



### Эссе №1. Some people say that fast food has a bad effect on our health

Fast food restaurants like McDonald's serve millions of people in more than 100 countries each day. Fast food is very popular, especially among teenagers. Some people like eating such food, others avoid it, considering it harmful.

In my opinion, fast food does much harm to people's health. Firstly, such food is low in protein, vitamins and minerals. Secondly, fast food contains a lot of cholesterol. Cholesterol causes the production of a fatty plaque that clogs the arteries, which can lead to a heart attack or a stroke. Thirdly, fast food is high in fat, sugar and calories and full of chemical additives. For example, a can of Coke contains about eight teaspoons of sugar and artificial sweeteners. People who are used to consuming several cans a day may suffer from diabetes, cancer and tooth decay.

On the contrary, many people like fast food because it is tasty, cheap and ubiquitous. Besides, fast food can be prepared and served very quickly, so going to fast food restaurants helps to save time and money.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that we should stay away from 'junk' food because those who like it are facing a serious problem threatening their health. They may become overweight or obese, which can lead to heart disorders and other health problems.

To sum up, the food choices we make every day affect our health. I am convinced that we should avoid food that is rich in cholesterol, added sugars, salt, and saturated fats. If we want to stay healthy and to be in good shape, we should choose healthy, balanced and well-apportioned meals.

### Эссе №2. Some people say that genetically modified food is hazardous to health.

Genetically modified foods have caused a lot of debate, scientific discussion, and media coverage. Some people say that GM foods have many benefits, however, there are ecological and human health concerns connected with GM foods.

Personally, I believe that GM foods have several benefits. Firstly, producers of GM food say that it has a number of advantages in terms of price, durability, and nutritional value. Secondly, GM crops provide benefits to the environment through a reduction in the use of pesticides. In addition, the recent rapid increase in human population has raised concerns that we will not be able to provide everybody with food. People may need additional food supplies, so GM foods may help to solve the world hunger problems.

Nevertheless, some people prefer to avoid GM food. They say there is a possibility that GM foods may be harmful to humans. For example, introducing a gene into a plant may create a new allergen. Others fear that we may encounter new diseases.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that there is nothing to worry about. So far, there is no proof that GM foods are bad for your health. Besides, as GM crops are faster and cheaper to grow, it will be possible to increase production and lower the cost of food.

To conclude, scientists should continue studying possible side effects connected with the consumption of GM foods. I think all countries must require GMO labelling, as consumers should be free to choose whether to buy GM foods or not. Nonetheless, I feel that there is no risk to human health.

### **Эссе №3. Some people think that organic food is healthier than conventional food.**

The organic food market is growing rapidly. Many people are willing to pay more for organic food. Others do not agree with that opinion, considering it senseless.

To my mind, buying organic food is a waste of your money. Firstly, organic products cost 10 to 40% more than similar conventionally produced products. Secondly, there is no significant difference between organic and conventionally grown food in terms of safety and nutritional value. What is more, you cannot even taste the difference.

Nevertheless, a lot of people choose to buy organic food for various reasons. First of all, organic foods are produced without using synthetic pesticides and chemical fertilizers. They do not contain neither chemical food additives nor genetically modified organisms. Secondly, some people believe that organic

farming is less damaging to the environment. Organic farms use less energy and produce less waste.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I cannot agree with the second point of view. I think that organic pesticides are as damaging to the environment as synthetic pesticides. In addition, the increased land needed to farm organic food could destroy the rain forest and wipe out many ecosystems in the future.

To sum up, people should remember that the food choices they make every day affect their health. Personally, I believe that organic food will hardly make us healthier, so there is probably no sense in buying it.

#### **Эссе №4. Some people believe that the only way to lose weight is following a weight loss diet.**

New weight loss diets are constantly coming out. Those who are overweight or obese often follow weight loss diets. Others doubt whether weight loss diets are really effective and good for your health.

Personally, I think that weight loss diets can damage your health. Firstly, they make it hard to get the daily requirements of vitamins, minerals, and protein. Secondly, weight loss diets can cause fatigue and weaken the body's immune system. What is more, dieting can result in such eating disorders as anorexia or bulimia.

However, some people lower their caloric intake in order to get thinner. They are convinced that it is possible to lose weight without going to the gym. Others are afraid that they may suffer different injuries while exercising.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that if you exercise regularly, you can eat whatever you want because you are burning it all off. There will be no need to reduce the amount of food you eat, and you will be in good shape and stay healthy.

To sum up, not all weight loss diets are good, and only some of them are the right ones for your personal health needs and body type. I believe that healthy weight loss results from both diet and exercise.

#### **Эссе №5. Some people think that we should eat at home.**

Eating out is on the rise. Some people are too tired to prepare home-cooked

meals at the end of a long, busy day, so they choose to eat out. However, others believe it is really a good idea to eat in a restaurant instead.

I think there are many advantages of dining out. Firstly, at a restaurant you can try a variety of dishes that are difficult to prepare at home. Secondly, restaurants can introduce people to different cultures through food, music and decor. Thirdly, a restaurant is a good place for dates and business deals. A lot of people go to restaurants to celebrate special occasions, to get away from household chores and to focus on communication with family and friends.

On the contrary, some people say that the healthiest meals are those that are cooked at home because they contain less salt and fat than restaurant food. Those who eat at home spend more time with their family members, which encourages family bonding. In addition, eating out can make a big hole in your savings.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that when people dine at home, they often eat quickly in order to return to their household chores or work. Eating out gives a family the chance to prolong the dinner hour and spend more time together. Besides, many restaurants today offer healthier food choices.

To conclude, eating at home is a challenge if a person has a very busy schedule. I am sure that dining out is a real pleasure with a wide and tempting choice of menus and venues at affordable prices.

### Эссе №6. Some people believe that it is important to look nice and to follow fashion.

Fashion has a profound impact on society. Many people pay much attention to what they wear. However, others think it is not so important to look stylish.

Personally, I think that everyone should be pleasant to look at. First of all, it is well known that people are instinctively attracted to those who are well-dressed and good-looking. For example, teenagers who wear trendy clothes are more likely to become popular among their peers. Some young people are convinced that wearing designer labels helps them gain the admiration of their peers and find new friends. Secondly, beautiful and stylish clothes make us feel self-confident. What is more, well-dressed people have more chances to find a good job or to get a promotion.

Nevertheless, some people do not pay much attention to their appearance. They say that it is not important what you look like or what you wear. What really matters is a person's inner qualities. Besides, keeping up with fashion is very

expensive. Many people cannot afford to spend much money on trendy and designer clothes.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that when it comes to first impressions, appearance and clothes are very important. Right or wrong, what is on the outside sometimes matters as much as what is inside.

To sum up, I believe we often judge people by their looks. That is why if you want to make the right first impression, you should look nice. No matter how kind and intelligent you are, your physical appearance and clothes are still very important.

### **Эссе №7. Some people think that clothes help them show who they really are.**

People wear clothes to protect their body from extreme weather, insects, chemicals, and other hazards. However, some people think that the things that we wear also serve to attract attention and to express our individuality.

In my opinion, your clothes can make you different from other people. Firstly, the things that we wear help us show our feelings and ideas about life. For example, what young people wear is often connected with the music they listen to and their views on politics and social issues. Secondly, your clothes can tell other people much about your character and your attitude to yourself and those around you. For instance, those who like neutral colours do not like to stand out from the crowd and prefer to blend in with other people. Additionally, a single item of clothing can declare a person's occupation, social class or ethnic and religious affiliations.

Nevertheless, some people say that those who try to keep up with the latest fashions look exactly like everyone else instead of being who they really are. What is more, a person's clothes may send the wrong message.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that clothes give us much room for self-expression and help to form the perception people have of us. If you are well dressed, you can command instant respect and attention. .

To conclude, I should mention that no matter where you are, your clothes send a message about you. That is why it is important to pay attention to what you look like and what you wear.

### **Эссе №8. Some people say that there should not be any rules about the**

## clothes people can wear in the workplace.

The first thing people notice about employees is how they look. Some companies have dress codes, while others do not have set rules for their employees.

In my opinion, there are many benefits of implementing a dress code policy. Firstly, dress codes eliminate inappropriate clothes such as ripped jeans, sweatpants or flip-flops. Having a dress code allows employees to understand what acceptable business attire is. Secondly, having a clearly defined dress code gives an air of professionalism to an organization. Thirdly, employees are more likely to feel that they are part of a team when they follow a dress code.

Nevertheless, some people complain that they are not allowed to dress as they please in the workplace. They say that a business formal dress code does not enable them to experiment with prints and colours. Apart from that, it is not easy to choose clothes and accessories that are tasteful and work-appropriate.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that dress codes do not prevent employees from maintaining their own style. Dress codes just show them the parameters in which they must fit. Besides, some companies set aside days when workers are allowed to wear casual clothes.

To conclude, you have to create a professional image if you want to tell your employer that you take your job seriously. Companies create dress codes to ensure their employees are dressed appropriately, to maintain a proper company image and to prevent distractions in the workplace. I believe that unprofessional dress may reflect poorly on a person's career.

## Эссе №9. Some people think that tattoos and piercing make them more attractive.

Tattooing and piercing are popular in many parts of the world and seem to never go out of fashion. Some people proudly display their tattoos and piercings, while others say that they are repelling.

Personally, I am against tattoos and body piercings. Firstly, I think that they do not make people more beautiful. Secondly, doctors warn people about possible dangers of tattooing and piercing, including bacterial infection and allergic reactions. These procedures are painful and risky. In addition, most employers do

not want their employees to have tattoos and piercings because it gives them an air of unprofessionalism.

However, some young people say that their tattoos and piercings make them feel attractive and give them an opportunity to show their individuality and to stand out from the crowd. Tattooing and piercing allow young people to express themselves creatively. Others get tattooed to mark important events in their lives.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that most tattoos and body piercings are unattractive. Besides, no matter how much you like your new tattoo or piercing, you may have a change of heart a few years later or straight away. Nevertheless, tattoos are permanent, and removing them often leaves unsightly scars.

To conclude, those who want a tattoo or a body piercing should think about all the risks involved. If you want to improve your job prospects and to stay healthy, you would better leave your body unadorned.

### **Ecce №10. Some people think that tourism ruins everything that it touches.**

Tourism has taken off in recent years. Some people think that tourism has many benefits, while others say that it causes a load of problems.

I believe that tourism is extremely beneficial. Firstly, it brings profit to the local and regional areas and creates jobs at the local, state and government levels. Secondly, local festivals and cultural events have been developed and supported because of heavy tourist participation, and many buildings and monuments have been renovated. What is more, experiencing different cultures is interesting and educational for tourists.

However, some people are not optimistic about tourism. They say that some beaches and resorts are uncomfortably crowded, and the historic centres of world-famous cities are becoming occupied by thousands of tourists. Besides, tourism can disrupt ecosystems and environments. For example, a lot of beaches and lagoons are being destroyed to make room for hotels and restaurants.

Despite my respect for this opinion, today more and more people are becoming interested in ecotourism, which promotes recycling, energy efficiency, water conservation, and the safe disposal of waste and garbage. Therefore, tourism can provide an impetus for the conservation of pristine areas otherwise vulnerable to industrial development.

To conclude, tourism should be responsible, and it should promote knowledge and understanding. I think that the problems caused by tourism can be solved if we make every effort to preserve our environment.

### **Эссе №11. Some people say that school trips are beneficial for students.**

School trips serve to expand students' learning experience. They can be fun for both teachers and students, but school trips have some disadvantages and may involve some risk, too.

Personally, I think that school trips are very interesting and educational. Firstly, school trips give students a chance to acquire new information, to improve their knowledge, to apply different skills and to gain new insight into various subjects. Secondly, school trips break up the monotony of the classroom routine and enable students to see how their classwork applies to everyday life. What is more, school trips put schoolchildren in real-life scenarios and require observation, investigation, and communication with other people.

However, some people are against school trips. Some parents and teachers are afraid that they might deal with emergencies, or that schoolchildren might suffer some harm. Apart from that, school trips are often expensive and difficult to organize.

Despite my respect for this opinion, statistics show that school trips are usually safe for students because the school takes measures to minimize the possibility of anything going wrong. Besides, some school trips do not cost parents a penny.

To sum up, a school trip is a good way to support a student's classroom learning experience. I believe that there is no better way to create memorable learning experiences, to foster team building and to motivate students to acquire knowledge.

### **Эссе №12. Some people think that the best way to travel in a town or in a city is on foot.**

Today, we use cars and public transport to travel faster. Still there are some people who walk much and spend more time travelling.

In my opinion, the best way to view and discover most towns and cities is on foot. Firstly, when you travel on foot, you can see much more on your way. You can stop wherever you want and drop into a cafe or a shop. Secondly,



travelling on foot is by far the cheapest mode of transportation and sometimes even the fastest because walking allows you to avoid traffic jams. What is more, walking is an excellent physical exercise that strengthens the immune system.

However, some people are against travelling on foot. Firstly, the weather can change from sunny to rainy, and if you have left your umbrella at home, you will get soaked to the skin and may catch a cold. Apart from that, while travelling in big cities, you may be attacked by muggers or get run over by a car.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that if you take time to plan your routes and put everything you may need into your backpack, you will certainly enjoy your walking tour. Besides, tourists must be careful when crossing roads and keep their valuables in a safe place.

To sum up, travelling on foot is much healthier than travelling by car or by bus. I think that a walking tour is a great way to see the sights of towns and cities.

### **Ecce №13. Some people say that traveling by plane is very convenient.**

Nowadays the world seems like a smaller place because of reduced travel times. Many people say that air travel has a lot of advantages in terms of time and quality. Nevertheless, is it really the best option for travellers?

Personally, I like travelling by plane. Firstly, it is the fastest way to get anywhere. Air travel helps me to save plenty of time and gives me an opportunity to visit out-of-the-way parts of the world. Secondly, travelling by plane is enjoyable and comfortable. I can use travel time to look through the porthole, to listen to music, to read a book or to take a nap. In addition, travel tickets are easy to book online.

Anyway, some people say that air travel has a number of disadvantages. Firstly, it always takes much time to get to the airport, to check in, to have your baggage weighed and to board. Secondly, travelling by air is often more expensive than travelling by other means of transport. In addition, some people doubt that travelling by plane is safe.

Despite my respect for this opinion, in fact flying remains among the safest forms of travel. It is well known that the number of fatalities caused by road or rail accidents is much higher than that of airlines. Besides, air travel is no longer a luxury because of the reduced costs.

