of the world cities can be attributed directly to the rapidly increasing number of private cars in use. In order to reverse this decline in the quality of life in cities, attempts must be made to encourage people to use their cars less and public transport more. Discuss possible ways to encourage the use of public transport. Public

10. 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. Alternative forms of transport should be encouraged and international laws introduced to control car ownership and use. What do you think?

11. The best way to reduce the number of traffic accidents is to make all young drivers complete a safe driving education course before being licensed to drive.

12. The rising levels of congestion and air pollution found in most of the world cities can be attributed directly to the rapidly increasing number of private cars in use. In order to reverse this decline in the quality of life in the cities attempts must be made to encourage people to use their cars less and public transport more. Discuss possible ways to encourage the use of public transport.

13. Discuss the arguments for and against banning cars from inner city.

14. All public transport in our cities should be free. Discuss.

Pd12

15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The best way to travel is in a group led by a tour guide. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL

16. Should governments spend more money on improving roads and highways, or should governments spend more money on improving public transportation (buses, trains, subways)? Why?

Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay. TOEFL

17. Choose one of the following transportation vehicles and explain why you think it has changed people's lives.

• automobiles • bicycles • airplanes Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL

18. You need to travel from your home to a place 40 miles (64 kilometers) away. Compare the different kinds of transportation you could use. Tell which method of travel you would choose.

Give specific reasons for your choice. TOEFL

19. Compare and contrast the means of transport used by people in your society with those used by the people in a more developed society.

20. Analyse some of the problems caused by the over use of private transport means.

21. Speculate on the future development of transport means in your society.

22. Compare and contrast different means of transport available in your city.

23. Which means of transport do you choose? Just your choice.

24. What do you think should be done to improve the travel of people in your city?

25. How do you often travel to and from work/university?

26. Why do you choose this means of transport?

27. Compare the available means of transport used by the people in your city? Which do you think is the safest?

28. What do you think should be done to improve the traffic in your city?

29. What type of transport do you use most? Why?

• Are there speed limits in your country? If so, what is the average speed limit?

- At what age does the average person obtain a driver's license?
- Can you ride a motorcycle?
- Do you drive a car often?
- Do you have a bicycle?
- If so, when did you get it?
- How much did it cost?
- How often do you ride it?
- What color is it?
- Do you have a car? If not, does your family have a car?
- Do you have a driver's license? If so, when did you get it?
- Do you often ride public transportation during rush hour?
- Do you often use public transportation?
- Do you ride a bicycle more than once a week?
- Does your mother have a driver's license?
- Have you ever been in a traffic accident?
- Have you ever been stopped for speeding?
- (Have you ever gotten a speeding ticket?)
- Have you ever gotten a parking ticket?
- Have you ever missed your last train or bus home? If so, how did you get home that night?
- Have you ever ridden a horse? How about a motorcycle?
- Have you every carpooled?
- How do you get to school?
- How long does it take?
- How much is the bus fare or the train fare?
- How do you think countries can reduce congestion on the roads?
- How many times have you traveled by airplane?
- How much does gasoline cost in your country?
- Is parking a problem in your country? (shopping malls, etc)
- Is there any environmentally-friendly transportation in your area?
- What are the most annoying bad driving habits of other drivers in your country (for this country /or compared to this country)?
- What do you have to do to get a driver's license in your country? Do you think it's a good test?
- What do you need to do in your country to get a driver's license?
- What do you think is the most dangerous form of

transportation? Why?

- What do you think is the safest form of transportation? Why?
- What do you usually do when riding a train or bus?
- Do you read?
- Do you sleep?
- What is the penalty for speeding in your country?
- What is your favorite kind of car? Why?
- What is your favourite make of car? Why?
- What kind of car do you have?
- What kind of things annoy you about other people's driving?
- What kind of transportation do you use most often?
- What's the most readily available form of public transportation where you live?
- What's your favorite color for a car?
- What's your favorite form of transportation?
- When was the last time you rode a bus?
- Where is a good place to go for a drive?

**Topic 16: Rich and poor world -Different generation - Modern life
–city –country living**

Section 1: Modern life - stress –city life

1. Would you prefer to live in the city or the countryside? Why?
2. In Vietnam, in what ways are city and country people different?
3. If you could choose, where would you prefer to bring up your children, in the countryside or a city? Why?
4. Where is Vietnamese culture stronger, in the country or the city? Can you give some examples?
5. Modern life:
 - Describe some elements of your life which you consider to be modern.
 - Compare the life of young adults today with previous generations.
 - justify or otherwise a major change that has occurred in the last ten years.
6. Country and city life:
 - what are some of the advantages of living in the country?

