

Notes for Writting

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1 Hot Topics

1.1 Life

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

In twenty years people will spend less time cooking and preparing for food.

I agree.

- (a) People have to spend more time on their work every day.
- (b) The development of catering industry enables people to enjoy food without having to cook by themselves.

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

People spend too much money on their pets even though there can be other good ways to spend money .

I agree.

- (a) The money spent on pets could help those people who are still under famine and poverty.
- (b) The money spent on pets could be donated to those people who have diseases.
- (c) The money spent on pets could be donated to control the environmental issues.

I disagree.

- (a) pets are crucial to some special groups like old people
- (b) pets can bring happiness and laugh to the host
- (c) pets enable people to cultivate the sense of responsibility and love

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

Children can benefit in important ways from taking care of animal pets.

I agree.

- (a) pets can bring happiness and laugh to children
- (b) taking care of pets can help children develop responsibility

4. Some people always follow their dreams even if the dreams are ambitious. Some think we should focus on achieving realistic goals. Which do you think is better ?

Ambitious dreams.

- (a) ambitious dreams lead people to a better and more satisfying life
- (b) ambitious dreams motivate people to obtain progress in a long time
- (c) challenging goals propel our society to move forward

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

It is better for people to have friends who are intelligent than to have friends who have a good sense of humor.

I disagree.

- (a) having humorous friends helps reduce the pressure in our life
- (b) having humorous friends may enlarge our social circle

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

In order to succeed, it is better to be like others rather than different from everybody else .

I disagree.

- (a) being different from others brings creativity and innovation
- (b) being different from others helps people find the most suitable way for themselves

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

It is as important for order people to study or learn new things as it is for younger people.

I agree.

- (a) learning new things shortens the generation gap between older people and younger people
- (b) learning new things plays an important role in practicing the thinking of the old and is beneficial for their health
- (c)

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

In the past people were more friendly than they are today.

I agree.

- (a) the quickening pace of life and busy work make people less friendly in daily life
- (b) the fierce competition makes people less friendly in their work
- (c) modern technology leads to the callousness of modern people

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

The advice from grandparents has no use for their grandchildren because the world changed a lot during the past 50 years.

I disagree.

- (a) the advice from grandparents works well when children run into frustrations in life
- (b) grandparents' suggestions are really worth considering in terms of getting on with people

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

It is often not a good thing to move to a new city or a new county because you will lose old friends.

I disagree.

- (a) moving to a new city or a new county will not lose old friends because of modern technology
- (b) moving to a new city or a new county offers us opportunity to make new friends

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

Students should take at least a year to work or travel before beginning collage.

I agree.

- (a) A gap year to work or travel helps students discover what they truly love and prepares them for the future study
- (b) A gap year to work or travel enables students to cultivate some essential personalities and to know more about the society
- (c)

12. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Although science and technology will continue to improve, the most significant improvement for the quality of people's lives has already taken place.

I disagree.

- (a) Big cities are still plagued by traffic jams.
- (b) the environmental degradation is aggravated
- (c) there is a decreasing level of communication and trust between people

13. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The ability to maintain a small number of friends for a long time is more important to happiness than the ability to make new friends easily.

Both are important.

- (a) Old friends can provide more effective assistance.
- (b) New friends can broaden our horizons and bring fun to our life.

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

As modern life becomes more complex, it is essential for young people to have the ability to plan and organize.

I agree.

- (a) To plan and organize helps young people to have a clear goal and avoid arbitrary and impulsive decisions
- (b) To plan and organize helps young people to make full use of all the resources

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

In the modern world, we should never be impolite to another person.

I agree.

- (a) in family, being polite contributes to a harmonious family life
- (b) in workplace, being polite facilitates cooperation among workers
- (c) in social life, being polite enables people to make more friends

I disagree.