To conclude, airplanes enable people to travel across the world in a matter of hours. Air travel is getting more and more convenient and reliable. I think it gives us an opportunity to relax and to enjoy travel.

#### **Эссе №14. Some people say that taking public transportation is a convenient option for traveling.**

People use public transportation to get around the city. There are a lot of advantages and disadvantages when it comes to taking the bus or train to work or school. People choose different options.

Personally, I do not like public transportation for a number of reasons. First of all, buses and trains can be overcrowded, especially during rush hour. Secondly, you always have to design your schedule around that of the bus or train. What is more, buses may not always go to specific locations on small streets. Sometimes I need a secondary source of transportation or have to walk some distance to arrive at my final destination.

However, some people say there are good reasons to use public transportation. Firstly, it is cheaper than driving and maintaining your own car. Secondly, people can use the commute time to work or relax. In addition, using public transportation instead of driving a car is less damaging to the environment as it helps to reduce carbon emissions.

Despite my respect for this opinion, beside buses, there are still thousands of cars on the road. They emit exhaust simultaneously and cause traffic. Besides, I do not think it is easy to relax in a filthy bus or train that is packed with angry commuters.

To sum up, I am sure that the main disadvantage of using public transportation is that you depend on a bus or train to get you where you need to go. If you want to avoid crowds and save your time, you had better travel by car.

#### **Эссе №15. Some people say that traveling to exotic countries is an exciting experience.**

Today, many people are fond of traveling to exotic countries. Others are not interested in choosing such thing, they prefer usual trips.

I think exotic travel has a lot of benefits. Firstly, in exotic countries you can do many interesting things. For example, you can ride a camel or an elephant, admire historical monuments, go on safari and take up sailing, parasailing, jet

skiing or scuba diving. Secondly, exotic travel can be very educational, and it can lead to a totally new understanding of diverse cultures and lifestyles. In addition, in exotic countries tourists can enjoy good service in high quality hotels.

Nevertheless, some people say that exotic travel has some disadvantages. Firstly, in exotic countries you are more susceptible to different diseases. Secondly, a great number of tourists feel ill at ease because they do not understand a country's language. Besides, traveling to exotic countries is rather expensive.

Despite my respect for this opinion, those traveling to exotic countries should be vaccinated to lessen their chances of contracting serious diseases. If you do not speak a country's language, this does not mean that you cannot go there. English is widely spoken in many exotic countries. Besides, if you travel to exotic destinations during the off-season, you will be able to reduce your expenses.

To conclude, traveling to exotic countries can be very rewarding. I think that if you once visited exotic countries, you will want to return again and again to your favorite exotic destinations.

### **Эссе №16. Some people say that the best way to travel is by train.**

Train travel is becoming more and more popular. Many vacationers find traveling by train enjoyable, while others say that train travel has a lot of disadvantages.

In my opinion, train travel has many advantages. Firstly, when you travel by train, you have speed, comfort and pleasure combined. While you are not driving, you have time to do other things. For example, you can walk around, look through the windows, sleep, read or socialize with your fellow-passengers. Secondly, you do not have to deal with bad weather, heavy traffic, turbulence or jet lag. What is more, as trains are electrically powered, they are less harmful to the environment than other forms of transport.

However, some people say that they do not like traveling by train. Firstly, they always have to stand in a queue for a long time to buy train tickets. Secondly, when you travel by train, you cannot stop where you want. Finally, traveling by train is not very convenient if the trip is long.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe traveling by train is not as fast as traveling by plane, but it is the only option for those who do not like to fly.

Besides, high-speed trains can run more than 200 km/h. In addition, you can book travel tickets online.

To conclude, train travel will continue to attract passengers because it is fast, comfortable and safe. I believe that train travel may be the best option for passengers.

### **Эссе №17. Some people say that the best way to travel is by ship.**

Traveling is an exciting adventure, which can become even more thrilling if you travel by ship. Some people say that traveling by ship has many advantages. While other prefer another ways.

Personally, I like traveling by ship. Firstly, the ship stops in different ports and you can go on the shore for excursions, which allows you to see more places than just your final destination. Secondly, when you travel by ship, you do not have to change different means of transport, and you will certainly avoid traffic jams. Thirdly, cruise ships provide food, drinks and entertainment for travelers. They can offer well-known celebrities, bands and performance artists.

Nevertheless, those who are interested in vacationing aboard a cruise ship are often worried about the cost. Other people say that a cruise ship may not allow you to explore destinations in depth because you often have limited time in the area that you would like to explore. In addition, many people suffer from seasickness when out on the water.

Despite my respect for this opinion, if you drink a lot of water and do not sit in a cramped cabin, you can reduce the chances of getting seasick. Moreover, you should budget for your trip and book in advance in order to avoid any problems.

To sum up, while you are aboard the ship, you will have plenty of time for reading, writing, playing games and socializing with your friends and loved ones. Traveling by ship is fast and comfortable. I think it is the best way of traveling for those who want to enjoy getting to their destinations as much as being there.

### **Эссе №18. Some people say that having friends is important for everyone.**

Friendship is one of the most important human relationships. Some people say that they have hundreds of acquaintances, but creating and maintaining a true friendship may prove difficult.

I am convinced that we cannot live without friends. Firstly, friendship is very important for a person's emotional well-being. We give our time and energy to our friends because it brings us something in return: trust, support, intimacy, sympathy, and understanding. Secondly, you can talk to your friends about anything without fear of being judged. Thirdly, a true friend will help you if you are in poor health, if you have relationship or financial problems or just feel depressed.

However, some people think that friends can complicate their lives because you need time and energy to build and maintain friendships. Such people say that life without friends is easier and pain free. If you have no friends, you do not have to worry about hurting other people's feelings or having fights. Besides, some people think that their friends may judge or criticize them.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that a true friend always accepts you as you are and never tries to change you. Those who have no friends feel lonely and isolated, which can cause stress and affect their physical health.

To conclude, it is stressful to live in the world of strangers. I believe maintaining friendships takes time and effort, but a true friendship is worth of it.

### **Ecce №19. Some people think that you can have only one true friend.**

Having friends is important for everyone. Some people may have hundreds of friends, while others have only one close friend.

In my opinion, a person can have an infinite number of friends. The more friends you have, the happier you are. Firstly, your friends care about you and will offer to help any time of day or night. Secondly, your friends are always there when you need a shoulder to cry on. Moreover, if one of your friends is not contactable and you need somebody to talk to, you can call another friend, and he or she will rush to help you.

Nevertheless, some people think that it is better to have only one close friend. Having many friendships to maintain takes much time and energy. You have to schedule time for all your friends, remember their telephone numbers, birthdays and anniversaries and pay attention to what is going on in their lives. In addition, some people say that a true friend is someone who you know very well, so not everybody you socialize with can be called your friend.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that communicating with your friends and taking an interest in their lives is definitely not a waste of time because it brings us much in return.

To conclude, I doubt that a person can have close emotional ties with hundreds of people, but everybody can certainly have more than one true friend.

### **Ecce №20. Some people think that nothing can ruin a true friendship.**

Creating and maintaining friendships can be one of the most important things in life. However, there are friendships that last and those that end, depending on different people.

Personally, I think nothing can make a true friendship end. Firstly, close friends always feel that they need each other. That is why they are afraid of losing their touch and do their best to maintain their friendship. Secondly, true friends are flexible about their friendship. When circumstances change, for example, one person gets married or has a baby, their relationship does not become less close. On the contrary, true friends try to spend more time together and to help each other. Furthermore, close friends accept the other person's foibles and flaws.

Nevertheless, some people say that there are many ways to ruin a friendship. Firstly, friends may have a few disagreements, which may lead to quarrels. If you say something cruel during a heated argument, it may hurt your friend's feelings, and he or she may not want to forgive you. In addition, some people say that money often ruins friendships. If you get a well-paid job, your friend may envy you, which will put a strain on your relationship.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that true friends will never poison their friendship with envy. Besides, a true friend will always forgive you for harsh words and will find a way to resolve conflicts.

To conclude, close friends will not drift away no matter what may happen. Instead, they will find new ways to stay close to each other. I think that a true friendship is strong enough to last forever.

### **Ecce №21. Some people think that jealousy is a very destructive emotion.**

Almost everyone experiences jealousy at some point in life. Some people are sure that jealousy is a powerful emotion that can be damaging to relationships. But others think it is all right to feel jealous.

In my opinion, jealousy can cause huge problems. First of all, it arouses negative emotions like sadness, anger, anxiety, fear, and a feeling of insecurity. Secondly, jealousy may lead to irrational behaviour, a lack of intimacy, a permanent lack of trust, and fights. In extreme cases, jealousy leads to aggressive behaviour and violence. What is more, having a jealous partner is exhausting because everything you do will be interpreted wrongly.

However, some people say that jealousy is a sign of love. They think that jealousy heightens passion for one's partner and keeps a relationship alive. It can also encourage people to appreciate each other and to make a greater effort to ensure that the person they love feels special.

Despite my respect for this opinion, while jealousy in small amounts can heighten emotions, irrational jealousy can be destructive. It damages relationships and can even cause them to end. I believe that unselfish and self-confident people are incapable of jealousy. As somebody once said, 'Jealousy contains more of self-love than of love.'

To conclude, jealousy makes people feel frustrated and unhappy. That is why I think we should learn to control jealousy; otherwise, it will result in low self-esteem, distrust or even separation.

### **Ecce №22. Some people think that only those who earn a lot of money can be happy.**

Most people dream of becoming rich. Some believe that money can make them powerful, independent and happy, while others think that money may cause them more worries than anything else.

In my opinion, wealth does not relate to happiness. Firstly, life of the rich is full of dangers. They have to spend much money on security, but in spite of all the measures that they take, they are often robbed, kidnapped or even killed. Secondly, those who have a lot of money are often lonely and unhappy because other people often try to take advantage of them. Thirdly, money can do more harm than good if it is used irresponsibly or for purchases like alcohol or drugs.

However, some people think that the rich live lavish and irresponsible lives. They can take vacations when they want and buy expensive cars, large mansions, private jets, and other luxury items. Additionally, money can give you increased access to excitement and entertainment. Wealthy people can visit exotic countries, dine at the best restaurants and stay in five-star hotels.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that lying on a beach, sailing a luxury yacht or riding in a limousine may be fun for a short time, but it is not likely to provide long-term satisfaction. Besides, most wealthy people cannot relax and enjoy themselves because they must run their business and make investment decisions all the time.

To sum up, there are more important things in life than money. No matter how rich you are, you cannot buy happiness or good health. I think that people should be satisfied with what they have.

### **Эссе №23. Some people think that pocket money teaches teenagers to be responsible.**

Teenagers need pocket money for various things like eating out, going to the movies or buying new DVDs. Many parents are ready to open their wallets, while some of them do not think it is necessary for their kids to have their own money.

I think there are a lot of advantages of giving pocket money to young people. Firstly, getting money can teach teenagers money management skills. They learn to budget and to save. Secondly, some parents give chores to their children so that they can earn some extra pocket money. As a result, teenagers learn that getting money can be hard work. Additionally, when teenagers have their own money, they realize how much things cost and learn to make smart choices.

However, some people say that pocket money may cause a number of problems, too. If teenagers have much money, they can become victims of bullying. Besides, it is difficult for parents to control what their children spend their pocket money on. For example, they may buy junk food or adult magazines.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that parents should learn to trust their children. By giving pocket money to teenagers, parents show them that they are mature enough to handle the responsibility. This is a way to build a bond between parents and their children.

To conclude, getting pocket money can help teenagers to learn skills that will be useful later in life. Money teaches them to be more responsible and independent. I think that young people should be free to spend their money on what they want.

### **Эссе №24. Some people think teenagers should work to earn money.**



Teenagers need money to buy things that they want. Some parents encourage their children to work so that they have their own source of money, while others disapprove of teenagers working.

I think that teenagers should earn their own money. Firstly, young people with jobs learn to manage money and know its value. Secondly, teenagers who work can contribute to the household income, which takes some of the financial burden off their parents. Moreover, those who work hard to earn money are less likely to buy expensive clothes or electronic gadgets. They are more careful not to lose their money or lend it to their friends.

However, some people say that teenagers who earn money and use it at their discretion may spend every penny on clothes, makeup, or socializing. If their parents do not teach them how to budget and save, they may develop unhealthy spending habits. Besides, some people think that teenagers can learn money management skills if they are given pocket money.

Despite my respect for this opinion, young people often need more money than their parents can give them. Teenagers with jobs earn larger amounts of money and learn to spend it wisely. I think young people are more responsible with the money that they have earned.

To conclude, having a job helps teenagers learn more about personal and financial responsibility. I think teenagers are more careful with money when it is not just handed to them whenever they ask.

### **Exce №25. Some people say that having a hobby is important for everyone.**

Today, people have many options for spending their free time. Some people prefer doing something that actually interests, relaxes or excites them such as painting or playing sports, while others admit that they do not have a hobby.

In my opinion, everybody should have a hobby. Firstly, hobbies help us to relax and reduce stress. For example, yoga, knitting and gardening help to calm your nerves and to relieve tension after a hard day. Secondly, having a hobby can lead to acquiring skills, knowledge, and experience. Our interests enrich our lives and help us to gain a better understanding of how the world works. Besides, hobbies give people much room for self-expression.

Nevertheless, some people say that having a hobby takes much time and energy, and they cannot fit their interests into their busy schedules. In addition,

sometimes we have to dedicate plenty of money to the activities that we enjoy doing.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that if you are fond of doing something, you will willingly give much attention and effort to your interests. Some people even manage to turn hobbies like photography, painting or writing into moneymaking businesses.

To sum up, hobbies make our lives more interesting and provide many social and health benefits. In my opinion, all hobbies are beneficial, though it is not always easy to find the right one.

### **Эссе №26. Some people say that playing computer games is the best way to spend your free time.**

Playing computer games is one of the most popular hobbies today. Computer games are constantly becoming more lifelike and complex, which is the main reason why many people can play for hours. Others think it is not a good idea to spend so much time with only a computer.

In my opinion, computer games have a lot of disadvantages. Firstly, their developers have been accused of the depiction of graphic violence, sexual themes, consumption of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, bad language, propaganda, and profanity. Secondly, many games encourage violent behaviour, blur the difference between right and wrong and cause addiction. Moreover, computer games make children and teenagers unsociable and passive.

