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1. Advertising

Positives of Advertising

- Advertising is a key part of modern business
- Companies need to tell customers about their products and services
- Advertisements inform us about the choices we have
- Advertising is a creative industry that employs many people
- Without advertising we would have less choice
- Without advertising there would be higher unemployment
- Advertising is a form of modern art
- People enjoy adverts

Negatives of Advertising

- Advertising manipulates people
- It aims to persuade people that buying a product will make them happier
- Advertisers focus on selling a brand image
- They use glamorous, successful people
- We now live in a consumer culture
- We are persuaded to follow the latest trend
- We are encouraged to associate certain brands with a higher status
- Advertisers often aim their marketing at children
- Children can easily be influenced by advertisements.
- Children put pressure on parents to buy them things

Opinions about Advertising

- Advertising should be regulated
- Advertising aimed at children should be controlled or even banned
- Unhealthy foods should not be marketed in a way that attracts children
- Products that can be risk to health should display warnings
- In some countries it is illegal to advertise cigarettes on television
- Warnings must be displayed on cigarette packets
- However, advertising is necessary in free market economies
- It creates demand for products
- Governments should only censor false information or products that are harmful

2. Animal rights

Arguments for Animal Testing

- Animals are used in important scientific research
- It is necessary to do medical tests on new drugs
- Animal testing helps to advance medical and scientific knowledge / medical breakthroughs
- Many important medical discoveries involved experimentation on animals
- Researchers aim to minimize the suffering that animals experience
- Testing for the cosmetics industry is now banned in many countries
- Some medical or scientific experiments simply cannot be done on humans

Arguments against Animal Testing

- The benefits of research using animals do not justify the suffering caused
- It is cruel if it is just done to publish papers
- There are alternative methods of research
- Computer simulation can be used in most cases
- The lives of animals should be respected
- Humans have no moral right to do experiments on animals

Arguments for Vegetarianism

- Vegetarians do not eat foods that are produced by killing animals
- Many people choose a vegetarian diet for moral or health reasons
- A healthy diet is possible without eating meat
- It is unnecessary to kill animal for food
- A vegetarian diet may reduce the risk of disease like cancer
- Many people question the treatment of animals in factory farms

Arguments against Vegetarianism

- Vegetarians do not eat a balanced diet
- In many cultures, meat is the main ingredient in traditional meals
- Meat-eaters argue that animals are below humans in the food chain
- It is completely natural for us to kill them for food
- Our aim should be improve farming methods
- Farms should produce organic food

Positives of Zoos

- Zoos play an important role in wildlife conservation
- They can help to protect endangered species
- Zoos allow scientists to study animals and their behavior
- Zoos are educational, interesting and fun
- Children, in particular, enjoy learning about animals
- Zoos provide job opportunities.

Negatives of Zoos

- Zoo animals are kept in artificial environments
- They are kept in cages or have limited space
- Zoo animals rely on humans
- They lose the freedom to hunt for food
- They best way to save endangered species is by protecting natural habitats
- Some people believe that zoos are unethical
- Zoos exhibits animals with the aim of making money
- We have no right to use animals for entertainment and profit.

3. Cities

Reasons for Urbanization

- People move to cities in search of job opportunities
- Cities offer greater employment possibilities and a higher standard of living
- People migrate to cities from the countryside
- Traditional activities like farming need fewer workers nowadays

Negatives of City Life

- Life in cities has its drawbacks
- The cost of living is higher than in rural areas
- Some people do not manage to find work
- Housing is usually much more expensive
- Homelessness and poverty are common on cities
- There is a gap between rich and poor
- Life in cities can be extremely stressful
- There are problems like traffic congestion or traffic jams and crime
- Cities lack a sense of community
- People do not even know their neighbor(s)
- Cities are sometimes described as “concrete jungles”.

Pedestrian Areas

- Pedestrian zones in city centre can improve the local environment
- Banning cars encourages people to walk or cycle
- Many European cities have built bicycle lanes
- Dependence on cars is linked to health problems like obesity
- People who walk or cycle regularly are generally healthier
- Pedestrian areas are safer and more attractive for both residents and tourists

4. Crime

Police and Crime Prevention

- The job of the polices is to catch criminals
- They must also prevent crime and make communities safer
- There should be an increase in the number of police officers on the streets
- Police officers should be seen as part of the community
- They should be involved with education and prevention
- The police should be in close contact with schools
- They should focus on young people who have dropped out of school
- These teenagers may become involved with gangs

Punishments/Prisons

- Fines are used as punishment for minor crimes
- If the crime is more serious, prison is the most common punishment
- Some criminals pose a threat to society
- They are put in prison to ensure the safety of other citizens

Negatives of Prisons

- Criminals are put together
- They make friends with other offenders
- Many prisoners re-offend when they are released
- A criminal record makes finding a job more difficult

Rehabilitation

- Another aim of prisons is rehabilitation
- Prisoners receive education of vocational training
- Prisoners should learn personal skills and specific job skills
- Punishment could make prisoners' behavior worse
- Rehabilitation aims to make them better citizens
- Rehabilitated prisoners are less likely to re-offend

Capital Punishment

- Supporters say that capital punishment deters crime
- Fear of the death penalty stops people from committing offences
- The death penalty shows that crime is not tolerated
- It is a form of revenge
- The cost of imprisonment is avoided
- The offender cannot pose a threat to others

Against Capital Punishment

- Innocent people could be wrongly convicted and executed
- Crime rates are not necessarily reduced
- Many criminals do not think they will be caught
- Capital punishment is not a good deterrent
- Executing prisoners creates a violent culture and encourages revenge
- We have no right to take another human life

Community Service

- Community service is a way to reform offenders
- It could be a solution to prison overcrowding
- It avoids the cost of imprisonment
- It makes offenders useful in their local communities
- They are required to clean streets or talk to school groups
- Offenders repay their community
- They avoid the negative influence that prison can have

Against Community Service

- Community service is not a sufficient punishment
- Criminals should be locked up, away from their victims