- (a) under some certain circumstances, it is necessary to ignore politeness

- (b) when facing criminals, the police may not be polite
16. Some people prefer to buy technological devices as soon as they are available on the market, while other people prefer to wait. Which do you prefer?
- I prefer to wait.
- (a) it will cost too much money if we buy a technological device as soon as it is available
 - (b) new products always have some bugs or deficiency in function
 - (c) new products lack users' feedbacks
17. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
Parents should allow children to make mistakes and let them learn from their own mistakes.
- I agree.
- (a) making mistakes and then learning from them helps children to accumulate valuable experience
 - (b) making mistakes and then learning from them helps children cultivate a good personality
18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
The way a person dresses is a good indication of his or her personality or character.
- I disagree.
- (a) the clothes a person wears may not be chosen by himself/herself
 - (b) people, especially young people, are easy to be influenced by the fashion and the majority
19. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
People will feel happier if they have fewer possessions.
- I agree.
- (a) they do not have to manage too many things, which will make their lives easier and happier
 - (b) they will not have the pressure about the loss of possessions
- I disagree.
- (a) more possessions can improve people's living conditions
 - (b) more possessions can raise one's social status
 - (c) more possessions help people realize their dreams
20. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
Nowadays, neighbors depend on each other less than the people in the past.
- I agree.
- (a) the quickening pace of life and busy work make people communicate less with their neighbors
 - (b) the development of science and technology makes people depend less on their neighbors
 - (c) the style of modern buildings keeps people from communicating with neighbors

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

People who keep their room neat and organized are more likely to be successful in the future.

I agree.

- (a) keeping one's room clean and organized brings an effective daily life
- (b) keeping one's room clean and organized helps a person develop patience
- (c) keeping one's room clean and organized helps a person cultivate a habit of emphasizing details

1.2 Education

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

All university students should be required to take basic science courses even if it is not the field of their study.

I agree.

- (a) Basic science courses help university students know common sense about how the world works.
- (b) Basic science courses help develop students' logic thinking
- (c) Basic knowledge learnt in science courses could be useful in their daily life.

I disagree.

- (a) Basic science courses may be not useful for some students
- (b) Taking basic science courses may interfere with the major courses of the students
- (c) Taking basic science courses may occupy students' time used for social activities

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

University students should be required to take history courses no matter what field they study.

I agree.

- (a) History courses helps students have a better understanding of the society as well as the world
- (b) History courses help students develop the ability of critical thinking
- (c) History course can bring a sense of national pride and belonging

I disagree.

- (a) History courses would put more academic pressure on students
- (b) A required history course would lead to unnecessary cost for parents and students

3. Some people think that it is an important part of a child's education to go on a field trip (for example, museums), other people think a child's time is better spent learning in a classroom at school. Which do you think is better?

going on field trips

- (a) going on field trips broadens children's horizons
 - (b) going on field trips enables the students to study actively and positively
 - (c) going on field trips
4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 Teachers should be paid at least as much doctors, lawyers or business leaders are paid.
- I agree.**
- (a) high salary attracts more outstanding professionals to work as teachers
 - (b) high salary makes teachers more enthusiastic with their job
5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 These days children spend more time in doing homework or participating in organized activities related to school or sports. However, they should be given more time to do whatever they want.
- I disagree.**
- (a) spending time on homework and relative activities ensures the effectiveness of children's spare time
 - (b) spending time on homework and relative activities provides students with opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge to practice
6. Which is better for children's education: 9-month study and 3 -month break or 3-month study and 1-month break?
- 3-month study and 1-month break**
- (a) the 3-month study and 1-month break mode is helpful for students to adjust between coursework and rest
 - (b) the 3-month study and 1-month break mode helps teachers dynamically update their knowledge based on feedback of students from the previous quarter
7. Which one is the most important for teacher of high school:
- (a) The ability to help students plan for their future
 - (b) The ability to find the students who need help most and help them
 - (c) Teach students how to learn outside the classroom
- The ability to find the students who need help most and help them**
- (a) Helping students solve their problems could improve students' interest in studying
 - (b) Helping students solve their problems can improve the education quality of the school
8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 All school teachers should take courses every five years to update their knowledge.
- I agree.**
- (a) taking courses every five years can help teachers catch up with the updated information
 - (b) taking courses every five years can help teachers effectively design the class
 - (c) updating knowledge has positive effect on teachers' personal development

1.3 Job

1. When you want to discuss things with other people? Which one do you prefer? Use emails and text-message or telephone and voice message.

telephone and voice message.

