

O‘qish va yozish amaliyoti

Essay Questions for C1 students

1. It is becoming increasingly popular to have a year off between finishing school and going to university. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?
2. Some people think that it would be better for large companies and industry to move to regional areas outside large urban centers. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?
3. With the rise of e-books comes the decline in paper books. Some people see this as a good step forward while others do not. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?
4. The rise of convenience foods has helped people keep up with the speed of the modern life style. What are the advantages of this trend? Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?
5. There seems to be an increasing trend towards assessing students through exams rather than continual assessment. What are the advantages and disadvantages of exams as a form of assessment?
6. Space exploration costs tax payers an exorbitant amount of money each year. What are the advantages and disadvantages of spending money on space exploration?
7. Many elderly people are no longer looked after by their families but are put in care homes or nursing homes. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?
8. It is often considered that change is more beneficial to people than trying to avoid it and have everything remain the same. Do you think the advantages of change outweigh the disadvantages?
9. It is considered that New Year's Day celebration can have problematic consequences for one's health. What are the advantages and disadvantages of New Year's Day celebration?

10. What are the advantages and disadvantages of gift exchange?
11. New technologies have changed the way children spend their free time. Do you think the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?
12. It is important for people to take risks, in both their professional lives. Do the advantages of taking these risks outweigh the disadvantages?
13. People these days watch TV, films and other programmes alone rather than with other people. Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?
14. In the future all cars, buses and trucks will be driverless. The only people travelling inside these vehicles will be passengers. Do you think the advantages of driverless vehicles outweigh the disadvantages?
15. Machines are taking over more and more jobs previously done by humans. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages and give your own opinion.
16. In many workplaces, online communication is now more common than face to face meetings. Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?
17. Some parents buy their children a large number of toys to play with. What are the advantages and disadvantages of giving children a large number of toys?
18. Mobile phones have brought many benefits, but they have also had negative effects. Do the disadvantages of having mobile phones outweigh the advantages?
19. These days, many people move to cities for job opportunities. However, some people choose to live in the countryside. Do the advantages of living away from cities outweigh the disadvantages?
20. Nowadays we see more advertisements on the streets and on our TV screens. Do the advantages of seeing more advertisements outweigh the disadvantages?

Essay Questions for B2 students

1. Always telling the truth is the most important consideration in any relationship between people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
2. Schools should focus on academic success and passing examinations. Skills such as cookery, dressmaking and woodworking should not be taught at school as it is better to learn these from family. To that extent do you agree or disagree?
3. Some people feel that the private lives of celebrities should not be openly shared by the media. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
4. Caring for children is probably the most important job in any society. Because of this, all mothers and fathers should be required to take a course that prepares them to be good parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?
5. More and more people are becoming seriously overweight. Some people think a solution can be to increase the price of fattening foods. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
6. The working week should be shorter and workers should have a longer weekend. Do you agree or disagree?

Essay Questions for B1 students

1. A big salary is much more important than job satisfaction. Do you agree or disagree?
2. Nowadays, more people move away from their friends and families for work. Do advantages outweigh the disadvantages?
3. It is important for everyone, including young people, to save money for their future. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
4. Friendships that take place online are not as meaningful as those where people meet each other face to face. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

READING QUESTIONS

For C1 level:

IELTS Reading Tasks (Example 2)

Sentence endings

► A Global Warning:

Up to 50% of animal and plant species on the planet, beginning with those living in fragile environments such as coral reefs, tropical rainforest and alpine tundra, will become extinct. Climate change will eventually affect every ecosystem on the planet as temperatures increase, rainforest is destroyed and sea levels rise, leading to flooding and drought. The impact on ecosystems will be so dramatic that they will never recover from the damage caused by rising temperatures. Does all this sound too depressing even to contemplate? Well, don't despair: if you are optimistic by nature, there are two approaches to tackling the problem of global warming you could take.

The first approach is to begin to act locally to do your bit to reduce CO2 emissions and minimise pollution, at the same time hoping that governments will listen to the recommendations of the Stern Review, which, while recognising the seriousness of the threat, clearly indicates that if action is taken now, the right balance between economic growth and environmental conservation may be achieved. The Report is significant, both in its scope and its depth, and it does offer a positive outcome that allows economic growth to continue—so perhaps this will convince governments to take the action necessary to save the planet from environmental and economic disaster.

The second approach you could take, if you wish to remain optimistic, is to disregard the warnings of Al Gore, the Stern Review team and other like-minded harbingers of doom, and instead opt for the much more positive and less dramatic stance taken by a very different group of scientists and economists. With its nominal leader the Danish economist, Bjorn Lomborg, the Omgivelse group believes that many of the predictions of the environmentalists are hugely exaggerated. Like Stern, Lomborg takes a pragmatic economic approach to the environmental situation and argues for investment in environmental research and development, rather than 'quick-fix' measures that would not, he claims, solve the problem. 'With significantly less investment than that recommended in the Kyoto Accord or by the Stern Review Report, Lomborg believes **Example** the planet can be saved.

Complete each of the following statements, 1-3 with the best ending, A - H, from the list of endings below.

Write the correct letters, A - H, next to Questions 13 -15.

Example Answer

Lomborg believes that we can ^E

- 1 The Stern Review points out that it is not too late
- 2 More optimistic commentators like Bjorn Lomborg believe that politicians and scientists need
- 3 Bjorn Lomborg argues that short-term measures will not help

► **Changes in international Commerce** (How ethics and fair trade can make a difference)

Today, fixing a fair price remains at the centre of international commerce. When we look at the deal from the point of view of the seller, market research must determine the price at which the goods will be sold. This may vary greatly from country to country and people are often surprised to see exactly the same item for sale at two or three times the price it sells for in another country. Taxation and local government controls are sometimes behind this, but often it comes down to the fact that people in poor countries simply cannot afford to pay the same amount of money as those in rich countries. These are the things a seller has to bear in mind when preparing a price list for goods in each country.