Crime in the Media

- Crime is one of the main subjects of most news programs.
- The mass media focus on violent and sensational crimes
- This leads to fear of crime among the public
- Sensational stories attract more viewers or readers
- The media report crime stories in order to increase their audience

5. Education

Benefits of Education

- Education gives people knowledge and skills
- People with qualification are more likely to find work
- They can earn a higher salary
- They can contribute positively to society
- Schools aim to teach young people moral values such as tolerance and sharing
- Schools prepare children to be members of a society

Benefits of Studying Abroad

- Foreign institutions may offer better courses
- Many students want to attend a prestigious university
- The best universities employ teachers who are experts in their fields
- Qualifications gained abroad can open the door to better job opportunities
- Living abroad can broaden students' horizons
- Overseas students are exposed to different cultures and customs.
- They become more independent
- They are responsible for cooking, cleaning and paying bills
- They will learn a foreign language

Drawback of Studying Abroad

- Living and studying abroad can be difficult
- Students have problems with paperwork such as visa applications
- The language barrier can be a problem
- Students have to find accommodation and pay bills
- Studying in a foreign language is challenging
- Living alone in an unfamiliar culture can cause homesickness

Technology in Education: Advantages

- Technology is a powerful tool to engage students
- Technology can make lessons much more interesting
- Students can do research using online resources
- Students can study at their own place
- Adults can take distance learning courses
- Students can study whenever and wherever they want
- Students also learn skills which are useful for their future jobs
- For example, they learn to write reports using a word processor

Technology in Education: Disadvantages

- People rely too much on computers
- Young learners do not become proficient in some basic skills
- They use word processors and spelling may suffer
- People should be able to write a letter by hand
- Technology is no substitute for a real teacher
- Learners need a structured course
- An experienced teacher knows what materials to choose
- Computers are expensive to maintain and can be unreliable

Technology in Education: Opinion

- Institutions should supplement traditional teaching with the use of technology
- Technology is part of everyday life
- It can enhance a teacher's lessons
- Students can use online resources to help with homework
- Students must still learn to write by hand
- They should still use traditional sources of information such as books

Education in Developing Countries: Problems

- Children often have to work from an early age
- There are no schools in many areas
- Families do not have access to books or computers
- Literacy rates are often low
- People in developing countries need knowledge and skills
- Education is the key to improving the economy of these countries

Education in Developing Countries: Solutions

- Developed countries could help developing nations by providing money
- They could invest in schools and technology
- They could supply the funds to build schools and pay for teachers
- Children need to have access to free schooling
- Computer equipment could be donated
- The Internet can expose students to a world of knowledge and information
- Governments should make education compulsory for all children
- They should encourage parents to send their children to school
- Governments of developed and developing countries must work together

Higher Education: Advantages (also see 'Benefits of Education')

- There are many benefits to going to university
- A degree can open the door to better employment prospects
- Economies are becoming increasingly knowledge-based
- Most jobs require specific knowledge and skills
- Skilled workers are needed for sectors such as information technology and engineering
- Repetitive manual jobs are now done by machine
- Many factories have moved to developing countries

Higher Education: Disadvantages

- A healthy economy needs a wide range of workers
- Some manual workers will always be needed
- A university degree is not necessary for many service professions
- Practical training is more important in some industries
- In the UK, for example, there is currently a shortage of plumbers
- Their services are therefore becoming more and more expensive

Advantage of Home-schooling

- Some parents decide to educate their children at home
- Some families live in isolated areas with poor transport
- Other parents are not satisfied with local schools
- Parents can respond to what their children need and how they learn best
- One-to-one lessons allow much faster progress
- The child can work at his or her own pace
- Discipline problems are avoided by home-schooling

Disadvantages of home-schooling

- Most parents do not have the time to educate their children at home
- One parent would need to give up work
- School subjects are normally taught by up to ten different teachers
- Most parents do not have the necessary knowledge or resources
- Private tutors are expensive
- Children will miss out on the social experience that school offers
- At school, children learn how to get on with each other
- Home-schooled children may lack social skills
- Schools offer a better overall educational experience

Bad Behavior in Schools: Causes

- Bad behavior is due to a lack of structure and discipline
- There are too many children in some classes
- Large classes are difficult to manage
- Many disruptive students come from an unstable family background
- Other parents are too lenient and spoil their children
- Some children are used to getting whatever they want
- Schools can do very little if they are not supported by parents

Bad Behavior in Schools: Solutions

- Schools need a clear code of conduct
- Schools need a clear set of rules about behavior
- They need to create a positive working atmosphere
- Teachers must have the power to punish disruptive students
- Schools should remove difficult children from lessons
- Schools need to work closely with parents
- Discipline could be lacking at home
- Parents must support the school rules
- They should take responsibility for their children's behavior

Corporal Punishment: Opinion

- Corporal Punishment is not a good idea
- Physical punishment is a way of controlling children using fear
- This does not promote trust between adults and children
- Children who are punished physically may become shy or resentful
- Corporal punishment creates an atmosphere of fear and anger

Single Sex Education: Advantages

- Some people believe that male and female students should go to separate schools
- This is often for religious or cultural reasons
- Discipline problems might be avoided by separating boys and girls
- Boys and girls may learn in different ways and have different needs
- Student at single-sex schools often get better exam grades.

Single-sex Education: Disadvantages

- Separating boys and girls is unnecessary
- It is unhealthy in terms of children's social development
- Many coeducational schools are extremely successful
- A mixed-sex environment is more representative of real life
- Coeducational schools provide children with better social skills for adult life

Advantages of Streaming (Grouping Children According to Ability)

- Some schools separate students according to their academic ability
- Teachers can work at the right speed for their students
- Teachers can plan more suitable lessons
- High-level groups may progress faster
- Lower level groups can benefit from a slower pace
- Some teachers and parents support streaming for these reasons

Disadvantages of Streaming

- Grouping by ability may have a negative impact on students
- Children do not want to be seen as less intelligent than others
- Streaming could damage students' self esteem
- They may lose motivation
- Students from wealthier families tend to be better prepared
- Children from poorer families may receive less support from parents
- Mixed ability classes encourage everyone to achieve their potential.