Nevertheless, some people say that computer games give them a chance to forget about their everyday problems and to plunge into exciting adventures. Besides, computer games are meant not only for entertainment. They can improve gamers' visual skills and dexterity and help them to develop coordination.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that playing computer games is not the best way to spend your free time. Spending much time in front of the screen leads to decreased physical activity and social interaction with others. We should not forget that reading, exercising and spending time with our friends are much more worthwhile things.

To conclude, playing computer games may be fun, but we should be aware of the time we spend. I think that those who are fond of computer games should make sure that they leave plenty of time in their lives for other interesting and useful activities.

### **Эссе №27. Some people think that reading is a waste of time.**

Some years ago people read books if they wanted to gather information on a certain topic. However, the advent of the Internet has changed everything: it provides a totally different and unique method of accessing information, so we can find whatever we need without having to buy a book.

Personally, I think that reading books is still important. Firstly, it is one of the cheapest and most satisfying forms of entertainment. Secondly, reading is an excellent way to reduce stress and a healthy means of escapism. Books transfer you to other countries and continents, introduce you to amazing people and make you laugh and cry. Thirdly, reading can help you improve your vocabulary and develop your analytical and critical thinking skills.

Nevertheless, some people say that reading was one of the few ways to pass the time in the past, but today they know how to use their leisure time. Many people prefer doing something that interests, relaxes or excites them, ranging from doing extreme sports to playing computer games. Besides, some people think that the fewer books they buy the more trees they save.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that there is nothing like a good book to help you relax. Additionally, if you are bored with traditional print books and consider yourself a technologically advanced person, e-books are for you.

To conclude, the book is an inexhaustible source of information and entertainment. I think reading fires your imagination and gives you a chance to 'travel' around the world. You will hardly feel lonely or bored with an interesting book in your hands.

### **Эссе №28. Some people say that online education is an excellent alternative to traditional education.**

Online education is rapidly increasing due to the development of computer technology. It competes with traditional education on every level today. Some people find many advantages in it, while others do not agree with the effectiveness of it.

In my opinion, online education has many advantages. Firstly, it offers convenience and flexibility. Students do not have to attend classes, and they can work at their own pace within a schedule that they set for themselves. Secondly,

with the surge in Internet usage, online schools are growing in their offerings and quality. Moreover, online learning can be very interesting. Some universities offer online student support services, including online advising and tutoring, online textbook offer, and student newspapers.

On the contrary, some people think that online learning is not as effective as traditional education. One of the disadvantages is that students cannot enjoy regular in-person interaction with their professors and peers. Online education can be a major challenge for people who find it difficult to manage their time wisely. In addition, some people think that those who choose online education do not work as much as those who choose traditional education.

Despite my respect for this opinion, having a course online does not mean that there will be less work. Online classes have deadlines and due dates for assignments. Besides, online programs give students quick access to their professors and fellow students through email or Web conferencing.

To conclude, online learning differs from the traditional classroom. I think that online programs are especially convenient for disabled people and working adults with families.

### **Ecce №29. Some people think that homeschooling is an excellent alternative to traditional education .**

Today, many families are making the decision to teach children at home instead of sending them to school. Some parents believe that they can provide their children with the education they need to be successful.

In my opinion, homeschooling has a number of advantages. Firstly, it is very convenient because you do not need to observe school hours, days or terms. Secondly, children who have special educational needs are home educated when school cannot meet the child's needs. Thirdly, homeschooling allows parents to provide a more personalized and adaptable learning environment for the child, and the family can spend more time together.

On the contrary, some people say that homeschooled children suffer from lack of communication with their peers. They may also miss out on healthy and educational activities. In addition to classes, schools organize many extracurricular activities, including sports, drama clubs and music.

Despite my respect for this opinion, homeschooled children do not face such problems as bullying or peer pressure. Besides, they still have opportunities

to socialize with other kids and to form friendships. Some parents organize different activities for their homeschooled children. Kids are also involved in day-to-day activities such as shopping or volunteering, which gives them a chance to meet new people and to improve their social skills.

To conclude, I think those who receive one-on-one instruction and have no distractions in their learning environment may achieve more.

### **Ecce №30. Some people think that self-education is not very effective.**

Education plays a very important role in our lives. In today's tech-savvy society, people can acquire knowledge not only in the classroom, but also in any informal space. But people have different attitude to that.

In my opinion, self-education has a number of advantages. First of all, self-taught people are not dependent on others for knowledge. They can extend their knowledge and acquire new skills whenever and wherever possible. Secondly, self-education usually costs nothing, and it does not require a fixed lifestyle. What is more, the process of self-education has become much easier with the vast amounts of information now available on the Internet.

Nevertheless, some people say that they depend on teachers and tutors for guidance. They need someone who will help them, show them the way to acquire information and knowledge, and encourage their efforts to learn. Others admit that they are too lazy to choose self-education. A lot of people find it difficult to motivate and discipline themselves.

Despite my respect for this opinion, although self-education may be a challenge for many people, its rewards are numerous. It helps you to become more intelligent and open-minded. Even if a person has already obtained a degree, they can continue their self-education.

To sum up, acquiring knowledge and skills is an ongoing process. I believe that the options for self-education are very flexible and the opportunities are unlimited.

### **Ecce №31. Some people think that if you want to get a good education, you should go abroad.**

Studying abroad has great appeal for many people. Every year thousands of students go to foreign countries in order to participate in study-abroad programs, while others are sure that high - quality education is available everywhere.

In my opinion, there are numerous advantages of studying in a foreign country. Firstly, those who study abroad have a chance to learn a second language or to enhance a language already learned. Secondly, immersion in a foreign culture helps students broaden their horizons. They can meet new people and experience new traditions. What is more, an international education opens employment opportunities in many countries and markets. Employers often give preference to students with overseas experience because of their knowledge, flexibility and understanding of other cultures.

Nevertheless, some people believe that it is better to study in one's own country for various reasons. First of all, studying abroad may be very expensive because some countries charge full price for foreign students. Secondly, because of the language barrier and culture shock, students who study in a foreign country often have to deal with added stress to their studies.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that even though you may spend much money to receive a solid education abroad, you will earn it back because people with an international education usually have a lot of job options and high salaries. Besides, some study-abroad programs are sponsored by the student's school.

To conclude, studying abroad offers a valuable experience and widens cultural horizons. To my mind, studying in another country is an exciting experience that almost everyone would like to have.

### **Эссе №32. Some people think that the most important thing for a teacher is to make studying enjoyable for students.**

Some people say that making studying enjoyable is the most important aspect of teaching. Others believe that learning is hard work, and it has nothing to do with fun.

I think there is no reason why learning cannot be interesting and pleasurable. Firstly, when the lesson is fun, all students are enthusiastic about learning. Secondly, using games, puzzles, and other interesting tasks encourages all students, even shy ones, to participate actively in the learning process. Besides, students will recognize that a teacher has made an effort to prepare for the lesson, and they will respect him more.

However, some people believe that school is a place where students are supposed to acquire knowledge, but not have fun. They think that students should be able to perform difficult and boring tasks, and that entertaining activities may

have a negative impact on their academic performance. Additionally, some people say that teachers should pay more attention to discipline problems or those students who are lagging behind the rest of the class instead of making studying fun.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that when studying is pleasurable and amusing, students learn better. Moreover, when they find learning enjoyable, they are not likely to cause discipline problems because all their attention is on the lesson.

To conclude, there are many ways to create an enjoyable working environment for students and to make even difficult tasks more agreeable. I am sure that teachers should make efforts to provide an atmosphere that will encourage students to learn.

### **Эссе №33. Some people think that computers may replace teachers in the future.**

Today, virtual schools and online programs are available to almost everyone. Computers are becoming more and more sophisticated, and they offer students the opportunity to learn. Some people find it good, while others are against that.

In my opinion, the learning process is impossible without teachers. Firstly, they serve as a positive role model for young people. Secondly, teachers help students become critical thinkers and researchers. They teach young people to set goals, to analyse information, to gather data, and to draw conclusions. Moreover, teachers are responsible for their students' social development.

However, some people believe that we do not need teachers any more. With computers, learning can be round-the-clock, and it can happen anywhere in the world. Besides, computers can provide students with detailed information about a wide variety of subjects, and they can present it in the form and pace that is suitable for each student.

Despite my respect for this opinion, the role of teachers is not just to transmit knowledge to students and to correct their mistakes. They also teach young people to communicate with each other, to respect their classmates, and to be part of a team. If we use computers instead of teachers, children may become as unemotional as electronic machines.

To conclude, the teacher serves as an educator, a mentor, and a guide. I think technology can hardly ever replace the teacher in the classroom because no computer will encourage you to learn or try to find an individual approach to your needs.

### **Ecce №34. Many people think that homework is essential for every student.**

Some people think that homework is rote work that takes much time, without offering students any benefit. However, others say that though boring, homework is going to benefit students later in life.

Personally, I think that homework has a number of advantages. Firstly, it helps students understand and retain the information they are learning and prepares them for upcoming lessons. Secondly, homework extends the learning process and teaches students to gain skills and knowledge independently. In addition, homework teaches young people responsibility, discipline and time management skills.

Nevertheless, some people believe that too much homework may cause more harm than good. Firstly, schoolchildren who spend a lot of time doing homework may feel stressed and lose interest in school. Secondly, children need time for other activities. Many students spend their time completing homework assignments rather than exercising, playing sports, or socializing with their friends and family.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that homework gives parents and children an opportunity to interact and spend more time together. Besides, students can develop a routine that will enable them to finish their homework efficiently.

To sum up, homework is a marker of students' progress, and it helps teachers understand if schoolchildren have grasped the material. To my mind, homework improves young people's skills and helps them become self-reliant and independent.

### **Ecce №35. Some people believe that students should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study.**

Today, students have to study many subjects. The government and educators are convinced that they 'know better' what schoolchildren should be interested in. While others are sure students should decide themselves.



In my opinion, students should be able to choose the subjects they want to study. Firstly, it gives them freedom and independence. Secondly, if students are encouraged to study the subjects they love, they will get better grades. What is more, if students are forced to learn all subjects, they might do poorly in school or drop out of school.

Nevertheless, some people think that students should learn all subjects because it broadens their horizons and makes them well rounded. Besides, if students are allowed to choose what they want to study, they may go for the easiest and most enjoyable subjects or the subjects that their friends are taking or that their parents find useful.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that although some students need guidance, they should have some say in what they are taught at school. Most schoolchildren know what sparks their interest and what they are talented at. If their courses are more flexible and selective, students are more likely to excel academically.

To conclude, I believe that young people will have a more positive attitude towards school if they are allowed to choose the subjects that they like.

### **Эссе №36. Some people believe that students will use the computers instead of textbooks in the future.**

Today, computers are being used in schools, and new technologies are being integrated into lesson plans. However, some people think the use of computers in the classroom raises questions about whether they are beneficial to learning and whether they are going to make textbooks obsolete in the future.

I think there is a possibility that computers and laptops may replace traditional textbooks in the future. Firstly, computers can store a lot of books and give both students and teachers immediate access to current information. Secondly, computers can motivate students and make learning more enjoyable. In addition, laptops are easier to carry because they weigh less than a backpack full of hardcover textbooks.

On the contrary, some people believe that textbooks will not disappear. Firstly, they are cheaper, easier to use, and they are less likely to cause eye strain when used over long periods of time. Secondly, computers can isolate students as they work on individual projects at their own speed. When students work

together, they learn to respect their classmates, to resolve conflicts and to be part of a team.

Despite my respect for this opinion, textbooks and encyclopaedias may contain outdated information. Besides, as students learn at different rates, computers can help those who need assistance and provide more advanced students with additional information and further learning activities.

To conclude, technology is becoming an important part of education. I think that teachers should move with the times and use up-to-date technology in the classroom to make their lessons more interesting.

### **Эссе №37. Some people believe that punishment should be used in class to achieve discipline and to make students study hard.**

The use of punishments in the classroom is so controversial that it provokes an ongoing debate. Some people believe that punishment helps teachers to create an effective learning environment for students, while others are against using punishment at school.

In my opinion, punishment in the classroom has more positives than negatives. Firstly, it makes students realize what kind of behaviour is inappropriate in the classroom setting. Punishment can eliminate or prevent bad behaviour because students know that they will have to face the consequences of their actions. Secondly, it is well known that students find any punishment unpleasant, so they try to be well-behaved and to get good grades in order to avoid receiving it. Thirdly, punishment teaches students to respect authority and their classmates.

However, some people believe that punishment humiliates students. It fills children with fear and guilt, and they may lose interest in learning. Besides, students who are put in detention or sent to the principal's office as a punishment are taken away from their lessons.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that some punishments do not make students feel ashamed or embarrassed. For example, giving schoolchildren some extra work as a punishment encourages them to improve their knowledge of the subject and to become more disciplined.

To sum up, schoolchildren need to learn that those who misbehave deserve punishment, while good behaviour is rewarded. I believe that schools should be strict about discipline and students' academic performance.

### **Эссе №38. Some people say that having jobs can be of great benefit to teenagers.**

Today, many teenagers choose to get part-time jobs. Most parents encourage their children to work, while others think that their kids need to focus on their studies.

In my opinion, jobs offer a lot of benefits to young people. Firstly, teenagers who work learn to manage money. Secondly, they learn valuable employment skills, such as dealing with other people's problems or showing up to work on time. Thirdly, teenagers learn to work as a team and to interact with all types of people.

However, some people say that balancing work and school can be difficult. Having a job may hinder young people's academic performance because many teenagers get tired after work and do not have enough time to complete their assignments. In addition, teenagers with jobs do not have an opportunity to relax and to exercise and spend less time with their families and friends.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think there is no reason why teenagers should not have jobs, as long as they work hours that allow them to finish their homework, to participate in extracurricular activities and to socialize with their peers. Besides, as young people with jobs have less free time, they are less likely to get into trouble.

To conclude, having a job teaches young people about responsibility and helps them acquire skills that will be useful in the future. I think that the jobs young people choose give them a chance to try different things and help them define their place in the world.

### **Эссе №39. Some people say that they would prefer to work at home.**

With recent advances in technology, including the growth in telecommuting, many people have a chance to work at home. However, some humans think that to work from home means to get up late and to work in their pyjamas.

In my opinion, working at home has a lot of disadvantages. Firstly, there may be too many distractions from family members and friends. Secondly, those who work at home may suffer from social isolation. They often miss office socializing and the chance to chat with their colleagues. Thirdly, working from

home is only for those who are self-motivated and self-reliant. People who depend on guidance and lack self-discipline will find working from home challenging.