- (a) Telephone and voice message offer quick response
- (b) Discussions through telephone and voice message are more effective

e-mails and text-message.

- (a) E-mails and text-message are more convenient.
- (b) E-mails and text-message are easier to be recorded.
- (c) E-mails and text-message are more accurate.

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

It is better for colleagues or classmates to communicate in person than through emails in order to do a project.

communicate in person.

- (a) Communicate in person is more effective than emails.
- (b) Communicate in person can receive instant responses and is thus quicker than emails.

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

It is better to finish a project completely and then do another project than to do two or more projects at the same time.

I agree.

- (a) People will concentrate more attention when focusing on the same projects.
- (b) completing one project after another gives people a sense of achievement
- (c) It will foster the ability to arrange the priority of various projects and make the right decision.

I disagree.

- (a) Doing two or several projects at the same time can improve working efficiency.
- (b) It can exercise people's ability of working under huge pressure.

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

It is important to have rules about the types of clothing that people are allowed to wear at work and at school.

I agree.

- (a) restricting the types of clothing makes employees feel in unity and helps create a unified work environment
- (b) restricting the types of clothing can enhance the image of a company or at a school
- (c) restricting the types of clothing can keeping up with the Joneses

I disagree.

- (a) Uniforms of working places or schools destroy the individuality of people
- (b) The rules about the types of clothes would not be helpful to create a relaxing and vivid mood for studying or working.

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

People who develop many different skills are more successful than people who focus on one skill.

I agree.

- (a) More skills can help people win more opportunities to get promoted.
- (b) More skills enables people to make more friends and to build more connections.

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

An effective leader should try to make others feel that they have been part of making a decision.

I agree.

- (a) Making others take part in making a decision can improve and perfect the decision
- (b) Making others take part in making a decision can uplift employees' sense of responsibility and enhance team cohesion
- (c) Making others take part in making a decision can raise work efficiency and avoid digressions.

1.4 Politics

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

In order to attract more tourists, government should improve the safety by hiring more police rather than improve the appearance by improving the appearance by improving the old building and streets .

I disagree.

- (a) improving old buildings helps preserve old culture
- (b) improving the streets makes it convenient for tourists

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

It is waste of money for government to spend money on space travel or space exploration.

I disagree.

- (a) space exploration might bring benefits for us to search for new energy resource
- (b) space exploration aims to improve the level of technology

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

It's important for the governments to provide money for things that are beautiful and not just for things that are practical.

I agree.

- (a) beautiful things could help release the working pressure and enhance the efficiency of work
- (b) artist exhibitions could improve the taste and civilization of people and make the society more harmonious

1.5 Culture & Entertainment & Leisure

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

Playing sports teaches people important lessons about life.

I agree.

- (a) sports require people to try their best in what they are doing
- (b) sports teach people to follow the rules in a competition
- (c) some group sports help us learn team work from an early age

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

Movies and TV programs have more negative effects than positive effects on behaviors of young people.

I agree.

- (a) TV viewing takes away time from concentrating on academic study
- (b) Young people are copying violence in movies and TV

I disagree.

- (a) Movies and TV programs are excellent ways for teenagers to learn about the outside world
- (b) Movies and TV programs teach the young many valuable lessons in a more interesting way

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

It's better to relax by watching a movie or reading a book than doing physical exercise.

I disagree.

- (a) physical exercise contributes to people's health
- (b) physical exercise helps people develop the spirit of cooperation
- (c) doing physical exercise offers opportunity to make more friends

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

Movies and TV programs made in your country are more interesting comparing to movies and programs made in other countries.

I agree.

- (a) the familiar language and cultural background makes movies made in my country more interesting
- (b) the advanced film technology in my country makes movies more interesting

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

In 20 years from now on, students will not use printed books any more.

I agree.

- (a) electronic books are more convenient than printed books
- (b) electronic books are less expensive than printed books
- (c) electronic books are more environment-friendly than printed books

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

It is more fun to see a movie in a cinema(theater) with other people than see a movie at home.