6. Environment

Global Warming

- Gases such as carbon dioxide trap heat from the sun
- This causes global temperatures to rise
- This process is known as the greenhouse effect
- Human activity is a major factor in the rise of the greenhouse gases
- Factories and vehicles produce emissions and exhaust fumes
- Many developing countries are becoming industrialized
- The number of cars on our streets is growing
- Cheap air travel is allowing more people to fly

Effects of Global Warming

- Global warming will have a significant impact on our planet
- Rising temperature will cause melting of the polar ice caps
- Sea levels will rise
- We can expect more extreme weather conditions
- Flooding and droughts may become more common

Impacts of Humans on the Environment

- The increasing world population is putting pressure on natural resources
- Fossil fuels like oil and gas are running out
- We are destroying wildlife habitats
- We have cut down enormous areas of rainforest
- This has led to the extinction of many species of animals and plants

Solutions to Environment Problems

- Governments could introduce laws to limit emissions from factories
- They should invest in renewable energy from solar, wind or water power
- They could impose 'green taxes' on drivers and airlines companies
- Government campaigns should promote recycling
- Natural areas and wild animals should be protected
- Individuals should also try to be greener
- We should take fewer flights abroad for holidays
- We should take public transport rather than driving
- We should choose products with less packaging
- We should recycle as much as possible

Waste/Rubbish

- The amount of waste that we produce has increased
- This problem is a result of our consumer culture
- Products are not made to last
- If something breaks, we throw it away and buy a new one
- Advertisers encourage to buy the newest fashions
- Packaging is an important part of selling
- Most foods are sold in non-biodegradable plastics packaging
- The amount of household waste is growing
- This waste ends up in landfill sites

Litter

- People do not think about the consequences of dropping rubbish
- They assume that somebody is paid to clean the street
- Plastic packaging does not break down easily
- Most of the litter seen on streets is fast food packaging

Recycling and other Solutions

- Companies should make goods that last longer
- They should not use so much packaging
- Governments should be stricter, about waste produced by companies
- They should put legal limits on packaging
- Consumers should avoid buying over-packaged products
- We should recycle and reuse useful materials.
- There are collection banks for glass, paper and plastic bottles
- Households can use several rubbish bins to separate waste
- Recycling saves energy and raw materials.

Nuclear Power: Positives

- There are several benefits to build more nuclear power stations
- Fossil fuel like oil and gas are running out
- Nuclear power is a sustainable energy source
- It can be used to produce electricity without wasting natural resources
- It could replace the use of natural resources like coal, oil or gas
- Nuclear power stations are cleaner than fossil fuel power stations
- They could help to reduce carbon emissions that cause global warming
- The risks of accidents are being reduced

Nuclear Power: Negatives

- Opponents of nuclear power worry about the safety of power stations
- The building of new nuclear power stations is unpopular

- Nobody wants to live near one
- Nuclear waste disposal is a significant problem
- There is currently no way to decontaminate radioactive material
- People worry that terrorists could steal radioactive materials
- It is safer to produce energy from solar, wind or water power.

7. Family

Family size

- Families in many countries are not as large as they used to be
- We tend to live in small nuclear families rather than large extended families
- Parents tend to have fewer children
- Young children are no longer expected to work
- Nowadays both parents often work
- It costs so much to bring children up
- It is more difficult to raise a large family

Working Parents (also see 'Gender' Topic)

- Children and their parents seem to be less close nowadays
- Parents spend less time with their children
- Women traditionally stayed at home to cook, clean and look after children
- Nowadays both parents often work full time
- Children may be left alone, or with nannies or babysitters
- Busy parents have less contact with their children
- Many families no longer eat meals together
- Children spend more time with friends or surfing the Internet

Negative Effects on Children

- The lack of closeness in families can have a negative effect on children
- Many parents have no idea how their children spend their time
- Friends, television and the Internet become the main influence on children's behavior
- Teenagers are influenced by peer pressure
- Some of them join gangs
- Juvenile delinquency is on the increase
- Parents should be more involved with their children's upbringing
- Young people need positive role models

Divorce

- In the past, divorce was unacceptable
- It was considered to be embarrassing for a family
- People stayed together for religious or family reasons
- Divorce is more socially acceptable nowadays
- It has become much more common
- Divorce can be extremely stressful
- Lone parents may face financial difficulties
- Many single parents have to rely on benefits paid by the state

- Divorce can have a negative effect on children
- Children from single-parent families are more likely to get lower grades or drop out of school.
- The rise in divorce rates may be connected to some social problems

Care for Old people

- Caring for elderly people was traditionally the responsibility of families
- Adults had to look after their elderly parents
- A woman's job was to stay at home taking care of her family
- Nowadays, fewer elderly people are looked after by their relatives
- Residential homes provide care for large number of elderly people
- Nursing homes can provide professional medical care
- Some families are unable to look after elderly relatives
- Families tend to be smaller these days, and women often have full-time jobs
- Care homes provide a professional service for senior citizens
- Nurses are better trained than family members

Care for Old People: Opinion

- The best form of care for the elderly depends on the family situation
- It depends on whether family members have the time resources
- We all have a responsibility towards the older people in our society
- Governments should invest money in facilities and training for care workers or social service workers

8. Gender

Gender and Education

- Men and women should have access to the same educational opportunities
- Males and females should be accepted onto courses according to their abilities
- It is wrong to discriminate against students because of their gender
- Gender should be irrelevant in education
- Student's achievements should depend on hard work and individual merit
- In the UK, there are similar numbers of male and female students in higher education

Gender and Work

- Men and women should have access to the same professional opportunities
- Both men and women should be able to pursue a career
- They should earn equal salaries
- They should be employed according to their abilities, qualifications and experience
- Traditionally women have been restricted to certain roles
- They were often employed as secretaries or receptionists
- Nowadays, a range of occupations is available to both sexes
- Career success depends on individual merit