Nevertheless, some people say that the advantage of working from home is that you can create a flexible work schedule that suits your lifestyle. Working from home allows you to spend more time with your family, which is especially convenient for those who have kids or handicapped family members living with them. In addition, you can save a lot of time and money because you do not have to travel to and from work.

Despite my respect for this opinion, some work-from-home jobs require travel. Besides, you may have to commute for certain meetings. Moreover, sometimes those who work from home do not take breaks and overwork.

To sum up, one should never forget that working at home is still working. It requires commitment, discipline, and good time management skills. Personally, I would prefer to work at an office because I think it is difficult to create a good working environment at home.

### **Эссе №40. Some people think that in any occupation discipline is more important than talent.**

Some people believe that only talented employees can build a successful career. Others think that it is more important to be hard-working and self-disciplined.

I think it is more important to be disciplined than talented. Firstly, any work requires the ability to control your own behaviour. If employees lack discipline and do not do what they are expected to do, they will not be able to achieve professional success. Those who are often late for work or miss deadlines may be fired. Secondly, disciplined employees know how to put their time to best use, which leads to increased profit for an organization. Thirdly, disciplined employees can create a pleasant environment in which they can work efficiently.

However, some people say that those who do not have talent become ordinary hard workers, but they will hardly become outstanding or produce any new ideas or things. Besides, one needs talent for many professions. For example, it is impossible to be a great artist or songwriter if you do not have a natural ability to paint or to write poetry and music.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that besides talent, one needs diligence and perseverance to be successful even in these professions. It is well known that if you do not work hard to develop your talent, you are likely to waste it.

To conclude, discipline is important in all aspects of life, including work. Everybody needs a good deal of discipline to be more productive and successful. If you want to achieve whatever goals you set for your life, you should work hard, but first you need to learn to discipline yourself.

### **Ecce №41. Some people change their jobs every few years.**

Some years ago, a lot of employees preferred to work at a company for most of their professional lives. However, nowadays it is much more difficult to stay with the same business for a long time. People have different attitude to that issue.

In my opinion, changing jobs may have plenty of benefits. The main advantage of moving from job to job is finding the one that you will enjoy or that will allow you to earn more money. Secondly, changing jobs will give you great experience because you will have a chance to work with different people and to perform various tasks. Thirdly, those who have worked at the same company for many years may be afraid of any changes. Such employees do not resign even if they are dissatisfied with their jobs.

Nevertheless, some people believe that it is better to work at the same company for a long period of time. Firstly, those who constantly change their jobs may be viewed as people who cannot be committed to the organization. In addition, job-hoppers never build long-term relationships with their co-workers.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that a skilled employee will have no difficulty in finding a new job. Besides, sociable people can easily make friends with their colleagues.

To conclude, a career change can be very beneficial. If you do not enjoy your work or your employer does not offer any opportunities for career advancement, you should probably think about looking for another job. I am sure you will be happier if you love the work that you do.

### **Ecce №42. Some people think that it is better to work abroad.**

Due to the transition to global business, a lot of people now have a chance

to work in a foreign country. Some employees prefer to work in their own country, while others find working overseas very appealing.

In my opinion, working in a foreign country can be very rewarding. First and foremost, those who work abroad have an opportunity to experience a new country and culture while getting paid in the process. Secondly, they gain valuable work experience that can help them to build a successful career. What is more, those who work in a foreign country have a chance to learn a second language or to enhance a language already learned.

Nevertheless, some people say that working abroad has some disadvantages. Firstly, one may have problems with getting a work permit and settling in. Secondly, those who work abroad often miss their families and friends. Besides, they find having to speak a foreign language all the time rather exhausting.

Despite my respect for this opinion, despite all these challenges, many people claim that if they were offered a job in a foreign country, they would jump at the chance because they think that working abroad is a satisfying experience. Those who work overseas gain an understanding of other cultures and become more flexible.

To conclude, working in a foreign country is for those who like adventure and enjoy a challenge. It helps people to gain competence and to realize their full potential. I think that working abroad offers a valuable experience and widens cultural horizons.

### **Эссе №43. Some people believe they will be successful and happy only if they work much.**

Today, many people admit that they work too much. They arrive at work as soon as the building opens, take work home with them and even spend weekend time at the office. Others do not agree with such work schedule.

Personally, I think that those who choose to work a lot may face plenty of problems. Firstly, people who are truly addicted to their work do not have time for exercising, eating healthy food or sleeping enough. As a result, they often have poor health and feel stressed. Secondly, those who are in the office for twelve hours a day cannot have a proper work-life balance. They cannot relax and do not spend much time with family and friends. Thirdly, it is boring to socialize with people who can talk only about their work.

Nevertheless, some people believe that working too much can have some benefits. Firstly, those who work a lot make a significant contribution to the organization and can win promotion. In addition, they can get additional vacation time.

Despite my respect for this opinion, workaholics seldom take vacations. Even if they do, they often take a laptop and a mobile phone so that they can continue working. Moreover, when such people are promoted, they push themselves too hard and may have a breakdown.

To conclude, balancing work with social activities and joys is essential for everyone. Overworking can be detrimental to one's health, social life and personal relationships. I think that people should schedule time for family, friends and interests.

#### **Эссе №44. At present, there is no difficulty in finding a good job.**

It is a well-known fact that the process of seeking employment may be rather difficult and time-consuming. Some people believe that one can get a good job, while others think that it is very tricky.

In my opinion, one can easily get a job these days. Firstly, recent technological advances, including the mobile telephone and the Internet, allow job seekers to contact their past employers, co-workers and friends in order to find out about openings and ask for job tips. Secondly, one can visit different job search sites and complete an application or upload a resume. Thirdly, job seekers can attend career fairs where they can get information about different kinds of jobs.

Nevertheless, some people say that entering the job market is tough today. Difficult economic times often lead to downsizing and numerous job losses. Technological development also contributes to unemployment. For example, the use of robotic mechanisms in industry reduces the number of workers needed to perform certain tasks.

Despite my respect for this opinion, in spite of all these problems, many people manage to find a good job. If job seekers prove that they are capable of doing the job and will be an asset to the company, they are likely to be hired. Even those who do not have job experience can find temporary or part-time jobs that will help them acquire new skills and explore their interests.

To sum up, if you want to find a good job, you should know what to look for. I suppose good education opens the door to a wide range of career options. If you are patient and persistent, you can easily get a job.

### **Эссе №45. Many people believe that it is important to develop teamwork in the workplace.**

Today, employees often have to work cooperatively with others in order to achieve business goals. While there are some definite advantages of teamwork, there are also some drawbacks.

Personally, I think that there are numerous benefits of teamwork. Firstly, working together increases efficiency and productivity. Team members combine their talent and contribute their knowledge and skills to accomplishing the task. Secondly, team members share duties and accomplish complex tasks more quickly. Thirdly, when people with different backgrounds and points of view work together and share their experiences and ideas, they learn to understand and respect each other.

However, some people think that there are some disadvantages to employees working together. Firstly, when people work in a team, not everyone contributes equally. Some individuals work hard, while others make a minimal effort and prefer to wait for someone else to accomplish the set goals. In addition, those who are used to working alone may find it difficult to work in a team, which may lead to conflict with other team members.

Despite my respect for this opinion, sometimes working alone is rather difficult. In my opinion, people working as a team can accomplish more tasks than the same people working individually. In a team one person's weaknesses are compensated for by another person's strengths. Besides, effective teams can resolve conflicts quickly.

To conclude, more minds work better than a single one. Working in a team helps to reach goals and to increase productivity in the workplace. I think that all job seekers and employees should develop teamwork skills.

### **Эссе №46. Some people prefer to work for themselves or to own a business.**

Today, many people decide to leave their jobs and to start their own businesses. They dream of making loads of money and getting personal



satisfaction from doing something that they enjoy. Others doubt whether business ownership is as rewarding as it seems to be.

In my opinion, there are a lot of advantages of owning a business. Firstly, those who work for themselves can make more money than those who work for an employer. Secondly, business owners can make their own decisions and determine how much they would like to work. In addition, people who own a business have an opportunity to turn their interests into a full-time job and to do something that they love.

On the contrary, some people believe that those who are going to start a business should be ready to work long hours with little or no pay at first. Business owners often need to do menial tasks and to work hard to get their businesses off the ground. What is more, many new businesses fail within the first several years.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that ‘when nothing is ventured, nothing is gained’. To my mind, people should take a risk and start a business. I think that business owners have more freedom and can control their future.

To sum up, it is difficult to start and run your own business these days. Nevertheless, although you will have to put a lot of time, effort and money into it, having your own business is rewarding in my opinion.

### **Ecce №47. Some people think that modern technologies make life more convenient.**

Now that we have entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we cannot imagine our lives without new machines, equipment, and devices. Some people say that advances in technology make our lives easier and save our time and money, while others believe that they have a lot of drawbacks.

To my mind, new technologies have numerous benefits to mankind. Firstly, they allow people to access and download a vast and diverse amount of up-to-date information. Secondly, communication technologies enable us to stay in constant touch with our colleagues, friends, and family members. In addition, the use of new technologies in industry has led to cheaper production of various goods.

However, some people are convinced that modern technologies have negative health, environmental and economic effects. First of all, technology may cause health problems, including eye strain, obesity, and heart problems.

Secondly, waste from technology pollutes the environment. What is more, the use of new technologies leads to unemployment and job losses.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that technology increases efficiency and productivity. For instance, new equipment allows people to produce more food and goods with less work. Besides, as technology improves, people can receive better medical treatment and survive many diseases. Additionally, environmentally friendly technology uses a lot of methods for reducing the human impact on the Earth.

To sum up, technology has a significant impact on society. I think that new technologies have improved many areas of life and allowed us to live more comfortably.

### **Эссе №48. Some people say that cell phones have changed our lives for the better.**

In today's hectic world, the idea of living without cell phones seems ridiculous to some people. However, along with all of the conveniences of the mobile phone, others believe the device has some drawbacks.

In my opinion, the benefits of mobile phones outweigh the disadvantages. Firstly, cell phones help friends and family members to stay in touch and allow people to be contactable wherever they are. Secondly, many people carry mobile phones in case an emergency arises. Thirdly, cell phones enable businessmen to conduct business wherever they are and at any time of day or night.

Nevertheless, some people believe that mobile phones can have negative health effects. For example, some people think that the microwave radiation that cell phones emit can cause such illnesses as cancer and Alzheimer's disease. In addition, mobile phones harm the environment because they contain heavy metals and toxic substances. Cell phones that are discarded end up in landfills and contaminate soil and drinking water.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that excessive use of cell phones can be a health hazard. Anyway, you will hardly have any health problems if you do not chat on the phone for hours. Besides, people should not forget that mobile phones need to be recycled or disposed of properly. Electronic manufacturers have already created more durable and eco-friendly cell phones.

To conclude, as cell phones are becoming more sophisticated, their use is increasing. I am sure mobile phones provide convenience, safety, and

entertainment.

### **Эссе №49. Some people believe that all teenagers should have a cell phone.**

Today, most teenagers have a mobile phone and know how to use this high-tech device. However, some adults worry about the impact of cell phones on young people.

Personally, I think that there are a lot of reasons to give teenagers cell phones. First and foremost, young people with mobile phones can call their parents or an emergency service in case of an accident. Mobile monitoring applications allow parents to monitor their children's location and ensure that they are safe. Secondly, thanks to mobile phones, teenagers can stay in constant touch with their friends. Thirdly, cell phones can be used for educational purposes. They enable teenagers to access educational websites, to use electronic dictionaries and to download books, educational games, and TV programs.

Nevertheless, some people disapprove of the increase in cell phone usage. They think that teenagers often chat on the phone when they should be doing homework or household chores. What is more, many parents complain that their children spend too much money on their mobile phone. Most teenagers do not pay for the phone, and therefore they do not know how much it costs.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think parents can teach their children how to use cell phones properly. I believe that giving a teenager a mobile phone can teach them responsibility and money management.

To sum up, more teenagers have cell phones than ever before. Mobile phones enable young people to communicate with their family and friends from any location, provide safety and help teenagers to learn. I think that the cell phone is a useful device for teenagers.

### **Эссе №50. Some people believe that children should spend less time surfing the Net.**

The Internet has opened the world to modern kids. However, a lot of people worry about the impact of the Internet on children. They wonder if it is a good idea to allow kids to use the Internet.

Personally, I think that there are many reasons why children should use the Internet. Firstly, thanks to the Internet, they can access news, documents, images, sounds, and video. Secondly, the Internet helps children to connect with their

classmates and widens their circle of friends. They get to know other people from around the world, which opens them up to other cultures and languages. What is more, the Internet is a wonderful tool to use for homework assignments.

On the contrary, the Internet can have negative impacts on children. The excessive use of the Internet can isolate kids from family and friends and affect their social development. A child spending a lot of time in front of a screen does not exercise much and faces a higher risk of poor health. In addition, kids can stumble upon inappropriate websites when using the Internet.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that modern children cannot live without the Internet because it is a great source of information and entertainment for them. I think that parents should not forbid their children to use the Internet. Nevertheless, they must limit the amount of time their kids spend accessing the Internet and evaluate the sites and social networks their children use.

To conclude, the Internet opens up loads of opportunities for children today. It helps kids study and communicate. I think that modern children need to master the art of searching the Internet.

### **Эссе №51. Some people think that social networking sites offer considerable advantages.**

Social networking has revolutionized the way people communicate. Some people say that social networking sites help them beat loneliness and improve their communication skills; others believe that social networking can have negative effects on society.

Personally, I think that social networks have a lot of benefits. Firstly, they link together people who have common interests and give them an opportunity to look for friends, build communities, send messages and share news and pictures. Secondly, many people use social networks to communicate and exchange personal information for dating purposes. Additionally, some use social networking as a job search tool.

However, some people say that those who use social networks often receive unreliable information and may take opinion as fact. In addition, some users are worried about data theft and viruses. Many people give out too much personal information that may be passed to third parties for different purposes.

Despite my respect for this opinion, social networks allow users to choose who can view their profile in order to protect their privacy. This prevents unauthorized users from accessing, adding, changing, or removing personal information and pictures.

To sum up, millions of people use social networks for fun as well as for business and educational purposes. I think that social networks will continue to grow in popularity because more and more computer users find it easier to interact with others through electronic communication.

### **Эссе №52. Some people think that there are real risks to dating via the Internet.**

Internet dating is increasing in popularity. Today, many people are looking for love via the web, while others say that meeting people online may be dangerous.