I agree.

- (a) seeing a movie in a cinema is more immersive and enjoyable
- (b) seeing a movie in a cinema offers us chances to share our emotions with others

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

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

I disagree.

- (a) comedies and cartoons can make people get relaxed after a whole day's study and work
- (b) science fictions provides people with creativity as well as imagination
- (c) scary movies allows people to experience the excitement of horror under a safe circumstance

1.6 Commercial Advertising

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

For any business to be successful, it must spend a lot of money on advertising.

I disagree.

- (a) advertising may lead to unhappiness and unsatisfactory for consumers
- (b) quality and reputation are more important for business to be successful

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

Today people cannot buy products based on information in the advertisements because advertisements are less honest than before.

I disagree.

- (a) advertising provides necessary information for consumers
- (b) people now are more scrupulous when deciding what to buy
- (c) governments are enacting relevant laws to regulate advertisement behaviors

1.7 Environment & Health

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

Some agriculture methods damage the environment, but providing the food for the increasing number of population is more important than protecting the environment.

I disagree.

- (a) protecting the environment can optimize our living environment
- (b) protecting the environment can realize the sustainable development of natural resources
- (c) protecting the environment is also beneficial for our future generations

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

To increase economic growth, the government should ignore environmental concerns.

I disagree.

- (a) protecting the environment can optimize our living environment
- (b) protecting the environment can realize the sustainable development of natural resources
- (c) protecting the environment is also beneficial for our future generations

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

The food we eat today is much healthier than in the past.

I disagree.

- (a) The overuse of pesticides and fertilizers makes food today not healthy
- (b) The widespread junk food makes foods today not healthy
- (c) The food additives make food today not healthy

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

Even though many people from different countries care about environment problems (pollution and global warming), the environmental situation can not be improved in the future.

I disagree.

- (a) the air pollution and global warming can be improved by reducing the number of vehicles and using clean energy
- (b) the water contamination can be improved by regulating the factories
- (c) the solid waste pollution can be improved by garbage classification

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

It is important for government to protect wild animals and areas for the future generation.

I agree.

- (a) protecting wild animals and areas is essential for ecological balance
- (b) protecting wild animals and areas may enable our future generation to have a better understand of the nature

2 Sample Essays

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

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

Use specific reasons and examples support your answer.

Ideas from the flowing:

- (a) education
- (b) lifestyle
- (c) culture background
- (d) personality
- (e) technology
- (f) environment

Structure as the flowing:

- (a) paragraph 1st: show your opinions
- (b) paragraph 2nd: In the first place, reason 1, why 1, example 1, summary 1.
- (c) paragraph 3rd: Furthermore, reason 2, why 2, example 2, summary 2.
- (d) paragraph 4th: In conclusion, show the above opinions again, due to / because reason 1 & reason 2.

I agree.

- (a) there will be other types of transportation tools in our society: subway, mobility scooter
- (b) government will enact some laws and regulations to limit the number of cars: environmental contamination
- (c) people in twenty years will focus more on environmental protection

Sample Essay:

The invention of automobiles has ended the time of horse and cart and embarked on the new era for people's mobility. With the help of cars, people could travel to farther places and move around easily. However, the booming of autos seems to be ended due to environmental risks, energy crisis as well as serious traffic congestions. Therefore, I note that in 20 years there will be fewer cars.

First and foremost, the number of cars will shrink in the future because of the serious air pollution. Air pollution has become one of the greatest headaches for human beings, as it has been reported that an increasing number of people living in cities suffer from the lung cancer, which is closely related the wasted gases from vehicles. According to the statistics from the municipal government of Beijing, the past decade has witnessed the jumping number of cars, about 20 million cars in the city. Surprisingly enough, the number of victims of lung illnesses has also rocketed by 40 percent. In order to clean the air, the government of Beijing has taken some measures to address the problem, such as limiting the number of cars. In the year of 2014, the government has reduced the number of cars by 10 percent. If this goes on, there would be fewer cars in cities with the purpose of improving the air quality.

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

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

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

Mar. 7th, 2020