- What are some of the advantages of living in the city?
- Would you prefer to live in the countryside or the city? Why?
- Is one safer? Healthier?
- Are country and city people different? In what ways?
- In your country where is the culture stronger, in the city or the country? Give examples.
- How does housing in your country compare between the country and the city?
- Would you prefer to live in the city or in the countryside and why?

7. Describe a city you have visited which has impressed you. You should say:

- where is it situated.
- Why you visited it.
- What you liked about it.-

8. City and country life.

- Would you prefer to live in the city or the countryside?
Why/Why not?

- In Vietnam, in what ways are city and country people different?
- If you could choose, where would you prefer to bring up your children? In the countryside or the city? Why/why not?
- Where is Vietnamese culture stronger, in the country or the city? Can you give me some examples?

9. What, in your opinion, are the main problems facing modern industrial society?

- increase in crime and violence.
- Environmental problems.
- Broad gap between rich and poor world.
- Contagious disease infected throughout the world.
- Overpopulation
- Unemployment

10. What, in your opinion, can be done to improve modern cities?

11. Would you prefer to live in a traditional house or in a modern apartment building? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.

- Why traditional house?

- Traditional design: spaceful, warm and inviting.
- Have the kind of beautiful woods that were used years ago. It's something that can't be copied.

- More space for different rooms.
- **Why not traditional house?**
- Not all the plumbing works.
- The roof is going to leaf.
- The windows are not properly sealed.
- Kitchen appliances are in working order.
- Things will break down or need replacement, simply because of age.

- **Why modern apartment?**

- Modern apartment is going to be in much better shape:
- All the plumbing works.
- The roof isn't going to leaf.
- The windows are properly sealed.
- Kitchen appliances are in working order.
- Everything new and perfect.

- **Why not modern apartment?**

- Modern design: empty and sterile and not very inviting.
- All the rooms and windows of the same size or a box design. A modern apartment usually comes in one size and shape.

12. Some people prefer to live in a small town. Others prefer to live in a big city. Which place would you prefer to live in? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.⁹

- **Why small town?**

- Friendly community
- Superior security.

- **Why not small town?**

- Poor public transportation. Need to possess a private car to ensure a comfortable living.
- Slow pace
- Poor entertainment facility: life is boring.
- Little different of people.

- **Why big city?**

- A choice of taking public transportation: cheaper.
- Adapt with a variety of situation: finding a new route to work or trying a new restaurant.
- Variety of cultural activities available: a wide assortment of theatre, music and dance performances.
- Diversity of people: different races, religions, abilities, and interests.

- **Why not big city?**

- Transportation: heavy traffic, expensive parking.

- Unfriendly community.
- Unsafe security.

13) Generally, the gap between the urban rich and the rural poor is increasing. What in your opinion can be done to improve this situation in your society? – ideas-list question

- raising income tax: use for rural development.
- Raise salary for people working in rural area.
- Urbanization.
- Diversify the working sectors in rural.

14) What are the major problems associated with living in large cities?

- Crime and violence.
- Transportation
- Overcrowded density.
- Complex situations.
- Polluted air and water.
- Unfriendly community.

15. People have different ways of escaping the stress and difficulties of modern life. Some read; some exercise; others work in their gardens. What do you think are the best ways of reducing stress? Use specific details and examples in your answer. –69.

What causes stress?

- Study hard.
- Work hard.
- Involved in trouble.

What stress causes?

- headache.
- Inefficient performance in work.
- Heart disease.
- Affect personality: angry, impatient.
- Affect relationship with others.

What can we do to reduce stress?

- Identify the cause. Tackle it: change the way, ask for help, find way to struggle.
- Keep body healthy: eat nutritious food, avoid junk food; do exercise.
- Keep spirit happy: good relationship with friends, family, colleagues.

Section 2: Rich and poor world

1. The economic globalisation will bring about greater benefits

for developed countries than for developing ones as the former countries enjoy comparative advantages in technology and managerial skills over the latter ones. Discuss.

2. Topic74: To what extent will migration from the developing world to the developed world become a social and political issue in the 21st century?

3. Developed countries have no responsibility to help the developing nations.

4. Topic75: Should wealthy nations be required to share their wealth among poorer nations by providing such things as food and education? Or is it a responsibility of the governments of poorer nations to look after their citizens themselves? –cuc 29.

How to share?

- Lending money.
- Providing equipment, facility.
- Transfer technology.
- Financial aid for education.

Why should?