In my opinion, Internet dating has a lot of advantages. Firstly, it can be helpful for busy people who do not have time to go out and attend social events. Secondly, online dating gives you a chance to get to know people before meeting them in person. What is more, with Internet dating, you can date people who live in other cities and even countries.

However, some people say that online dating is too risky. You can never be sure that you are communicating with the individual whose personal information and photos you can see. For example, you may discover that a 25-year-old man you have met online is 50. Besides, it is very dangerous to give detailed personal information to complete strangers because your online friend might be a fraud or a criminal.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that online dating can be safe if done properly. You should never give your full name, address or phone number to people that you meet online. One of the advantages of Internet dating is that it gives you some time to decide whether you trust someone or not.

To sum up, in today's hectic world, it has become more challenging to meet people. The Internet gives everybody an opportunity to explore dating options. I think that online dating sites allow computer users to expand their social circle and to find a perfect match.

### **Эссе №53. Some people prefer writing traditional paper letters to using e-mails.**

In the past, people had to go to the post office to send a letter. Today, communication technology enables us to contact anyone, from anywhere, and at an instant. However, some people doubt that traditional letters have become obsolete.

In my opinion, e-mails have loads of advantages. First of all, they can be sent instantly, which helps us save our time. Secondly, one can send the same message to many people simultaneously. What is more, e-mail is cheaper and more environmentally friendly than sending traditional letters because one does not need paper, stamps or envelopes to send messages by computer.

Nevertheless, some people say that paper letters enable them to express their thoughts and feelings. E-mails are often impersonal and short, while paper letters are thoughtful and long. E-mails do not allow you to see the sender's handwriting and to feel the crisp paper. In addition, if you do not have access to the Internet, you will not be able to send e-mail.

Despite my respect for this opinion, the post office may be closed when you need to buy stamps and envelopes. If you have a computer with an Internet connection, you will be able to send a message from anywhere, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

To conclude, sending e-mail has almost taken the place of writing letters. I think that if you want to tell your loved ones an interesting piece of news, it may be better to write a paper letter, which has more of a personal touch; but if the addressee does not mean much to you, e-mail will do.

### **Эссе №54. Some people are worried about computers and robots doing the same things that people can do.**

The rapidly changing world of technology influences our everyday lives. Most people believe that technologies facilitate their lives and save much time; others say that we are too dependent on technology.

In my opinion, computers and robots can be very useful. First of all, they help people perform various tasks. For example, they can explore another planet, defuse bombs, control cars and planes, explore inside a volcano or just do boring household chores like cleaning. Secondly, the use of industrial robots has led to cheaper production of various goods, including automobiles and electronics. In

addition, domestic robots provide companionship to elderly and disabled people and make their lives easier.

However, a lot of people say that the use of robots in industry results in unemployment. Besides, some people fear that technology will take over the world or that humans will be controlled by robots.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I cannot agree with the second point of view. Science fiction gives rise to many misconceptions about robots, including the idea that robots can be a threat or that people can lose control over them. Nevertheless, this will hardly happen because robots cannot evolve independently of humans.

To conclude, the environment in which people live and work is changing, and we should keep up with the times. Technology improves our lives and brings numerous benefits to mankind. I think that we should not fear new technologies, but embrace them.

### **Эссе №55. Some people say that a virtual field trip can be a good alternative to a traditional field trip.**

With advances in technology, virtual field trips have become very popular. Today, students do not need to go to cities, museums or art galleries any longer because they can travel to other places through websites. Other people do not think a virtual field trip can substitute for a traditional one.

Personally, I think that virtual field trips have plenty of advantages. Firstly, they enable teachers to take their students to any place in the world in seconds. Secondly, it is easy to arrange online field trips because there is no need for buses and chaperones. Thirdly, travelling to France or Germany is expensive, and many students cannot afford to go there. Nevertheless, they can take a virtual tour to these countries for free.

On the contrary, some people say that the experience is far from real because students cannot touch things, interact with some areas or take pictures. What is more, a virtual field trip does not give students the opportunity to talk to guides and experts.

Despite my respect for this opinion, taking a virtual field trip is not the same as actually visiting a place. Nonetheless, it gives students the chance to learn a lot of interesting things and can inspire them to visit different places in the future. In addition, many online field trips allow students to contact experts and to ask them some questions.

To conclude, virtual field trips open up a world of opportunities for both students and teachers. Although virtual field trips cannot substitute for traditional field trips, I think they are a valuable supplement to traditional lessons.

### **Эссе №56. Some people say that the theatre is likely to disappear.**

The theatre has existed since 2000 BC. However, a lot of people believe that today it cannot compete with films and TV. Still there are those who suppose it should continue existing.

In my opinion, the theatre still has great appeal for many people. Firstly, a theatre performance is shown live to the audience. While watching a movie you stare at flat shades on the screen and see only recorded images. Nevertheless, in the theatre you watch living breathing people interact and see the character's story happen right in front of you. Secondly, a theatre performance gives you a chance to appreciate the wonderful acting of a talented cast. What is more, the theatre enables you to see your favourite actors on the stage.

Nonetheless, some people prefer watching a movie to seeing a play. Unlike the theatre performance, the film story can change time and locations with ease. Moreover, theatre tickets are expensive, and you cannot enjoy popcorn, chips and soft drinks during the play.

Despite my respect for this opinion, if you want to watch your favourite film again, you can expect the same piece of art over and over. In the theatre, the live art differs each time. Besides, watching a film in a movie house full of other people can be very annoying, as many moviegoers talk and eat popcorn during the film.

To conclude, the theatre has a greater connection and intimacy between the actors and the audience. I strongly believe that the theatre will never disappear.

### **Эссе №57. Some people think that graffiti is a vandalism.**

These days, graffiti can be seen in subways and on the walls of many buildings. Some people enjoy examining graffiti, while others look down on writing and pictures illegally placed in public spaces.

Personally, I think that graffiti is an art form. Firstly, it gives artists an opportunity to communicate their feelings and ideas to the audience and to show that art is not only what appears in galleries or museums. Secondly, a lot of pictures are colourful and complex. The completion of some paintings takes



plenty of time and effort as well as a considerable amount of skill. What is more, graffiti is a creative method of communicating with other artists and the average citizen.

However, some people do not recognize graffiti as art. They say that most pictures are unsightly and have little or no aesthetic appeal. In addition, graffiti often appears on private or public property without permission, and then public funds are used to remove it.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think some paintings are really beautifully done. Besides, I believe that graffiti often beautifies urban spaces and makes walls and buildings look attractive.

To conclude, today, one can see graffiti in galleries, museums, on many websites, in fashionable magazines, and even on clothes and toys. It brings an aesthetic pleasure to the general public like any other recognized art form. I believe that graffiti has a great future.

### **Ecce №58. Some people believe that listening to music has good effects on everyone.**

Music is loved all over the world, and it can affect the way people feel and behave. Music is said to have a lot of benefits, but it can also have negative effects as some people believe.

I think that listening to either upbeat or relaxing music can have positive effects. Firstly, music helps you relax and eases anxiety. It is well known that music can have a calming effect on listeners, but it can also give them energy. Secondly, music can challenge us intellectually. People listening to music tend to feel more creative in the task they are doing such as writing, painting or even cleaning the house. Moreover, music can have a healing effect on people. It can normalize heart rate, stimulate the brain and soothe listeners better than any pills.

However, some people say that certain forms of music can have a negative influence on listeners. For example, rock music and heavy metal arouse anger, irritation and rage, which can lead to aggressive behaviour. Some popular song lyrics contain violent, racist and suicidal themes. In addition, those who listen to music at high volumes may suffer from hearing loss.

Despite my respect for this opinion, listening to music that inspires you and makes you feel happier and more energetic helps you create the mood you

really want. Nobody can force you to listen to music that you do not like or that is too loud.

To sum up, we should never underestimate the power and influence of music. It can change your mood, bring back memories and touch your feelings. I think that listening to music is an exciting and fulfilling experience.

### **Эссе №59. Some people think that rap music has a bad influence on teenagers.**

Today, rap music is very popular and influences television, fashion, dance and other musical styles. Many people are worried about the messages conveyed by rap music. Others are sure it does not do any harm.

In my opinion, rap music is not as bad as most people think. Firstly, it educates listeners about what is going on in a neighbourhood or city and draws their attention to different problems, including poverty and racism. Rap music enables young people to tell stories so that they can be heard. Secondly, rap music can be used to reach students and to make learning more interesting. Last but not least, rap music is good for dancing.

Nevertheless, some people think that teenagers should not be allowed to listen to rap music. Firstly, the lyrics of many rap music songs glamorize drugs, promiscuity, crime and violence. Therefore, teenagers who listen to rap are more likely to drink, use drugs and commit violent acts. Secondly, rap songs often contain inappropriate or offensive language, which has a negative effect on teenagers' vocabulary.

Despite my respect for this opinion, not all rap music is negative. Some rap artists focus on delivering positive messages and educating their listeners. I believe that rap music can be used as a tool to speak out against violence and discrimination and to promote peace and tolerance.

To conclude, teenagers need to explore different musical genres in order to broaden their musical horizons and to be more open-minded. I think listening to rap music can help young people relax or feel more creative.

### **Эссе №60. Some people think that watching movies is beneficial to everybody.**

Everybody likes watching films. Movies are a source of entertainment for people of all age groups and professions. However, some people doubt that watching a movie is the best way to spend our free time.

In my opinion, watching movies can be a very useful activity. Firstly, films introduce us to cultures, historical events and stories with which we are unfamiliar. Secondly, movies stir our emotions and memories. What is more, movies can be used in classrooms to enhance learning. For example, watching the original version of a foreign movie is an effective way of improving one's language skills.

On the contrary, some people say that watching movies can interfere with basic physical activity. People who spend too many hours in front of a television have little time for exercise and outdoor activities. In addition, watching a movie is a one-sided activity. People look at the screen and do not look at each other during the film. They dip into exciting adventures of the main characters and do not pay attention to what their friends or family members do or say.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that films can stimulate conversations. Movies can also bring families together. Family movie night is a fun activity that encourages parents and children to spend more time together and to discuss different things.

To sum up, watching movies is many people's favourite pastime these days, and it will remain popular for years to come. Anyway, I believe that a really good film has the power to entertain, educate and unite people.

### **Эссе №61. Some people are find of 3D films.**

3D films are growing in popularity. Many people think that watching a 3D movie is great fun, while others prefer 2D versions.

Personally, I enjoy watching 3D movies. The main advantage of such films is that the image is seen in three dimensions. 3D movies recreate reality with greater detail and enhance the illusion of depth perception. Secondly, 3D movies prove that the technology can enhance not only the visual experience, but the storytelling, too. Besides, now many people can watch 3D films from the comfort of their living rooms instead of having to go to a movie house.

However, some people believe that 3D does not add much value to the film. They say that 3D movies are made for amusement rather than for aesthetic pleasure. Another disadvantage of 3D films is that tickets are expensive. Some moviegoers say that 3D films are not worth the extra cost and that they are just a way for companies to boost profits.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that a good 3D movie is worth seeing. Watching 3D movies gives us a wonderful opportunity to interact more with the film. People perceive the world around them with depth. Therefore, it is natural to see films that are given more depth to the scene instead of flat images.

To conclude, modern technology enables filmmakers to create magic on screen. 3D films bring the movie-going experience to a completely new level. I suppose some 3D movies are very impressive on a technical level and are definitely worth the time and cost.

### **Ecce №62. Some people prefer watching a film version to reading a book.**

In the past, when the forms of entertainment were far more limited reading was one of the few ways to pass the time, but that was before the advent of new technologies. These days, people have a lot of other options for spending time, so many of them prefer watching movies or playing computer games to reading books. Others do not think DVDs take the place of books.

Personally, I prefer reading a good book to watching its film version. Firstly, reading helps me relax and forget about my problems. It often relieves stress and makes me feel happier. Secondly, reading fires my imagination. Books transfer me to other countries, continents or even to other worlds, introduce me to amazing people and make me laugh and cry. Moreover, reading helps me improve my vocabulary and teaches me to focus.

However, finding time for reading can be difficult for people with busy schedules and hectic lifestyles. Unlike reading, watching a movie does not involve a major investment of time. Besides, watching a film is easier because you do not have to use your imagination.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that no screen version can be better than a book itself. Any movie director adds a little bit of himself to the film and sometimes changes the story completely. Therefore, even if the movie is well done, it differs from the book.

To conclude, I think that reading is one of the cheapest forms of entertainment and a healthy means of escapism. Books allow the reader to ‘talk’ to people who lived in different ages and countries. I believe that no film can substitute for this special silent conversation.

### **Ecce №63. Some people say that electronic books are going to replace paper books in the future.**

Nowadays, much new information is not printed in traditional books, but is made available online or in the form of e-books and there are people who use that. But others like electronic books that are making their way into the world's markets.

In my opinion, e-books have some advantages over traditional books. Firstly, e-readers are light, compact and can store thousands of pages. You can carry a single device instead of a suitcase full of heavy books. Secondly, e-readers allow you to call up a dictionary and to increase the font size when the light is dim. Thirdly, e-books save trees and the energy and resources that it takes to print paper books.

However, some people prefer traditional paper editions to e-books. They say that the device for reading e-books is rather expensive, and one needs access to the Internet to download them. What is more, so far there is only a limited selection of e-books being published.

Despite my respect for this opinion, e-books are cheaper than traditional books. Consequently, an e-reader could save you money in the long run. Besides, more and more titles are available as e-books today. Publishers try to keep pace with an expanding number of readers who want the latest technology and continue to put out e-books at a steady pace.

To conclude, the main advantages of e-books are their convenience and cost. I think they enable people to carry a virtual library anywhere and to buy more books for less money.

### Ecce №64. Some people say that reading detective stories is just a waste of time.

Detective stories have always been extremely popular with the reading public. This literary genre appeals to the reader's desire to be entertained, to uncover clues and to solve puzzles. But some people doubt that detective stories really worth reading.

Personally, I enjoy reading detective stories. Firstly, most detective stories are interesting because they arouse the reader's curiosity and keep them in suspense. Secondly, a good detective story is a battle of wits between the author and the reader. It allows the reader to solve the crime on their own by using the clues that are placed throughout the story. Thirdly, many people read detective

stories for diversion and relaxation. Some stories are designed to be read in one sitting.

Nevertheless, some people say that they get bored with detective stories. Firstly, all these stories are the same: a crime, usually a murder, has been committed, and the detective must figure out who did it. Besides, sometimes the reader can figure out the culprit from the very beginning.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that a well-crafted detective story deserves the reader's attention. Reading detective stories develops your critical thinking and analytical skills and allows you to exercise your brain and to test your observation skills.