In most cases, the purpose of setting a suitable price is to sell the maximum number of units. Usually, this is the way to guarantee the biggest profit. One exception is in the selling of luxury or specialist goods. These are often goods for which there is a limited market. Here, slightly different rules apply because the profit margin (the amount of money a producer makes on each item) is much higher... At least, that was the case until relatively recently when, to the great surprise of many, companies started trading without profit as their main objective. Ethical trade began as an attempt to cause as little damage as possible to the producers of raw materials and manufactured goods in poor countries. This movement put pressure on the industry to see to it that working conditions and human rights were not damaged by the need for poorer people to produce goods. In short, it drew to the world's attention the fact that many poor people were being exploited by big businesses in their drive to make more profit.

There have been many examples throughout the developing world where local producers were forced by economic pressure to supply cash crops such as tea, coffee and cotton to major industries. These people are frequently not in a position to fix their prices, and are often forced by market conditions to sell for a price too low to support the producers and their community. Worse still, while the agricultural land is given over to cash crops, it robs the local people of the ability to grow their own food. In time, through over-production, the land becomes spent and infertile, leading to poverty, starvation, and sometimes the destruction of the whole community.

Classify the following as being a result of

A fair trade policies

B ethical trade policies

C a country being poor

For B2 level:

► **Musical instruments reclassified**

The name chordophones is used for instruments with strings that produce a sound when caused to vibrate. Further classification is based on body shape and on how vibrations are induced. There are five basic types: bows, lyres, harps, lutes and zithers. The simplest: musical bows have a single string attached to each end of a flexible stick; others have resonators to amplify the sound. Lyres, common in ancient times, have a four-sided frame consisting of a soundbox, two arms and a crossbar. The plucked strings run from the front of the soundbox to the crossbar. Harps are basically triangular in shape, with strings attached to a soundbox and the instruments' neck'.

Classified as lutes are all instruments with strings that run from the base of a resonating 'belly' up and along the full length of an attached neck. This sub-group is further divided into plucked lutes (round-or flat-- or flat-backed), and bowed lutes (including folk fiddles and violins). The fifth type, zithers, have swings running the entire length of the body and are subdivided into simple zithers (stick, raft, tube or trough-shaped), long zithers (from the Far East), plucked zithers (such as the psaltery and harpsichord), and struck zithers (including the dulcimer and piano).

Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each space, complete the chart below.

► **The Birth of Scientific English**

England was one of the first countries where scientists adopted and publicised Copernican ideas with enthusiasm. Some of these scholars, including two with interests in language - John Wall's and John Wilkins - helped Found the Royal Society in 1660 in order to promote empirical scientific research. Across Europe similar academies and societies arose, creating new national traditions of science. In the initial stages of the scientific revolution, most publications in the national languages were popular works, encyclopaedias, educational textbooks and translations. Original science was not done in English until the second half of the 17th century. For example, Newton published his mathematical treatise, known as the Principia, in Latin, but published his later work on the properties of light - Opticks - in English. There were several reasons why original science continued to be written in Latin. The first was simply a matter of audience. Latin was suitable for an international audience of scholars, whereas English reached a socially wider, but more local, audience. Hence, popular science was written in English.

Complete the table. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

For B1 level:

IELTS Reading Tasks (Example 8)

Flowchart completion

► **Tea Tree Oil** : Contrary to initial assumptions, tea tree oil is not taken from the sap of the tree. It is, in fact, derived from the 'fat' of the tree. Because these trees grow in an area of Australia where climatic conditions vary greatly, they fortify themselves by storing up essential nutrients in small nodules found in their leaves and stems. In the past, the leaves and stems were cut and placed in crude containers of water. Building a fire under the containers would heat the water, producing steam, which made the nodules burst, thus releasing the oil into the water. Through a primitive system of gravity separation, the oil would flow into a collection vat while the water would be released to the ground. The net result would be pure, unadulterated tea tree oil.

The diagram below shows how tea tree oil was extracted before the introduction of modern techniques.

Choose **ONE or TWO words** from the passage for each answer.

IELTS Reading Tasks (Example 9)

Flowchart completion

► **Nurturing talent within the family**

What do we mean by being 'talented' or 'gifted'? The most obvious way is to look at the work someone does and if they are capable of significant success, label them as talented. The purely quantitative route - 'percentage definition' - looks not at individuals, but at simple percentages, such as the top five per cent of the population, and labels them - by definition - as gifted. This definition has fallen from favour, eclipsed by the advent of IQ tests, favoured by luminaries such as Professor Hans Eysenck, where a series of written or verbal tests of general intelligence leads to a score of intelligence.

The IQ test has been eclipsed in turn. Most people studying intelligence and creativity in the new millennium now prefer a broader definition, using a multifaceted approach where talents in many areas are recognised rather than purely concentrating on academic achievement. If we are therefore assuming that talented, creative or gifted individuals may need to be assessed across a range of abilities, does this mean intelligence can run in families as a genetic or inherited tendency? Mental dysfunction - such as schizophrenia - can, so is an efficient mental capacity passed on from parent to child?

Complete the notes, which show how the approaches to defining 'talent' have changed.

Choose **ONE or TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.