- Helping poor countries can bring economic benefits for both sides
- Poor: technology, facility, qualified human resource.
- Rich: larger market, cheap labour force.
- social benefits:
 - reduce migration from developing to developed countries: better living standard.
 - Reduce international crime: bridge the gap between rich and poor world.
- A humanitarian action:
 - Provide food for hungry people.
 - Clear illiteracy.

Why shouldn't?

- poorer nations are less reliant, more dependent.

5. As most foreign aid often benefits the donor more than the receiver, developing countries should refuse to repay their debts. --Preparation and practice –150 -169.

In what way does foreign aid benefit the donor?

- get the interest.
- Banks making the loans make two or three times the money lent after the interest payments are taken into account.

In what way does foreign aid benefit the receiver?

- build the infrastructure necessary for development.

- Develop projects that help them more self –reliant.

Is there any disadvantages?

- Many countries have spent most of their income repaying the interest on foreign debts .

- Even, some have borrowed more money to pay back the interest

- Fact: borrowed money often to be used to make quick profits for developers or to line the pockets of corrupt official.

- Countries that get caught in this debt spiral, had no chance of paying back the initial money borrowed.

-> as most donor countries were already repaid both in terms of money and in terms of economic interest, it is morally right for developing countries to refuse to pay back foreign loans.

6. "The best way to help developing countries is to give them financial aid." Write an essay either agreeing or disagreeing with this statement. Suggest alternatives to this policy. (Develop one side of an issue well)

7. Discuss the advantage and disadvantage of giving international Aid to poor countries.

Section 3: Different generation

8. Youth culture began in America in the 1950s.

- The second WW was over.

- Rock and roll had just begun.

- TV was becoming popular.

- Young people had more money than ever before and they want to have fun.

- Since the days of James Dean and Elvis Presley, youth culture has come a long wa. Also, thanks to the electronic medi, it's become completely international. The youth industry isn't all about pop and fashion, though. It's about issues and problems, too. These days, teenagers all over the world are interested in the environment, peace and famine. Then there's the drug crisis – a serious problem that involves millions of young people directly -> teenager culture: pop and politics, fashion and famine.

8. Every generation of people is different in important ways. How is your generation different from your parents' generation? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your answer.144

9. Young people are said to have lost many of the traditional values of the older generations. Do you agree?

10. Every generation of people is different in important ways. How is your generation different from your parents' generation? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your answer. TOEFL

TOEFL

11. Learning about the past has no value for those of us living in the present. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL

12. What discovery in the last 100 years has been most beneficial for people in your country? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice. TOEFL

13. Topic48: To what extent has the traditional male role changed in the last 20 years?

End of topic 16

Topic 17: Oversea studying – foreign language

1. Topic22: The idea of going overseas for university study is an exciting prospect for many people. But while it may offer some advantages, it is probably better to stay home because of the difficulties a student inevitably encounters living and studying in a different culture. To what extent do you agree or disagree this statement? Give reasons for your answer. Oversea

Advantages of going abroad:

- Studying other languages abroad expands and improves our abilities and job prospects.
- In addition, by studying or simply travelling abroad, we can discover many differences in terms of culture, way of thinking, history, customs and lifestyle; the awareness of these differences makes us more tolerant and open-minded.
- What is more, we gain a broader experience of life in general.
- The students must have much more responsibility than ever.
- New friends that offer some advantages.
- Making a new friend is a good exercise to cooperate work with others.

What are disadvantages?

- alter the traveller's way of thinking so greatly, that they lose their cultural identity.
- If he or she integrates into the new society, they will almost certainly meet difficulties when they try to readjust later to their own culture.
- Another potential problem is that the traveller or student may

become a victim of discrimination, and lose their confidence as a result.

- Since their behaviour and customs may be very different from those of the inhabitants of the host culture, they may encounter negative reactions – unfriendliness, or even hostility, for example.

2. Topic 28p: motivation to learning plays a very important role in the success of foreign language learning. Pd12

- what is motivation?

- Internal motivation: desire to learn a foreign language in order to identify with that language speaking community.

- External motivation: need to learn it so as to pass an exam or to meet certain requirements of one's job.

- How internal motivation can help us studying foreign language?

- Want to belong to that community, and communicate with it

- Exp: a babe, a person married with foreigner.

- How internal motivation can help us studying foreign language?

- Want to communicate with counterparts.

- Promotion.

3. Studying the English language in an English-speaking country is the best but not the only way to learn the language Do you agree or disagree with this statement? ..\..\comprehensive site\task1-task2.htm

Why study in English speaking country:

- Language school.

- Pronunciation better.

- Teacher: native speaker.