In conclusion, I would like to say that reading detective stories is a pleasurable activity. I believe that a good detective story will hold your attention right to the very end.

### **Ecce №65. Some people say that it is important to exercise regularly.**

Everybody wants to be in good shape, to stay healthy and to enjoy good physical, mental and emotional health. People are sure that physical activity is important for healthy development. However, others do not agree with that.

In my opinion, exercise has plenty of benefits. First of all, physical exercise strengthens the immune system, decreases your body weight and helps to prevent many diseases, including heart and cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity. Secondly, exercise makes you strong, fast, patient and disciplined. What is more, regular exercise can help improve your mood and increase energy levels. It is the best remedy for depression and stress.

Nevertheless, some people do not exercise for various reasons. Some of them are afraid to injure themselves or think that if they exercise too much, fatigue may interfere with other activities. In addition, exercise can be expensive if you go to fitness clubs and swimming pools.

Despite my respect for this opinion, if you warm up, follow safety rules and use equipment correctly, you will hardly receive an injury. Besides, you do not have to pay a fortune for exercising, but look for cheaper alternatives. If money is tight, you can walk, jog, bike, swim, dance or do your morning exercises.

To sum up, if you want to lose weight, to increase your life span and to feel happier and more energetic, you should exercise regularly. I am convinced that a moderate amount of exercise is good for everyone.

### **Эссе №66. Some people believe that children should be encouraged to go in for sports.**

Regular exercise has a lot of health benefits. That is the main reason why many parents want their kids to go in for sports. However, others doubt that sports activities are really important for children.

I think that kids should do sports regularly. Firstly, physical exercise strengthens the immune system, improves mental health and helps prevent different diseases and obesity. Secondly, sports can teach kids how to work as a team. Children learn to cooperate with their peers and to be responsible for their actions. Additionally, playing sports gives kids the opportunity to meet new friends and shows them that exercise can be fun.

Nevertheless, some people say that playing sports can have some negative effects on children. Not every child is equally good at sports. If children's parents, coaches or peers constantly criticize them, kids may lose confidence in their abilities and feel depressed. Apart from that, children may suffer different injuries, including scratches, sprains and fractures.

Despite my respect for this opinion, sports teach children how to deal with defeat. Children learn that winning is not everything and that sometimes it is OK to lose. Failure can encourage kids to keep practicing their skills in order to perfect them. As a result, children become persevering and learn how to achieve their goals, which can be applied to schoolwork or any other area of their lives. Besides, if children warm up, follow safety rules and wear protective gear, they will hardly receive an injury.

To conclude, the benefits of youth sports far outweigh the negative effects. Sports improve physical and psychological health, and they are a good source of entertainment. I think that sports can make children happier and boost their confidence.

### **Эссе №67. Some people say that one should go to a fitness club to be healthy and slim.**

Everybody knows that exercise is one of the key components of a healthy lifestyle. Regular exercise leads to weight loss, improved cardiovascular health and muscle growth. However, other people do not think that it is a good idea to go to a fitness club in the pursuit of health and beauty.

In my opinion, fitness clubs have plenty of benefits. Firstly, health clubs offer a wide variety of cardio equipment and weight machines. Besides, they provide you with fitness related activities, including aerobics, yoga and swimming. Secondly, you can hire a personal trainer who will help you design an exercise plan with the right combination of cardiovascular exercise and resistance training. In addition, exercising in the company of fellow enthusiasts motivates you and increases the efficiency of your workouts.

Nevertheless, some people cannot afford to go to fitness clubs. Besides, one needs at least thirty minutes of exercise three times a week. People with busy schedules cannot do as much as that and choose not to join a gym.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that you can fit your workout into your busy schedule if you want to. For example, if you often stay late at the office or have got a lot to do in the evening, you can get up an hour earlier in the morning to go to the gym.

To sum up, fitness clubs help people stay in shape. Those who go to the gym are more energetic, physically stronger and have better endurance. So I am convinced that if you make your workout a regular part of your week, you will be able to enjoy the benefits of exercise.

### Ecce №68. Some people say that surfing is rather risky.

Every year millions of people go to the beach in order to ride a surfboard on the crest of a wave. Surfing is growing in popularity as more and more people across the world want to engage in this sport. But there are still some people who do not like it at all.

Personally, I see no reason why young people should not go surfing. Firstly, it gives them an opportunity to release stress and to display their strength and agility. Secondly, surfing makes them stronger and healthier because this sport engages the entire body, so there is plenty of movement. What is more, riding a surfboard gets the adrenaline pumping in your body and makes you feel happier.

Nevertheless, some people say that surfing can be incredibly dangerous and that surfers put themselves at risk every day. Encounters with sea life and collisions\*with sand bars, rocks, reefs or other surfboards can cause injuries. The risk of drowning and the risk of being attacked by a shark can make this sport deadly. In addition, the equipment and sportswear are expensive.



Despite my respect for this opinion, surfers say that their hobby does not take much money because all you need is a good board and a pair of shorts. Besides, most sea life is harmless, and shark attacks are quite rare.

To conclude, the very thought of riding a big wave fills most people with dread. I believe that riding on waves is a thrilling experience, and one may quickly find out why so many people become obsessed with surfing.

### **Ecce №69. Some people think that physical attractiveness is important for everyone.**

Modern society places much emphasis on physical beauty. Attractive people seem to be at an advantage no matter what they do or where they go. Others try not to revolve around beautiful people.

Personally, I believe that inner beauty is much more important than outer beauty and that sometimes-physical attractiveness may be a disadvantage. First of all, a pretty face and a slim figure are superficial things. Beauty begins to fade, as people grow older. Secondly, sometimes-beautiful people cannot find love because they think that other people start dating them just because of their looks. In addition, beautiful people have a reputation for being capricious, frivolous and faithless.

However, some people think that beauty is the path to happiness. Beautiful people can easily find friends and have increased romantic opportunities. Besides, it is easier for an attractive person to gain promotion or to get a well-paid job.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that beauty does not guarantee happiness or a successful career. Even beautiful people can be repulsive if they lack the internal depths to support their slim figure and attractive features. Anyway, if you are kind, smart, cheerful, honest and generous, people will want to be around you.

To conclude, this is a misconception that beautiful people are happier, more successful and more satisfied with their lives. I think that we should learn to appreciate inner beauty and remember that ‘all that glitters is not gold’.

### **Ecce №70. Some people prefer to have only one child.**

The lifestyle of the modern family has changed greatly. Some people think that maintaining a small family size has some personal and economic advantages; others still prefer to have large families.

In my opinion, having a small family offers many social and financial advantages. Firstly, one needs less money to support a small family. In small families, parents do not have to work too much, and they can spend more time with their child. Secondly, a large number of children create a considerable amount of chores for parents, especially for the mother. Additionally, constant battles between siblings are common in large families.

Nevertheless, some people think that large families are better. Firstly, when there are two or more children in the family, they become used to helping each other and sharing responsibilities. They learn to live in a 'community' where every member is equal. Secondly, when a child has brothers and sisters, he or she is not likely to become egotistic because parents share their love and attention between all their children.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that in large families it is difficult to ensure that each child receives the attention he or she deserves. Parents often try to divide their time equally between their children, but it is hard to be fair.

To conclude, all families should be free to have as many children as they want. I think that if social support to families is not increased, one-child families may become the new traditional family.

### **Ecce №71. Some couples choose not to have children.**

It used to be normal practice to have a house full of children. Nowadays, a lot of young people say that they would prefer to live a childfree lifestyle. However, others doubt they will be happy with that decision.

In my opinion, the advantages of being a parent outweigh the disadvantages. Firstly, having a child is a wonderful experience for many people. Baby's first steps, games, picnics, children's birthday parties and story reading are happy memories that every parent has. Secondly, those with children usually find themselves surrounded by a strong support network. Children usually care for their aging parents and help them when they need it. Additionally, those who have kids are not likely to feel lonely.

Nevertheless, some people choose to be childfree for various reasons. Firstly, they will have an opportunity to build a career and to work as much as they need to. They will be free to focus on their interests, to socialize with their friends, to travel and to do whatever they want. Secondly, some couples say that they cannot afford a child.

Despite my respect for this opinion, a lot of people manage to combine a career and family. They say that having kids does not prevent them from going on vacation or taking up a hobby. Besides, though raising a child can be expensive, many parents do not care about money.

To sum up, there is a strong emotional bond between parents and their children. I still believe that the joys of parenthood more than compensate for all the difficulties that parents have to overcome.

### **Ecce №72. These days, some people adopt children from overseas.**

Millions of children around the world need new homes and loving parents. International adoption is increasing in popularity. However, some people do not think it is a good idea to adopt internationally instead of domestically.

I think there are many advantages of adopting a child from another country. Firstly, international adoption can give children opportunities that are not available to them in their home countries. Another major advantage of international adoption is that birth parents seldom challenge the adoption. Additionally, those who adopt a child from abroad learn more about another country and gain respect for its culture.

Nevertheless, some people say that there can be a lot of problems with adopting a child from another country. Firstly, international adoption is a lengthy and expensive process. Secondly, children that are adopted from other countries may have more health problems than domestically adopted children. Some of them suffer from malnutrition or have emotional disorders or developmental disabilities. Besides, orphanages are filled with children in one's home country.

Despite my respect for this opinion, many people choose to adopt internationally since there is more demand than supply within the country for adoptions. The fact that more children are available for adoption means that there is no competition for the same child with other prospective adoptive parents. In some countries, the need for adoption is so great that families who want to adopt a child are offered shorter processing times and reduced fees.

To conclude, international adoption gives children a chance to find a loving home. At the same time, it enables adoptive parents to expand diversity in their family. In my opinion, raising a child adopted from abroad is an enriching multicultural experience for the family.

### **Эссе №73. Some people think that couples should not marry young.**

These days, there are numerous arguments about marriage, particularly young marriage. The average age at which men and women marry has risen, but some young people still decide to marry right out of high school.

In my opinion, there are many pitfalls associated with early marriage. Firstly, those who choose to marry young often lack the maturity to understand many things and do not know what they want to achieve in the future. For example, one member of the couple may choose a career that requires a lot of travelling, which may have a bad effect on their marriage. Secondly, young people often face financial difficulties that can put a huge strain on their relationship. Moreover, as the years pass young people may find that they have very little in common and that their needs, goals and views have become completely different.

Nevertheless, some people believe that early marriage has some benefits. Firstly, marriage provides stability in a relationship and brings young people closer emotionally. Additionally, young people can easily adjust to having new relatives and adapt to living in a new apartment or another city.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that lack of maturity and social experience may complicate the relationship with in-laws and lead to disagreements.

To sum up, statistics show that a majority of young marriages fail. I think people should be prepared for family commitments if they want their marriage to last.

### **Эссе №74. Some people say that it is wonderful to have a sibling.**

Some children complain that their siblings treat them badly and make life unbearable for them. Other kids enjoy the company of their brothers and sisters and are happy to spend a lot of time with them.

Personally, I think that having siblings can have plenty of benefits. Firstly, siblings provide each other with mutual support, especially in times of crisis. They guide and protect each other all through their lives. Secondly, children with siblings have better social and communication skills because they are used to being around other people and having to share and compromise. What is more, those with siblings seldom feel lonely because there is always someone around to talk to, play with and go to for advice.

However, some people believe that children with siblings may face some problems. Firstly, there is often competition between brothers and sisters for their parents' attention and love. Additionally, siblings have to share a room, toys and other things, which can lead to quarrels and fights.

Despite my respect for this opinion, sometimes only children are more spoiled and selfish than those with siblings since they have no rivals for their parents' love. Those with siblings learn how to resolve conflicts, solve problems, share and be more tolerant towards other people.

To conclude, I think that the advantages of having siblings far outweigh the disadvantages. Brothers and sisters develop strong emotional bonds and care about each other.

### **Эссе №75. Some people say that overpopulation is a major problem for the human race.**

At present, the Earth accommodates more than 6 billion people. Some people are worried that the planet will not be able to sustain larger numbers of inhabitants. However, others think the population growth has positive effects.

In my opinion, overpopulation can cause a lot of problems. Firstly, if the world's population continues growing, it will be very difficult to produce enough food and goods. More people need more water, minerals, shelter and clothes. Secondly, population growth causes numerous environmental problems. People drive cars, throw away litter, cut down forests and consume natural resources. Moreover, overpopulation may result in the emergence of new epidemics and conflict over scarce resources.

Nevertheless, some people say that overpopulation has some advantages. An increase in population can lead to an increase in technology, which will result in the introduction of many innovations and the production of more sophisticated goods. Additionally, with an ever-growing population there will be more people

willing to work for less money. As a result, there will be more goods and services available to people, and prices will go down.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think that overpopulation will do more harm than good to economic development. If the number of workers exceeds the number of available jobs, people will have difficulty in finding new employment, which can lead to poverty and elevated crime rate.

To conclude, if human population growth does not slow, people may face serious problems. If we want to live longer, healthier lives, it is necessary to use population control. I think that it is important to limit birth rates and educate people about family planning.

### **Эссе №76. Some people think that stress can ruin one's life.**

Losing a job, having difficulties at home or at work or just moving to a new flat may cause stress. Some people say that stress turns their lives upside down, while others like being under constant pressure.

In my opinion, stress has plenty of detrimental effects. Firstly, it has a bad effect on a person's overall health. It weakens the immune system, leads to insomnia and increases the risks of heart disease. In addition, stress can cause tension, irritability, anxiety, anger and loss of concentration. Secondly, stress can interfere with one's productivity and personal relationships. What is more, stress can trigger behaviour that is difficult to control such as compulsive gambling, overeating or spending.

However, some people believe that living without stress is like living in a vegetative state. Coping with stress makes people resilient and mentally strong. In addition, stress sometimes makes people move on and change life for the better.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that life without stress would be much happier. I think that it is important to avoid or at least to minimize stress, which has harmful effects on both mental and physical health. Long-term stress can lead to a nervous breakdown, depression or even suicide.

To sum up, stress is inevitable, and we cannot remove it from our lives. That is why it is important to find some ways to cope with stress and to remain positive. I think if we learn to reduce stress, we will be able to avoid many stress-related physical problems.

### **Эссе №77. Some people believe that the problems caused by gambling are very serious.**

Various forms of gambling, including the lottery, horseracing and online gambling are extremely popular today. Some people enjoy risking their money and possessions once in a while, but others may become compulsive gamblers and lose everything they have.