Women's and Men's Roles in the Family

- Some people argue that a mother should not work
- She should stay at home and bring up her children
- The father should be the breadwinner of the family
- Others believe that both parents should share these responsibilities
- Working women can take maternity leave during and after pregnancy
- Many mothers continue to work after this period
- Many fathers and mothers share their parenting and domestic responsibilities
- They contribute equally to childcare, cooking and cleaning
- Some women may have better career prospects than their husbands
- Paternity leave and 'househusbands' are becoming more common
- Traditional gender roles are gradually changing
- Families can divide roles and responsibilities in the most convenient way

9. Genetic Engineering

Positives of Genetic Engineering

- Genetic engineering is the practice of manipulating the genes of an organism
- It is used to produce crops that are more resistant to insects and diseases
- Some genetically modified crops grow more quickly
- Some drugs and vaccines are produced by genetic engineering
- It may become possible to change human's genetic characteristics
- Scientists may use genetic engineering to cure diseases.
- Inherited illnesses would no longer exist
- Genes could be changed before a baby is born
- It could also be possible to clone human organs
- We could all have replacement body part
- Humans could live longer, healthier lives

Negatives of Genetic Engineering

- There are ethical concerns about human genetic engineering
- Parents might want to choose their children's characteristics
- This would be unnatural
- It would be unacceptable in most religions
- Soldiers could be cloned from the genes of the strongest people
- Clones might be used like robots to do certain jobs
- Clones might even be developed just for organ replacements
- Society and human evolution would change completely
- Currently, human genetic engineering is prohibited

Genetically-Modified (GM) Foods: Advantages

- Farmers can produce crops that grow bigger and faster
- Some GM crops are more resistant to disease or insects
- This could be important for food production in developing countries
- Faster growing cereals, fruit and vegetables will mean more profit
- GM foods can be modified to look perfect
- They may be more attractive to customers

Genetically-Modified (GM) Foods: Disadvantages

- There may be risks involved in the genetic engineering of foods.
- GM crops might change whole ecosystems
- Food chains could be broken if crops are resistant to predators
- Organic foods are produced without chemicals or genetic modification
- Organic farming may be slower and more expensive
- However, the environment is not damaged by fertilizers or pesticides.

10. Global Issues

Problems in Developing Countries

- Developing countries face a range of problems
- Standards of healthcare and education are low
- Life expectancy in these countries is usually lower than developed countries
- There is a lack of infrastructure, employment and good quality housing
- Many people are forced to live in poverty
- Food, drinking water and basic medicines are in short supply

How to Help Developing Countries

- The best form of help for developing countries is development aid
- Richer nations can help by investing in long-term projects
- Governments and charities can help by building new houses and schools
- Globalization may also help developing countries
- Multi-national companies can create jobs in developing countries
- On the other hand, many people emigrate to find work in richer countries
- They often send money back home to their families
- This money helps to improve the standard of living in developing countries

Immigration

- Some people move to other countries in search of a better life
- Many immigrants come from less developed countries
- Richer, industrialized countries may offer opportunities for employment
- Free healthcare and schooling are available in some developed countries
- Other people migrate to a foreign country to improve their academic qualifications

Positives of Immigration and Multi-cultural Societies

- From an economic perspective, immigration can be extremely positive
- Many immigrants have skills that are needed in the country they move to
- Immigrants who find work contribute to the economy of their new country
- Many immigrants send money home to help family members
- Immigration also creates cultural diversity
- People of many different nationalities learn to live together
- This can help people to become more open-minded and tolerant

Negatives of Immigration

- Some people believe that immigrants take jobs that should go to local people
- Some immigrant workers work longer hours for less money
- Companies might pay lower salaries to immigrant workers
- Unemployment rates could rise if there are too many immigrants

Opinions about Immigration

- Immigration can help the economy of a country
- It can create multi-cultural societies
- However, immigration needs to be controlled
- In many countries, immigrants need visas or work permit
- Governments should stop companies from exploiting immigrant workers
- Foreign and local workers should have the right to equal pay and conditions

Positives of Globalization

- Business of becoming increasingly international
- Multi-national companies do business across the world
- Companies like MacDonald's can be seen on high streets in most cities
- Goods are produced in one country and sold in many others
- A global economy means free trade between countries
- This can strengthen political relationships
- Globalization can also create opportunities for employment
- It encourages investment in less developed countries
- It could reduce poverty in the developing world

Negatives of Globalization

- Globalization is not always beneficial to everyone
- Companies can move to countries where labour is cheap
- This creates redundancies, or job losses
- Employees cannot be confident that they have stable jobs
- Companies sometimes exploit their employees in developing countries
- Global trade creates more waste and pollution

The Future of Globalization

- There should be global regulations for salaries and working conditions
- Governments should impose laws to protect the environment

11. Government and Society

What Governments Can Do

- Governments provide public services like healthcare and education
- They support people who are living in poverty or unable to work
- Governments raise money by taxing working people
- They can spend money on resources and campaigns
- They can introduce new laws
- They can impose taxes
- They can raise people's awareness of issues (e.g. climate change/healthy eating)
- They can influence people's habits and opinions
- They can create jobs/more job opportunities
- They can regulate the activities of companies such as banks
- They can provide resources for schools
- They are also responsible for the security and well-being of their citizens
- They control armed forces and police forces

Public Services

- Governments pay the salaries of public sector workers like police officers and teachers
- The necessary money is raised by taxing people's income
- Free education and healthcare may be provided by the state
- Some governments control public transport systems and even TV channels
- In other countries, these services are provided by private companies
- Some people believe that competition between private companies is good
- It helps to improve quality while bringing prices down
- Other people think that essential services should be free
- Governments should pay for them