- Culture

- Improved Listening reading writing speaking.

- In the non English –speaking Highschool/university: Students must work hard -> no adequate investment.

Why not study in English speaking country:

- Problems with homesickness

- Live with the Australians.

- Homestay. Advantage: money, parent's help Dedication.

- Spoken English not good

- Study and living costs

- At home: Grammar skill good for later.

4. Difficulties for studying a new language:

At your age and level of language learning, there are some things you can't change. For example, you can't change ...

- the innate language learning ability that you were or were not born with;
- your ability to distinguish between different sounds and your ability to make them;
- your power of memorization and recall.

5. Millions of people every year move to English – speaking countries such as Australia, Britain or American, in order to study at school, college or university. Why do so many people want to study in English? Why is English such an important international language? – cambridge 2- 169.

6. Why study English?

- It will enlarge your intellectual, cultural and emotional horizons.
- You experience the unparalleled richness of the narrative, drama, poetry and other texts produced in English over nearly 1500 years.
- You can explore the variety, subtlety and complexity of the English language in a wide range of uses.
- It deepens your cognitive skills of critical enquiry and aesthetic sensitivity – and your personal skills of clear presentation of ideas and self-confidence.
- The best way to learn about the world
- Provide access to a larger range of knowledge such as in the fields of literature, science and business.
- Most of databases and information are in English.
- International language.
- Promotion in career

7. How to study English well?

Reading and writing

- read newspaper and articles in English: take information of concerned issues in English from net and read it.
- Try to read the English part of signs or menus rather than the Vietnamese so you'll know how things should be said in English.
- Use an English dictionary rather than a Vietnamese/English-English/Vietnamese one.
- Keep a diary in English- 2 or 3 times a week if you don't have time to do it everyday.
- Writing email and letter in English
- Write autobiography in English.

Speaking and listening

- Speak English into a tape recorder rather than writing it.
- Thinking of my most beloved person, who I want to talk with and talk

alone with him/her.

- Not to be embarrassed about making mistakes;
- To ask questions when you do not understand something;
- To get into the habit of asking other Vietnamese-English bilinguals the question, "How do you say _____ in English?" or "What does _____ mean?";
- Get approach to foreign speaker.
- Listen to radio daily.

8. Talk about your English teacher (either your present teacher or a teacher you have had in the past)

Describe your teacher

- what is his or her teaching method?
- why do you like/dislike him or her?
- and how has he/she helped you with your language-learning

9. All secondary school students should learn a second language –cuc 26

Why should study second language in secondary school?

- the advantages offered by English.
- It is easier to learn a second language when a child rather than when an adult, even if the second language is not used later in life, the process of learning it is good academic training.

Why shouldn't study second language in secondary school?

- Few people ever need a second language,
- Time could be better spent studying more relevant subjects.
- Training teachers could be a significant drain on a country's resource

10. The increasing role of English in the world means that the learning of other languages is being neglected. What's your opinion of this statement?

End of topic 17

Topic 18: Success- money - personal related

Success - personalities

Interest and hobby:

Special Events

Special People

section 1: success - personalities

1. It has been said, “Not everything that is learned is contained in books.” Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why? TOEFL4.

- What can we learn from books?

- The information we need to function in our society.
- Learn how to speak and write and understand mathematical equations.
- All information that we need to live in our communities and earn a living.
- What knowledge can be gained from experience?
- Know how to get along with others.
- How to have self – respect.
- How to deal with pressure.
- How to fall in love and get married.
- Any where else we can learn?
- Guidelines from teachers and parents.
- What’s more important? Why?
- Most important lessons are gained through our own experience -> “experience is the best teacher”.

2. The expression “Never, never give up” means to keep trying and never stop working for your goals. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL41.

“ If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again”. These are wise words. One should never give up. There is always another opportunity, another goal, another option.

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Only people who earn a lot of money are successful. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL104.

“ Success is more than how much money you make”.

For me, success would be considered as how effective you use your time, which is, in more detail, assessed in three aspects:

- What you can gain yourself: money, social status, knowledge.
- What you can contribute to your surrounding people: your family and your friends.
- What you can contribute to the society you live in: your country.

3. “When people succeed, it is because of hard work. Luck has nothing to do with success.” Do you agree or disagree with the

quotation above? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position. TOEFL -unnecessary

4. Is it better to enjoy your money when you earn it or is it better to save your money for some time in the future? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. TOEFL33.

“ Save it for rainy day”.

What saved money is used for?

- Education: tuition, room, board, book and incidental expenses to pay for.
- Travel: visit home from studying place.
- Unforeseen emergencies: unexpected illness, one family member need help.