In my opinion, the distress caused by compulsive gambling can be very considerable. Firstly, compulsive gambling threatens a person's financial well-being. People often gamble away large sums of money and even money meant for bills and other household items. Secondly, gambling has a devastating effect on the addict's family. Gamblers often ignore their spousal and parental duties, which may lead to quarrels and divorce. Additionally, gambling addiction can cause work-related problems. Regular absence from work and the inability to do one's job can result in dismissal.

However, some people say that gambling allows them to satisfy their desire for adventure. It helps them relax and escape from the problems of everyday life. Besides, many people say that just the thought of winnings makes them feel excited.

Despite my respect for this opinion, by trying to win back money that they have lost, gamblers often lose more. To complicate matters further, they may borrow money from friends and relatives. Some gambling addicts resort to stealing when their savings are depleted.

To conclude, gamblers cannot think of anything but their addiction. I am convinced that compulsive gambling can result in debts, family breakdown and loss of interest in other activities. That is why it is vitally important to try to overcome this addiction before it is too late.

### **Эссе №78. Some people believe that capital punishment should be allowed.**

The death penalty has always been a highly controversial topic. Many countries have outlawed it, while some still practice capital punishment.

Personally, I am against capital punishment. Firstly, I think that nobody deserves it, no matter what the crime. Secondly, errors might be made, and innocent people might be killed. What is more, I believe that the death of the criminal does not make up for the crime they have committed.

Nevertheless, some people say that capital punishment prevents crime. Those who are for the death penalty believe that killing a person who has committed a capital crime deters other would-be criminals. Besides, some people think that the death penalty is better than life imprisonment because taxpayers will not have to pay for the room and legal costs of people who have been charged with a capital offence.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime. To my mind, most people who commit offences that carry the death penalty do not think rationally about the consequences of their actions. Moreover, killing the murderer will not bring the victim back.

To conclude, society is dehumanized by the death penalty because it puts stress on the need for vengeance. I feel that it must be abolished or used only in extreme cases. I am convinced that life imprisonment can be more effective than capital punishment.

### **Эссе №79. Some people believe that the lives of the disabled are much easier nowadays.**

In the past, many societies were cruel to disabled people, and sometimes they were left to fend for themselves or even locked away in mental asylums. These days, there are few misconceptions about people with disabilities. However, some people think this means that handicapped people are not happier today.

In my opinion, nowadays, disabled people have more opportunities than they did some years ago. Firstly, they have a chance to recover or regain some functions due to advances in medical technology. Secondly, the Internet enables disabled people to work from home and to communicate with others. In addition, there are special devices and equipment that make disabled people more independent, including wheel chairs, motorized scooters and vehicles with hand controls.

Nevertheless, some people say that the disabled still have some serious problems. Firstly, they face discrimination from employers who may choose healthier employees. Another problem is that disabled people often have difficulty in getting around. They cannot use public transportation or enter buildings that do not have wheelchair ramps. As a result, people with disabilities remain homebound and feel depressed.



Despite my respect for this opinion, today many companies are not allowed to refuse a person a job because he or she has only one leg, or cannot speak. Moreover, there are a lot of events for disabled people such as the Paralympics that help to raise their self-esteem.

To conclude, living with disability requires dealing with plenty of problems. Nonetheless, modern technology has done a lot to allow the disabled to live their lives to the full. I am sure they are happier because they can work, play sports, travel, date, and make friends.

### **Ecce №80. Some people say that there is nothing better than watching TV.**

People spend more and more time watching TV. There is one or even more than one TV set in every house; televisions can be seen in shops and cafes, before treadmills at the gym and in airport terminals. However, some people doubt that it is right to spend so much time in front of the television every day.

Personally, I think that television has numerous benefits. Firstly, it informs viewers of the latest international and local events. Secondly, television provides entertainment for millions of people and gives them a chance to ‘travel’ all over the world. Viewers can be entertained for hours with news and sports programmes, reality shows, TV games and feature films. Moreover, television helps us enrich our experience, introduces us to new ideas and activities, spreads cultural values and gives us food for thought.

Nevertheless, some people believe that television has some serious drawbacks. Most viewers are concerned about TV violence, which contributes to aggressive behaviour and makes people fear the world around them. In addition, television makes people idle. The more time they watch TV, the less time they have for physical activity and social interaction. Television distracts us from our family and everyday chores.

Despite my respect for this opinion, nobody can force you to spend hours staring at the TV screen or to watch violent films and programmes. Besides, I believe that watching TV can bring families and friends together, stimulate conversations and provoke discussion.

To conclude, it is difficult to imagine life without television. It broadens our horizons by bringing worldwide events and faraway places into our homes. I believe that television can be very educational and entertaining as long as we watch the right programmes.

### **Эссе №81. Some people believe that watching TV can have harmful effects on children.**

Today, children cannot imagine their lives without television. Watching TV may seem like a harmless activity, but some people think it can have bad effects on children's health and behaviour.

In my opinion, TV viewing is not the best activity for kids. Firstly, modern children get a heavy dose of TV violence. They may either develop immunity towards cruelty or acquire aggressive behaviour. Secondly, watching TV interferes with many activities such as doing homework, reading, playing sports and spending time with friends and family. Another problem is that commercials encourage children to spend much money on clothes, fast food, electronic devices and entertainment.

However, some people say that television is not without its advantages. Firstly, it can be a useful supplement to classroom education. Educational TV programmes improve children's vocabulary, increase their knowledge of history and science and expose them to classical music and art, to the diversity of the animal kingdom and the wonders of outer space. In addition, some parents use television as a babysitter when they need to do housework.

Despite my respect for this opinion, studies have shown that children who spend much time in front of the television do poorly on tests at school and have small vocabularies. Besides, when parents are busy, kids watch whatever they choose.

To conclude, watching TV can be bad for children. It can result in risky behaviour, poor grades, lack of communication, depression, and obesity. That is I am sure that parents must pay attention to the programmes their children watch and limit the amount of time kids spend in front of the screen.

### **Эссе №82. Many people watch soap operas because they find them enjoyable and realistic.**

Millions of viewers enjoy watching soap operas. They cannot tear themselves away from the screen when their favourite serial is on. Others do not understand that addiction.

In my opinion, watching soap operas is a waste of time. Firstly, the relationships of characters are hopelessly complicated, and plot twists are highly improbable. Secondly, soap operas are too predictable. Characters fall in love with the wrong person, discover that their lives are in danger, fight with their

faithless spouses, commit felonies, or inherit a fortune from their distant relatives. Moreover, one can easily become addicted to soap operas. Many people look forward to the next episode and spend an enormous amount of their free time watching TV series.

Nevertheless, some people find soap operas highly entertaining. Soap operas are different from the real world. They allow viewers to escape into melodrama and fantasy which they provide. Besides, some people say that soap operas have taught them how to save a relationship from breaking or to fix their problems.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I think it would be better if viewers tried to make their lives more interesting instead of spending hours in front of the TV and watching actors fall in love, quarrel or separate. They could go out, meet new people or take up a useful hobby.

To conclude, I suppose those who are fond of soap operas often ignore their families and do not participate in social activities to feed their addiction. Viewers can enjoy a soap opera every now and then, but they should not forget about more useful activities.

### **Эссе №83. Some people say that radio is not as popular as it used to be.**

Before the advent of cable television, DVDs and the Internet, radio was the dominant form of entertainment at home. Since the advent of technologies some people like the iPod, which can store a very large amount of music, radio has declined in popularity.

In my opinion, radio has some advantages over other forms of media. Firstly, radio is the cheapest form of electronic entertainment. Secondly, as radio uses only sound, it lets us perform other activities at the same time such as driving or working. In addition, radio can amuse a large crowd, while other activities such as reading a magazine or surfing the Net usually provide entertainment for only one person.

However, some people still believe that radio has no future. The main disadvantage of radio is that it cannot transmit images, video or text, which makes it less entertaining than visual media forms. Besides, radio cannot receive information. Unlike the Internet, radio does not allow you to contact other people or to download songs.

Despite my respect for this opinion, graphically oriented media can be a distraction. For example, using the Internet, watching TV or reading a newspaper

are prohibited when you operate a vehicle. Anyway, nobody forbids you to listen to the radio in the car. A long drive is less tiring when it is accompanied by enjoyable music.

To conclude, though radio faces big challenges today, it remains popular with the public. Judging by the Internet and satellite radio boom, radio is not likely to disappear. I think that people will listen to the radio at home, at work and in the car for years to come.

### **Ecce №84. Some people say that shopping is interesting and enjoyable.**

Every city has at least one shopping mall. Many people like such shops and spend an enormous amount of their free time there. However, others still prefer small shops to shopping malls.

Personally, I think that shopping malls have multiple advantages. Firstly, the shopping mall allows us to buy everything we need in one place. Secondly, the shopping mall provides shoppers with a wide choice of entertainment, including movie theatres, cafes, game machines, beauty salons and water parks. Thirdly, shopping malls are built for convenience and comfort. They are clean and aesthetically appealing, with covered car parks, a lot of benches, fountains and flowers.

Nevertheless, some people still prefer to buy everything they need in small shops. They say that the main disadvantage of the shopping mall is that crowds and long queues make shopping very difficult. Moreover, you can spend more money than you planned at the shopping mall because you always find something you like or want to buy there.

Despite my respect for this opinion, if you do not go shopping at weekends and on holidays, you will save much time. Besides, if you make a shopping list and try to follow it, you are not likely to overspend.

To conclude, the shopping mall is a place where people can purchase goods, meet their friends and have a good time. I think that people go to the shopping mall because it helps them forget about their problems and escape the monotony of their everyday lives.

### **Ecce №85. Some people say that online shopping is an excellent alternative to traditional shopping.**

Web users can buy almost anything online these days. Although online shopping is easy, it comes with some potential dangers. But some people do not think it is better than usual one.

Personally, I think that online shopping has many benefits. Firstly, Internet users can make purchases from home or workplace, which allows them to save much time and effort. Secondly, online stores are available 24 hours a day. What is more, due to online shopping customers can buy from stores all over the world.

However, a lot of people still prefer conventional stores. They say that the main disadvantage of online shopping is that goods are not available for direct inspection, and you have to rely on photographs and product descriptions. Besides, consumers are worried about computer security. Sometimes hackers steal names, addresses and credit card numbers.

Despite my respect for this opinion, shoppers can find cheaper deals and a wider choice of products online than in regular shopping centres. They can compare prices and read customer reviews. Besides, if you use only legit shopping websites, you are likely to avoid problems connected with privacy and security.

To sum up, online shops enable users to make purchases without being rushed and at any time of the day. To my mind, online shopping is much easier than conventional shopping: you have to select the goods that you need and place your order, and they will be delivered to your doorstep.

### **Exce №86. Many people say that it is important to recycle waste.**

The growth of big industrial cities has led to the concentration of huge amounts of waste in small areas. It is widely believed that recycling can solve the problem of waste disposal. However, some people find disadvantages in it.

In my opinion, recycling has a lot of economic and environmental benefits. Firstly, recycling keeps landfills from filling up with garbage. Secondly, it helps to save energy and conserve natural resources such as water, minerals and wood. What is more, by recycling, we can create new products, prevent harmful chemicals from contaminating our soil and water and reduce greenhouse emissions.

Nevertheless, some people say that recycling does have a few drawbacks. Firstly, it takes much time and effort to separate aluminium, steel and other metals from other recyclable materials like plastic and paper. Secondly, it is much

more costly to recycle waste than just to throw it into a landfill. Besides, recycled materials are more expensive than materials that have not yet been recycled.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that recycling is worth all the time and effort. It helps to save energy, which in turn saves money. I believe that reducing pollution and creating a healthier environment must be our number one priority.

To conclude, if we want to live longer and healthier lives, it is vital to recycle waste materials. I am convinced that recycling will help people solve many energy and environmental problems.

### **Ecce №87. Some people believe that going green has a lot of benefits.**

These days, more and more people recycle and reuse many products, drive hybrid cars, buy local goods and use alternative energy sources. We begin to understand the importance of becoming environmentally friendly. But not all the people share that idea.

In my opinion, moving to a more 'green' style of living has numerous advantages. Firstly, going green is meant to preserve the environment, to cut harmful emissions, to save energy and natural resources and to reduce waste. Secondly, going green saves money. For example, recycling unwanted materials reduces production costs while conserving energy. Moreover, those who adhere to more environmentally friendly practices feel happier because they know that they make 'green' decisions every day.

Nevertheless, some people think that going green has some disadvantages. Firstly, it means a lot of work. You have to separate your waste and buy energy efficient appliances and environmentally friendly products. Besides, not everyone can afford to buy organic food, to get solar panels on their houses or to purchase a hybrid vehicle.

Despite my respect for this opinion, this does not mean that going green is only for the wealthy. It does not take much time, money and effort to use less washing up liquids, to turn out the lights when you leave a room, to use fewer disposable goods or to reduce your personal pollution.

To conclude, we must try to decrease the impact our presence has on the environment. I believe that our lives will change for the better if more people switch to a green lifestyle.

### **Эссе №88. Some people think that there are many reasons to promote carpooling.**

These days, many people prefer travelling together in one car to driving alone. That is because almost everyone understands the importance of becoming more environmentally friendly. However, some people do not agree with that.

Personally, I think that carpooling has a lot of benefits. First and foremost, it helps the environment by reducing emissions. Secondly, if you do not use your car every day of the week, you can save money on car maintenance. Passengers can also share fuel, toll and parking costs. What is more, carpooling helps to reduce stress. Passengers can use the commute time to relax. For example, they can read a book or take a nap before arriving at the destination.

Nevertheless, some people think that carpooling has some disadvantages. The major drawback of carpooling is lack of flexibility. Passengers are dependent on other people. They have to leave work at the fixed hour and cannot drive to a supermarket on the way home to buy their groceries. Besides, some people prefer to drive themselves to reduce travel time.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I believe that car sharing helps drivers to save much time. When people carpool, there are fewer cars on the road, which helps to reduce traffic. Therefore, drivers and passengers are likely to arrive at the workplace on time.

To sum up, carpooling has environmental, financial and health benefits. Those who choose to carpool can save much time, money and energy, as well as reduce the damage to the environment. That is why I think drivers should leave their vehicles at home and share cars.

### **Эссе №89. Some people say that modern teenagers are carefree.**

When we hear the word ‘teenager’, we often imagine a fun-loving young person who spends time having parties and socializing with peers. Some adults think that young people do nothing but have fun, while others are of a better opinion about them.