Censorship: Opinion

- Governments can censor what public sees or reads in the media
- To a certain extent censorship is necessary
- We should use censorship to protect children from violent images
- Some computer games involve killing people or committing crimes
- The Internet also needs to be controlled
- Many websites show pornography and violence
- There should be age limits for websites and computers games
- Parents need to take responsibility for checking what their children watch
- It is impossible for governments to control everything we see

Video Cameras in Public Places

- The use of CCTV is becoming widespread
- Video cameras have been installed in many public places
- They are supposed to protect us and deter criminals
- Many people think that this surveillance violates our privacy
- The authorities could build databases with our pictures and identities
- We should not be treated like criminals

Smart Cards: Positives

- Governments will probably introduce a digital identification card system
- Smart cards will have benefits and drawbacks
- They could help to reduce crime
- They could hold personal information, such as DNA
- Digital bank cards could contain fingerprint information
- It would be very difficult for criminals to use a stolen card
- It would be easier for police to identify people and catch criminals

Smart Cards: Negatives

- Many people are worried about losing their privacy
- Governments could store all our personal and medical information
- This information could be used by insurance companies
- Employers could check our health records

People with Disabilities

- People with disabilities should be treated the same as everybody else
- They should have the same rights as other people
- They should have access to the same jobs as other citizens
- Discriminations against disabled people is illegal in many countries
- Ramps and lifts for wheelchairs should be installed in public buildings
- Support teacher can be employed to help children with learning difficulties

12. Guns and Weapons

Why Guns should be Legal

- In some countries, people are allowed to own firearms
- Individuals have the right to protect themselves
- People can use guns in self-defense
- This deters criminals

Why Gun Ownership should be illegal

- There is a risk of accidents with guns
- The number of violent crimes increases when guns are available
- Criminals may be armed
- The police then need to use guns
- Suicide rates have been shown to rise when guns are available
- Guns create violent societies with high murder rates

Why the Police should Use Guns

- Many criminals use weapons
- The threat of a gun can deter criminals
- Police officers can force a criminal to surrender
- It is easier to arrest someone and avoid physical violence
- The police may shoot violent criminals in self defence
- They can protect the public
- They can shoot an escaping criminal who poses a serious danger to the public

Why the Police should not Carry Guns

- There is a risk of accidents and mistakes
- The police might shoot an unarmed criminal or an innocent person
- Accidents can happen in public places
- There are several alternatives to guns (e.g. tear gas, sprays and electric shock weapons)
- Only special police units should use guns

Arm Trade: Positives

- The export of arms, or weapons, is an extremely controversial issue
- Governments of rich, industrialized countries sell arms to each other
- This industry creates jobs and wealth
- The trade of weapons may improve relationships between governments

Arms Trade: Negatives

- Weapons may be used in conflicts and wars

- The supply of arms could be responsible for deaths
- Governments are promoting war in order to make a profit
- Rich countries can influence the politics of other nations

Nuclear Weapons

- Nuclear weapons are capable of destroying whole cities
- A nuclear war between two countries would destroy both countries
- Nuclear weapons are used as a deterrent
- They prevent wars from starting

Nuclear Weapons: Opinion

- Nuclear weapons should be prohibited
- Governments should limit the production of nuclear weapons
- There is a danger of nuclear weapons being obtained by terrorists
- Nuclear weapons cannot be used against terrorist organizations

Armed Forces: Positives

- Armed forces provide security and protection
- They deter military attack by another country
- They can also be used to maintain peace within countries
- They can be used to give the police extra support
- Soldiers are also used to help in emergency situations, such as after a natural disaster

Armed Forces: Negatives

- Armies require a lot of funding from governments
- Too much money is spent on weapons and military technology
- This money could be spent on schools, hospitals and other public services

13. Health

Diet

- The human body requires a balanced diet
- An unhealthy diet can cause various health problems
- Obesity, diabetes and heart disease are on the increase
- Many people nowadays rely on fast food or pre-prepared meals
- These foods often contain too much fat, salt and sugar
- They are cheap to buy and very easy to prepare
- Many young people have grown up on a diet of convenience foods
- Populations in developed countries are increasingly overweight

Exercise

- Regular exercise is essential in maintaining a healthy body
- Exercise burns calories and helps to build healthy bones and muscles
- Doctors advise exercising at least three times a week for 20 minutes
- Most people nowadays lead a sedentary lifestyle
- We tend to walk less and do desk jobs
- Most adults relax by watching television
- Children play video games rather than doing outdoor sports
- In the past, people were more active in their jobs and at home

Government's Role

- Governments have a significant role to play in reducing obesity
- More and more people, including young children are seriously overweight
- They are at risk of heart disease and diabetes
- This situation will increase the burden on hospitals and taxpayers
- Hospitals rely on the government for money and resources
- Governments should promote a healthy diet and regular exercise
- There should be more time for sports on school timetables
- Unhealthy junk food should be banned from school menus
- People need information about what foods contain
- Food packaging must show the food's nutritional content
- The government should recommend eating five portions of fruit and vegetables per day

State Health System: Advantages

- Good healthcare should be available to everyone for free
- State healthcare is paid by the government using money from taxes
- Everyone has access to the same quality of care and treatment
- Private healthcare is unfair because only wealthy people can afford it
- The National Health Service in the UK provides free healthcare for every resident

Private Healthcare: Advantages

- State hospitals are often very large and difficult to run
- Private hospitals have shorter waiting lists for operations and appointments
- Patients can benefit from faster treatment
- Many people prefer to pay for a personal service
- Patients have their own room and more comfortable facilities

Alternative Medicine: Positives

- People are increasingly using alternative medicines to treat illnesses
- For example, acupuncture can be used to treat backache
- Herbal medicines can be used to treat allergies or viruses
- Many patients report positive experiences with these treatments
- Some traditional cures have been used for hundreds of years

Alternative Medicine: Negatives

- Many alternative medicines have not been tested scientifically
- They may have no beneficial effect at all
- They may cause unknown side effects
- People should trust the opinions of qualified doctors
- An illness could get worse without treatment from a doctor