5. People attend college or university for many different reasons (for example, new experiences, career preparation, increased knowledge). Why do you think people attend college or university? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL1.

- Career preparation.
- Job market is competitive.
- University offer new skill for career -> a lot of opportunities.
- New experiences.
- Meet different people.
- Making their own decisions -> increases their knowledge of themselves.
- Expand knowledge in subjects they find interesting.

6. Some people believe that success in life comes from taking risks or chances. Others believe that success results from careful planning. In your opinion, what does success come from? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. TOEFL59.

“Nothing ventured. Nothing gained”.

What is the rule to be succesful in life?

- Take risks in our lives, but these must be calculated risks.
- Like the great thinkers of our time, we must plan carefully: seize all opportunities and reevaluate our plan.

7. In your opinion, what is the most important characteristic (for example, honesty, intelligence, a sense of humor) that a person can have to be successful in life? Use specific reasons and examples from your experience to explain your answer. When you write your answer, you are not limited to the examples listed

in the question. TOEFL76.

A person who always desire of progress: always set goals and plan carefully to reach their goal, always create themselves chances by challenging themselves to new contexts, always seize any opportunities to come and reevaluate opportunities.

SECTION 2: INTEREST AND HOBBY:

2. What is your interest?

3. What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

SECTION 3: SPECIAL EVENTS

4. Your birthday:

Talk about a birthday celebration that you particularly enjoyed.

- **When was it?**

- **What did you do?**

- **Why did you particularly like it? What did you do when you were preparing to leave (candidate's home country) to come to (country of study)?**

5. What is the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you?

6. Describe your favourite building.

- Among those buildings in HN I've ever come, undoubtedly, Melia hotel is the most striking one.

- Located in Thanh Nien street. From there you can look out both Truc Bach and West lake.

- What strikes me when coming there is very the glass lift. When going up to higher floor, the higher you are raised, the broader view of Hanoi's panorama you can see. It is really amazing to have a constantly changing vision of our dear capital.

- The building consists of 21 floors. Most rooms are used for renting. There are many companies located in that building.

- The building is really splendid with modern design and luxurious decoration.

- The atmosphere is completely fresh with two nearby lakes.

- The surrounding sceneries is also charming.

- The entertainment facilities inside the building is rather satisfying with a swimming pool, a specific area for sport where you can play bowling, table tennis, etc. What special in entertainment service is the

top floor. There people can have some drink or some fruits, listen to live music and look out for an overview of the beloved capital. For the moment I was in such position, I found Hanoi more beautiful than ever before.

SECTION 4: SPECIAL PEOPLE

1. A person who has the most influence in your life. my mother

Who is the person?

2. Describe a teacher who has greatly influenced you in your education.

You should say:

- where you met them.

- What subject they taught.

- What was special about them.

- And explain why this person influenced you so much.

His name is Mr Nguyen The Vinh - my highschool informatics teacher – a beloved teacher for any student that has ever been taught by him. He is indeed my most ideal teacher.

- In fact, he considered me not only as he special student but also as his daughter. He lived in the teacher's hostel in my highschool. And he always offered me most friendly and informal hospitality whenever I dropped in asking about some informatics problems or maybe just having a rest or drink btw lessons.

- With his help in my studying process, I was chosen to take part in the national contest for best informatics students grade 12 though I was only in grade 11 at that time. I did gain the third prize for that contest.

- Informatics since then has in fact had a great influence on my studying process. It helped me a lot in studying other subjects, like English, Geography, etc. In fact my preparation for this exam is also assisted by my computer skill. It is really amazingly helpful. I believe that effect would be much more taken advantage of when I arrive in Singapore in this July because this is an extensively high – tech environment where requires lots of computer skill. It is Mr Vinh that has offered me comparative advantage in this magic field.

3. Tell me about a famous person that you admire

- Who is that person?

- What is he famous for?

- Why you admire that person?

- What can you learn from that person's life?

4. Describe a competition (or contest) that you have entered:

You should say:

- When the competition took place?
- What you had to do?
- How well you did it?
- Do you enjoy entering competitions?
- Have you entered any other competition?
- Speak about:
 - Competition at a young age?
 - Competition at school.
 - Value of international competitions.
 - The psychology of competing.
 - Competitive spirit.

5. Tell me about a favorite event of your childhood.

6. If someone gave you a million dollars, what would you do with it?

• What's your favorite place to shop?

- Price:
- Quality:
- Diversity
- Services:
- Fashion trend:

End of topic 18

This is the End of my work

Good luck u all!