Personally, I think that teenagers face a variety of problems. Peer pressure is one of the biggest stressors for many young people. Some teenagers suffer from bullying, which can have a detrimental effect on their health, academic performance and self-esteem. Secondly, a lot of teenagers have serious body image issues. Both boys and girls may become critical of their looks and feel

insecure. In addition, teenagers experience stress over schoolwork. They are often under pressure from their parents and teachers to perform well academically.

On the contrary, some people think that teenagers have few problems until they reach adulthood. Firstly, they do not have to work, and therefore they can dedicate all their time and energy to their studies and interests. Apart from that, young people seldom worry about their future and live in the present.

Despite my respect for this opinion, some teenagers take part-time jobs and have to balance work and school. It is difficult for them to find time for their friends, interests and extracurricular activities. Besides, many teenagers do think about their future and worry about getting into college and choosing a career that is best for them.

To conclude, the teenage years can be a very difficult life period. Coping with problems and deciding what to do with their lives can be stressful for young people. I think that adults should never label teenagers as light-minded or frivolous because that is a misconception.

### **Эссе №90. Some people are worried about the strong influence of peer groups on teenagers.**

Young people attach much importance to relationships with their peers. Teenagers have a strong feeling that they must do the same things as other people of their age. Some people think the peer group has a bad influence on teenagers.

In my opinion, peers can have a positive influence on each other. Firstly, your friends can offer you a great deal of support and emotional nurturing and help you during a time of need or crisis. Secondly, young people never feel bored when they are surrounded by peers who share similar experiences and interests. Furthermore, peer groups teach teenagers to build relationships, to accept the differences in others and to interact with the opposite sex.

However, some people believe that the stresses in a teenager's life can come from their peers. Peers may pressure young people into doing something that may have serious consequences. Another problem that teenagers may face is rejection. Those who are expelled from the group experience feelings of isolation, resentment, anger, anxiety and even depression.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that teenagers gain valuable experience while they interact with their peers. For example, learning to say 'no' to their friends and to some of the activities they take part in is one of the most difficult lessons that teenagers need to learn.



To sum up, young people need to fit in with their peers and to win their acceptance and approval. To my mind, teenagers should be allowed to decide who their friends are and what groups they spend time with.

### **Эссе №91. Some parents think that teenagers should not be given much independence.**

The teenage years can become a real challenge for both parents and their children. Most adults feel confused when their kids say that they need more privacy and independence. Many parents ask themselves whether they should continue to make rules or give teenagers more freedom.

Personally, I think that teenagers need independence. Firstly, giving teenagers independence means teaching them responsibility, which is essential for making healthy life choices. It is extremely important for young people to learn how to make their own decisions in life, without having to ask other people for permission or help. Secondly, teenagers need independence to acquire some basic life skills like cooking, shopping or baby-sitting. Thirdly, giving teenagers independence can boost their self-esteem.

However, some people are convinced that if they give their children too much independence, it could be abused. Parents worry that their children will have fun or exhibit risky behaviour. Besides, some adults think that teenagers are too young and immature to make their own decisions. Parents want to keep teenagers safe and prevent them from making mistakes by limiting their freedom.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that teenagers need to make decisions for themselves, since they are not babies any more. If their parents do not give them any independence, young people will not have an opportunity to gain valuable experience.

To conclude, teenagers need to take steps towards adulthood. I think parents should encourage their children to solve their own problems, to make decisions, to do things for themselves and to face challenges.

### **Эссе №92. Some people believe that animals should not be taken from their natural surroundings and put into zoos.**

Spending a day at the zoo can be interesting and educational. However, some people do not like zoos because they think that animals are not happy there.

In my opinion, keeping animals in zoos is cruel. Firstly, they are confined to a small area and feel bored and depressed. Secondly, in some zoos animals

have to live in dirty and unhealthy conditions. Moreover, no matter how nice the zoo is, the enclosure does not compare with the natural habitat. Animals are much happier when they live in the wild because some of them are used to running, climbing, preying and roaming large territories.

On the contrary, some people may have a different point of view. They think that zoos provide a safe place for animals to live and encourage the reproduction of endangered species. What is more, zoo animals have access to medical care and good nutrition.

Despite my respect for this opinion, although zoos claim to protect threatened species from extinction, most zoo animals are not endangered at all. Zoos prefer to keep exotic animals that attract large crowds of visitors. Besides, very few endangered species are successfully bred in captivity, and it is much more expensive to maintain animals in zoos than to protect them in the wild.

To sum up, zoos are like prisons for animals. Although zoos give us a chance to see rare and wild animals without travelling to distant locations around the world, I think we should remember that living creatures might be extremely unhappy in their cells.

### **Ecce №93. Some people think that keeping exotic animals as pets is an interesting experience.**

Some people love housing rare or difficult to keep animals. Most of them buy exotic creatures without thinking about the possible consequences. However, others do not think it is safe to keep wild or unusual animals as pets.

Personally, I think there are some good reasons why people should not buy exotic animals. Firstly, it is almost impossible to domesticate some animals. Exotic pets remain dangerous and unpredictable, and they can seriously injure their owners. Secondly, taking care of an exotic pet is hard work. You will have to feed the animal, clean up after it and provide medical attention. Besides, it is expensive to keep an exotic pet. Some exotic animals need exotic food, special vitamins or accessories.

Nevertheless, some people think that taking care of an exotic creature will be fun. They believe that they will be noticed if they have exotic pets. Others just love animals and think that they will be able to take good care of them.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that buying an exotic pet may be a poor decision. Confinement makes some animals anxious and aggressive. As a result, your family and friends may fear your pet and refuse to come to your house. Moreover, some exotic pet owners discover that they cannot meet the needs of an exotic animal and want to get rid of it.

To conclude, sometimes those who buy exotic animals do not understand what they are getting themselves into. To my mind, exotic animals do not make good pets because they require special care and dedication, and they can pose a danger to their owners' health and safety.

### **Ecce №94. Some people object to animal testing.**

The use of animals in scientific tests receives much criticism from animal rights activists. Some people say that animal testing has helped medicine to advance more quickly and safely than it otherwise would have, while others oppose scientific testing on animals.

Personally, I am against animal testing. Firstly, thousands of animals are killed and injured during animal research. They suffer pain and have to live in captivity. Secondly, the medicine and products that have been tested on animals may never become approved for humans. Besides, unlike humans, animals cannot agree or refuse to be experimented on.

However, some people believe that the use of animals in scientific tests can have some benefits. First of all, animal testing often saves other animals and humans. It has led to the advancement of many modern life-saving drugs. Moreover, without animal testing, scientists would have to estimate the effects on humans, which would be extremely dangerous.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that testing products and drugs on animals is not as effective as it seems to be. The use of animals in scientific tests provides inaccurate information about the effects of various drugs on the human body because animals and humans are not biologically identical. The same medicine can be safe for animals yet toxic to humans, and vice versa.

To sum up, animal testing does have disadvantages. Besides being cruel, many experiments are useless when applied to humans. That is why I think that scientists need to look for a better alternative to animal experimentation.

### **Ecce №95. Some people think that virtual pets can replace real pets.**

Today, there are many websites that allow children to create or choose a pet they like and play with it. Cyber pets are now taking the place of live animals. However, some people doubt that caring for a virtual pet is interesting and rewarding.

In my opinion, virtual pets cannot compare with live animals. First of all, kids cannot touch or stroke their virtual pets. Digital pets cannot accompany children on walks and do not greet them when they come home after school. Secondly, virtual pets are usually predictable. Some of them never die and never grow up. Additionally, children may become preoccupied with their cyber pets and forget about their homework and household chores.

Nevertheless, some people believe that virtual pets have several advantages over real pets. Firstly, it costs nothing to keep cyber pets, and they do not leave a mess to clean up. Secondly, virtual pets can replace real pets when a person has a very busy schedule, cannot afford the live animal or suffers from allergies.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that virtual pets cannot give children that same bond they would get with a real pet. Although cyber pets are relatively cheap and easy to train and play with, there is no substitute for the love, loyalty and companionship of a real pet.

To sum up, taking care of live animals teaches children responsibility because a real pet needs water, food, training, grooming and attention. I think that a virtual pet cannot replace the live animal, but it can help prepare the child for a real pet.

### **Ecce №96. Some people think that there are a lot of benefits in living in a big city.**

Every year millions of people stream into big cities. It is well known that a big city offers many amenities and modern facilities. However, others think urban life is wonderful.

Personally, I think that city residents face plenty of problems. Firstly, pollution levels are dangerously high in big cities. Air pollution affects people's health and causes diseases such as asthma. Secondly, crime rates in cities are higher than in rural areas. Additionally, city residents have to face stressful situations every day. Doing things in a rush, noise, crowds, traffic jams, long commutes and the invasion of their personal space may turn their lives into complete chaos.

Nevertheless, some people like the speed and convenience of urban life. First of all, a city provides a wide choice of entertainment. City residents can visit clubs, restaurants, cafes, discos, theatres, museums, art galleries, cinemas, and parks. Besides, people have more chances to receive a good education and to build a successful career in a big city.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that life in the countryside is quieter, healthier and safer. Only there you can breathe clean air and enjoy silence and the beauties of nature.

To conclude, a lot of people enjoy living in a big city with a well-developed infrastructure, a competitive job market and a wide variety of social activities and events. I think in the countryside, people are friendly and calm because their lives are much less stressful than the lives of city residents.

### **Эссе №97. Some people believe that learning foreign languages is a waste of time.**

There are 6000 languages spoken throughout the world. Some people think that it is not necessary for them to learn foreign languages, while others have a different point of view.

In my opinion, the benefits of learning foreign languages are numerous. Firstly, learning foreign languages can make you an attractive candidate for many jobs and improve your chances of career development. Secondly, learning foreign languages is important for those who are fond of travelling. If you are able to communicate with the locals, read signs and understand your surroundings, travelling will be much easier. What is more, those who learn foreign languages display better problem solving skills and have more flexible minds and sharper memories.

However, some people think that there are some disadvantages of learning foreign languages. First of all, it requires a significant investment of your time and effort. You could do something else with your time, such as read books, exercise or take up a new hobby. Additionally, not everyone can afford to take college courses or pay for private tutoring.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I do not agree with the above-mentioned opinion. Many people find pleasure and enjoyment in learning a new language. Besides, it is possible to learn foreign languages from self-study.

To conclude, learning foreign languages improves your thinking abilities and expands your horizons. I am sure that foreign language learners are

introduced to other cultures, which results in broader understanding of the world, of politics, history, and human interactions.

### **Ecce №98. Many people dream of being famous someday.**

Many people think that celebrities have the world at their feet. The lives of film stars, singers, professional athletes and fashion designers seem glamorous and exciting when we read about them in magazines and watch them on TV. However, people doubt whether famous people are happy.

In my opinion, there are numerous negative aspects of being famous. The main disadvantage of fame is invasion of privacy. Paparazzi will go to any lengths to find out every single detail of celebrities' private lives. Secondly, celebrity stalkers may turn violent and pose a real threat to well-known people. Obsessed fans can follow celebrities, send them threatening letters, steal their property, scare them to death or even kill them. Additionally, some celebrities cannot cope with the pressures, which results in drug and alcohol addiction, depression or suicide.

On the contrary, some people have a different point of view. They say that celebrities have tons of money and can afford to buy luxury homes, cars, and private jets. Well-known people dine at the best restaurants, visit exotic countries and stay in five-star hotels. Another advantage of being famous is the adoration, love and attention of the public.

Despite my respect for this opinion, not all famous people have money. Some celebrities spend too much, get into debt and end their lives with nothing. Besides, the public often expect celebrities to be absolutely perfect in every aspect of their lives; otherwise they will be strongly criticized.

To conclude, well-known people often have exciting careers, fabulous looks and extravagant lifestyles that most people would envy. Nevertheless, the lives of celebrities are not their own. Therefore, I think being famous can be a painful experience.

### **Ecce №99. Some people say that ambitiousness is the key to success and happiness.**

These days, ambitiousness is a much-valued character trait. Some people believe that all go-getters are happy and satisfied with their lives, while others think that ambitiousness cannot lead to success or bring contentment.

In my opinion, it is extremely important to be ambitious nowadays. First of all, people have to be ambitious if they want to get anywhere in the business world. Besides being hard-working, a person must be determined to become successful, rich and powerful. Secondly, ambitious people believe in themselves, know how to obtain their goals and keep trying despite a failure, which is essential for both professional and private life. Moreover, ambitious people are prepared to take on new challenges. Every time they reach a goal, they add another in its place.

However, some people think that an ambitious person cannot be happy. Firstly, such an individual sees the world as a battle. Rivalry is his or her principal emotion. Ambitious people are socially detached, they are on their own. Secondly, an ambitious individual is convinced that the rewards of ambition - wealth, success, power – are worthy of the sacrifices made on its behalf.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I still believe that ambitious people are more successful than others in all aspects of life. There is nothing wrong with being competitive, but they should make sure they do not go too far to achieve their goals.

To conclude, ambitious people are flexible, strong-willed and determined to succeed. Without ambition, people would never get anywhere. I believe that ambition is the first step in success for everyone.

### **Ecce №100. Some people think that we should use critical thinking rather than trust intuition.**

Both intuition and critical thinking skills are essential in real-world situations. Many people are afraid of relying on their powers of intuition when making decisions. However, others think intuition should not be discarded as something worthless.

I believe that the guiding role of intuition should not be underestimated. Firstly, sometimes intuition enables an individual to foresee events before they happen. Secondly, intuition is valuable for communication. A highly intuitive person tends to have a ‘sense’ about people and to apply high intuition skills to sizing up situations and new acquaintances. Moreover, when it is impossible to employ critical thinking skills or there is something wrong with the situation, you should listen to your inner voice.

Nevertheless, some people believe that analysis and rationality are superior to intuition. For instance, intuition may not be helpful in determining another’s

personality. The situation may not give the observer an opportunity to see the traits that would indicate the personality. Besides, a person who uses skills of intuition may form an opinion on the basis of 'gut instincts' and is likely to rapidly reach conclusions without analysing the situation.

Despite my respect for this opinion, I state again that intuition helps us modify our behaviour and make right decisions in uncertain situations and unknown areas. Sometimes even doctors base a diagnosis on intuition as much as on scientific tests.

To conclude, much of what we do is often based largely on intuition. Though people do not fully understand how intuition works, we cannot deny its existence. I think people should try to develop their intuitive powers and learn to trust their intuition.