Stress

- Modern lifestyles are increasingly stressful
- People work long hours with strict deadlines
- Our busy lifestyles mean we have less time to relax
- Unemployment is a major cause of stress
- Children may be affected by their parents' relationship problems
- Tests and exams can also cause stress

How to Reduce Stress

- Stress can be reduced by taking regular exercise and eating a healthy diet
- It is also important to get sufficient sleep and make leisure time a priority
- People should work less overtime and take regular holidays
- Schools have started to employ psychologists
- They can offer emotional support to students
- They can help students to cope with exam stress

14. Housing and Architecture

State or Council Housing

- In some countries the government provides state or council housing
- This helps people who cannot afford to buy their own house
- It can be argued that state housing creates dependence on the government
- People should rely on the government to look after them
- People have no incentive to earn money and buy their own home
- Council properties are often made with cheap, poor-quality materials

Old Buildings

- Historic buildings are part of a country's heritage
- They should be protected
- Old buildings are often considered to be works of art
- They give character to cities and attract tourists
- They show us how people lived in the past
- We identify countries by architectural symbols like the pyramids in Egypt
- Governments should spend money on looking after historic buildings
- They need regular repairs and maintenance
- New buildings should be designed to complement them

Modern or Green Buildings

- Modern buildings should be designed to be environmentally friendly
- They should use less energy and produce less waste
- Modern insulation i.e. water, sound and heat covering can make houses more energy-efficient
- Solar and wind power can be used to generate electricity
- Rainwater and waste water can be recycled and used to flush toilets.
- Modern glass buildings take advantage of natural light

15. Language

English as an International Language

- English is widely used around the world
- It is becoming a global second language
- It is the dominant language of technology, science and international business
- International business meetings are regularly held in English
- The most important textbooks and journals are published in English
- The ability to speak English is a necessary skill in the modern world

Negative of English as an International Language

- If one language is dominant, other languages may disappear
- The dominant language brings its own culture
- American culture has become popular around the world
- Other cultures may be damaged
- As an alternative to English, a new global language could be invented
- It would have no nationality or culture attached to it
- This could help to promote international peace and understanding
- Esperanto is an example of a language that was invented with this aim

16. Money

Money and Society

- Society has become increasingly materialistic
- People aspire to earn more money
- They want a bigger house or a better car
- We connect wealth and material possessions with happiness and success
- Brands like Armani or Mercedes are status symbols
- Advertising creates new desires and needs
- It persuades us to buy the latest styles

Positives of Consumerism

- Consumerism creates employment
- It helps to reduce poverty
- It encourages innovation and creativity in business
- We live in a global economy
- We have a better quality of life

Negatives of Consumerism

- Consumerist societies create more waste
- They use more natural resources
- They cause damage to the environment
- Consumerism creates a throw-away culture
- Advertisers tell us who we are and what we want
- Wealth does not lead to happiness
- Materialism causes greed and crime
- We should return to traditional values like sharing

17. Personality

Happiness

- Happiness means different things to different people
- It can be described as a feeling of pleasure or enjoyment
- People enjoy spending time with family and friends
- Hobbies, sports and games can be a source of fun and enjoyment
- Some people see money as a source of happiness
- Other people define happiness as something deeper
- In order to be truly happy it is necessary to live a good life
- We need to feel that we are doing something useful with our lives
- Some people get a sense of achievement from their work
- Others find happiness in bringing up their children
- Religion or a sense of purpose can also be a source of happiness

Success

- People define success in different ways
- Some people get a sense of achievement from raising a family
- For others, success is defined by wealth or status
- We often think of rich and famous people as being successful in life
- Millionaires like Bill Gates are considered to be successful
- They have risen to the top in their chosen professions
- For some, being successful means achieving personal or professional goals
- They see success as the result of hard work
- Success in any field requires long-term planning and effort

Nature or Nurture

- Some people believe that our personalities are determined mainly by genetics
- We inherit our abilities and talents from our parents
- Others think that our education and upbringing are more important
- We develop according to the influences around us
- Our personalities and achievements depend more on nurture than nature
- Many people argue that we control our own destinies
- We can shape our own personalities
- By working hard we can achieve the goal that we put our minds to
- Many successful people are self-made
- We are not limited by our genetic characteristic or upbringing

18. Sport and Leisure

Arguments against Professional or Competitive Sport

- Sport has become a business
- Professional sport encourages people to compete for money
- Many sports stars are only concerned about money and fame
- Some athletes take drugs in order to win at any cost
- Competitors are often selfish and rude
- They are not good role models for children
- All sports should be amateur
- Sports should be leisure activities rather than jobs
- People should do sporting activities for enjoyment and health reasons
- Taking part is more important than winning

Arguments for Professional Sport

- Professional sports are the same as any other business
- Many people are employed in the sports industry
- People should be able to use their talents to earn a salary
- Sports stars entertain millions of people
- Money is necessary to improve facilities and train athletes
- The level of professional sport is much higher than that of amateur sport

Arguments for Competitive Sport

- Competition is a natural instinct in humans
- In daily life we compete to get jobs or the highest grades
- Sports are a safe form of competition
- Competition is healthy because it pushes us to give our best
- Competitors and fans can release energy and aggression
- Supporters of teams feel a sense of belonging to a community

Opinion: Professional Sport Salaries are too high

- Sports professionals earn too much money
- They do not provide a vital service
- Football players, for example, earn enormous salaries by simply kicking a ball
- We could all live happily without professional football
- Life would be difficult without doctors, engineers and other vital professionals.
- Society does not seem to value these professions as highly as professional sport
- Sports salaries should be compatible with the wages most people earn

Opinion: Professional Sport Salaries are fair

- It is fair that the best professional earn a lot of money
- Sport is a multi-million-pound industry
- There is a large audience of sports fans
- Sports on television attract many viewers
- Sports stars have dedicated hours of practice to developing their fitness and skills
- Only the most talented among them will reach the top
- A sports career many only last 10 years
- Sports fans are willing to pay to support their teams

Sports and Politics

- Some people think that sport and politics should remain separate
- Governments are involved in the hosting of sporting events such as the Olympics.
- These events attract investment and create jobs.
- The Olympic Games are an advertisement for the host nation
- They attract huge numbers of visitors and sports fans
- Wealthy countries tend to hold these events
- Developing countries should be given the chance to become hosts

19. Television, Internet, Phones

Positives of Television

- Watching television is a good way to relax
- It is many people's favorite way to wind down after a hard day at work
- Television programs can be entertaining and enjoyable
- Viewers have access to a huge variety of entertainment channels
- Television brings the best comedians, musicians and actors into our homes
- TV programs can also be informative and educational
- News coverage makes the public aware of events around the world
- Documentaries can make learning more interesting

Negatives of Television

- Television is having a negative impact on society
- Some people link violence on television with crime rates in the real world
- Children copy the behavior they see on the screen
- Children are less healthy because they spend less time playing
- Advertisers direct their marketing at children
- Most programs do not require much thought
- Watching TV is a waste of time

Opinions about Television

- Television has many benefits
- However, it can be addictive
- Children should play outside rather than sit in front of a screen all day
- Behavior shown on TV can influence people
- Parents should choose carefully what their children watch
- Children should not be exposed to violence, swearing or sexual images
- Advertising during children's programs should be strictly controlled
- TV companies should make more positive, educational programs

Positives of the Internet

- There are many advantages to using the Internet
- It gives us instant access to information on almost any subject
- Shops and other services are now available online
- People can buy goods and services from the comfort of their homes
- The Internet is starting to replace other forms of entertainment
- It has revolutionized communication
- We can keep in touch by email or instant messenger services
- Video messaging is becoming common for business meetings

Negatives of the internet

- Many websites contain offensive content
- Some sites show violent or sexual images
- Parents find it difficult to control what their children see online
- They do not always know who their children are chatting to
- With so many websites it is difficult to search for good information
- Criminals increasingly use the Internet to steal people's money

Internet Compared to Newspaper and Books

- Newspapers and books are now published online as well as in print
- We can read the news in any language from any country in the world
- It costs nothing to publish or access information on the Internet
- The Internet allows anybody to publish their own writing
- Newspaper articles and books are written by professionals
- Professionals produce better quality writing than amateur
- People still buy newspapers and books because they are portable
- People do not like reading from a screen

Positives of Mobile/Cellular Phones

- The mobile phone is the most popular gadget in today's world
- Mobile phones have revolutionized the way we communicate
- We can stay in touch with family, friends and colleagues wherever we are
- Users can send text messages, surf the Internet, take photos and listen to music
- Mobiles have also become fashion accessories

Negatives of Mobile Phones

- Mobiles phones can be a problem in some public places
- Ringing phones cause disturbance in cinemas and school lessons
- Some people are not aware that others can hear their conversations
- Mobile phones may also interfere with electronic equipment
- Their waves could cause damage to our brains
- Mobile phones can also be a dangerous distraction
- Using a phone while driving reduces the driver's concentration
- Mobile phones are a popular target for thieves

Opinions about Mobile Phones

- The benefits of mobile phones outweigh the drawbacks
- We need to use these phones with care

20. Tourism

Positives of Tourism

- Tourism is a popular leisure activity
- People go on holiday to relax and have fun
- Tourists can experience different cultures
- They can sunbathe on beaches or go sight-seeing
- Travelling abroad opens our minds and broadens our horizon
- We can learn to speak other languages
- The tourist trade is vital for some economies
- It creates employment in services like accommodation, transport and entertainment
- Some areas rely on tourism for their income
- Tourists spend money
- Tourism attracts investment from multi-national companies
- It helps to improve the standard of living
- Low-cost airlines are making it cheaper to travel abroad

Negative Effects of Tourism

- Tourism can have a negative effect on the natural environment
- The building of facilities and infrastructure can destroy the habitat of wild animals
- Beautiful beaches are spoilt by the building of hotels
- Tourism creates pollution and waste
- It puts pressure on local resources
- Local traditional and cultures may be endangered
- A rise in the cost of living affects local people
- The price of goods, services and housing may increase significantly

The Future of Tourism

- Government should introduce laws to protect natural environments and local cultures
- Tourism should have a low impact on wildlife
- Renewable resources like solar or water power should be used
- Waste should be recycled
- Local businesses such as farms should be supported

21. Traditional vs. Modern

Losing Traditional Skills

- Because of industrialization and global trade, many traditions have disappeared
- Global advertising encourages everyone to buy the same products
- Most products are now made in factories
- Machinery has replaced skilled human labor
- Factory work is boring and leaves people feeling unfulfilled
- Goods are produced very quickly and in large numbers
- Products are cheaper, which means that more people can buy them

Examples

- Clothes are mass produced in standard sizes
- People wear similar clothes, rather than traditional costumes
- Jeans and T-shirt are now worn throughout the world
- Historic buildings took skilled craftsmen years to build
- Modern concrete, steel and glass buildings are built in only weeks or months
- There are fewer people who can create hand-made goods

Traditional Customs

- Traditional customs are still important during weddings and religious festivals
- People wear traditional costumes and eat special ethnic foods
- It is important to maintain our different cultural identities
- We should celebrate festivals, teach traditional skills and protect historic places

22. Transport

Traffic Problems

- Traffic congestion is caused by commuters travelling to work
- Most people live in the suburbs outside city center
- Commuters tend to travel at the same time of day
- They tend to travel alone
- Cars and road space are not used efficiently
- This causes traffic jams during the rush hour

Traffic Solutions

- In order to reduce traffic we should change our working habits
- The internet can now be used to connect people
- More people could work from home
- Meetings can be held as video conferences
- Workers could be given flexible timetables
- Another solution would be to tax drivers
- Workers should share their cars and travel together
- In London, for example, there is a congestion charge
- This helps to raise money for better public transport
- Public transport needs to be reliable and efficient

Positives of Public Transport

- We need to reduce our dependence on cars
- Parking a car can be extremely difficult in big cities
- Well-designed transport systems are comfortable and convenient
- Modern public transport can be fast and cheap
- Public transport can help to reduce pollution in cities
- Investment in buses and trains will ease traffic congestion
- Buses can be given special lanes to avoid traffic

Negatives of Public Transport

- Public transport is often slow and unreliable
- Metro systems and trains are often dirty and crowded
- People feel like sardines in a can
- Cars are much more comfortable

Road Safety

- Driving while tired or drunk is extremely dangerous
- Mobile phones can be a dangerous distraction for drivers

- They draw the driver's attention away from the road
- The use of phones while driving has been banned in many countries
- Punishments are becoming stricter
- Television campaigns are used to remind people to drive safely
- Speed cameras have become more common
- Speed bumps are another form of traffic calming
- Many streets are designed with the aim of slowing traffic down

23. Water

Importance of Clean Water

- Water is as necessary natural resource
- Humans need access to clean, safe drinking water in order to live
- Poor water quality is a major cause of disease and death in some countries
- Water usually needs to be treated before we can drink it
- Developing countries often lack the means to treat and supply water to citizens
- Developed countries tend to have much better sanitation
- Citizens have access to clean tap water
- Drinking water is not contaminated by sewage or waste water
- The supply of clean water would improve public health in many developing countries

Water Supply

- Urban life would be impossible without water supply systems
- These systems are massive engineering projects
- Many professionals are involved in their planning, construction and maintenance
- The supply and distribution of water are major concerns
- Water is becoming scarce in some countries
- Areas that suffer droughts often need to import water
- As populations grow, there is more pressure on water supplies
- This could lead to a water crisis

Water and Politics

- The supply of water is also an important political issue
- Huge amounts of water are needed for agriculture and industry
- The irrigation of crops accounts for a large proportions of water use
- A water crisis could lead to political conflicts or even wars

Argument: Water should be Free

- Some people believe that water should be free for everyone
- Governments should supply water to all homes at no cost
- Private companies should not be allowed to profit from this natural resource
- Money from taxes can be used to pay for water supply systems

Argument: Water should not be Free

- If water is free, people take it for granted
- They do not think about how much water they waste
- They leave taps running while washing or brushing their teeth
- If we have to pay for water, we will use it more responsibly
- Water supply systems are extremely expensive
- Investment is needed to maintain and improve them
- Private companies may provide a better service than governments
- If they provide an efficient service, they will make more money
- They will repair leaks to avoid losing money

Bottled Water: Opinions

- Some people carry bottles of water wherever they go
- For example, they take bottles of water to work or to the gym
- They believe that bottled water is healthier than tap water
- They also argue that it tastes better
- However, other people believe that we should consume less bottled water
- Plastic water bottles add to litter and waste problems
- Companies should not be able to make a profit from water
- It is unethical to make money by selling packaged water
- There is no difference in quality between bottled and tap water

24. Work

The Benefits of Staying in the Same Job for Life

- Employees have a stable career with one employer
- They have a good pension and health insurance
- Their salaries gradually increase
- They may be promoted within the organization
- They demonstrate loyalty
- Experienced staff can be trusted with more responsibility
- They become part of a team
- There is a clearly-defined path for development

The Benefits of not Staying in the Same Job

- People often change jobs in order to further their career
- Another company may offer a promotion or a higher salary
- People who change jobs can gain more experience
- They can learn different skills
- Changing jobs is interesting and challenging
- People can retrain in a different occupation
- In a fast-changing world, workers need to be flexible
- People need to develop a wider range of experience and skills

Self-Employment

- Nowadays, it is easy to set up a company
- The internet provides a global marketplace
- Self-employment offers greater freedom than working for a company
- However, there are risks to starting a new business
- Self-employed people may face financial difficulties
- Many businesses fail to make a profit
- There is less stability in self-employment
- There are no benefits like pensions, sick pay and holiday pay
- Self-employment involves hard work, long hours and total responsibility

Unemployment

- Unemployment is a big problem for individuals, communities and the society
- Some people are unable to find a job
- They may not have the sufficient level of education or qualifications
- They may find themselves homeless
- Unemployment causes frustration and stress
- Jobless people may become involved in crime as a means to get money
- The unemployed need career advice

- Governments need to provide vocational courses and retraining

Unemployment Benefits: Positives

- Some governments pay unemployment benefits in order to help jobless people
- Unemployed people need financial support until they find a new job
- By claiming benefits, they can continue to pay for their major life expenses
- The benefits system helps to reduce poverty, homelessness and crime

Unemployment Benefits: Negatives

- Some people claim benefits rather than working
- They become dependent on the government
- They are not motivated to find a job
- The benefits system is a burden on tax payers
- All citizens should work to make a living and support themselves
- Receiving benefits affects people's self-esteem

Work/Life Balance

- It is important to achieve a balance between work time and leisure or family time
- Too much work can result in stress and poor health
- Workaholics may neglect their families and friends
- People need to take regular holidays
- Companies should expect employees to work overtime
- Nowadays, many people work part-time or have flexible working hours
- Technology allows people to work from home, telecommuting is possible
- Many companies provide childcare facilities
- Striking a balance between a good life and a good work can raise job satisfaction
- Happy, healthy workers are more productive

Technology and Work

- The internet, fax and mobile phone technologies have revolutionized working life
- Workers can communicate via email, online networks and video conferencing
- Technology can connect workers in different countries from around the world
- It gives people more freedom
- It can also save time, energy and money
- Some people believe that offices could disappear in the future
- Virtual online offices may replace them

Child Labor

- In some countries, children are exploited
- They do boring and repetitive jobs for very low pay
- Children are often used in agriculture and factory work
- The employment of children is prohibited in other countries
- Many people think that children should be free to enjoy their childhood
- Governments should make education a priority
- They should build new schools
- They should supply the necessary resources to educate children
- Children need to be given the knowledge and skills for adult life