

# TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAYS

The following words mean advantages and disadvantages. Match the words that go together.

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1) advantages and | a) negative effects |
| 2) benefits and   | b) minuses          |
| 3) pros and       | c) disadvantages    |
| 4) pluses and     | d) drawbacks        |
| 5) positive and   | e) cons             |

## TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY READING COMPREHENSION

Read the essay on the next page and answer the questions below.

1. What is the writer's opinion about learning a foreign language?
2. Does the writer discuss the advantages or disadvantages of learning another language?
3. How many advantages does the write state? What are they?
4. How many disadvantages does the write mention and what are they?

## TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY VOCABULARY BUILDING

There are 20 pieces to this essay. Write the name of each piece (topic sentence/example/result etc...) from the box below into the box on the right side of the essay. The first one has been done as an example. Then, underline any words in the essay which show you what part of the essay each piece is.

|                                |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Condition + Result           | • Explanation                  | • Summary of Main Ideas         |
| • Topic Sentence (Main Idea)   | • Result                       | • 1 <sup>st</sup> Advantage     |
| • Result                       | • Advice/Suggestion            | • <del>General Background</del> |
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advantage    | • 2 <sup>nd</sup> Disadvantage | • Essay Topic                   |
| • Topic Sentence (Main Idea)   | • Thesis                       | • Example + Condition + Result  |
| • 1 <sup>st</sup> Disadvantage | • Example                      | • Thesis again                  |
|                                |                                | • Explanation                   |

**These days, many students learn a foreign language. Do the advantages of learning a foreign language outweigh the disadvantages?**

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <p>1)Today the world is a global village. People can travel anywhere very quickly and businesses trade in many different countries. 2)Therefore, many people are learning a foreign language to communicate. 3)I believe that speaking a foreign language can be a useful skill but it may also cause problems. The following essay will discuss the pros and cons of learning another language.</p>  | <b>Introduction</b>          |
|   | 1) <i>General Background</i> |
|   | 2)                           |
|   | 3)                           |
| <p>4)On one hand, learning another language has some important benefits. 5)The most important one is that it is useful for work. 6)This is because many businesses need people who can help them trade with other countries. 7)If the business does not have a worker who speaks the language of the other country, they might have problems communicating. 8)As a result, businesses with employees who cannot speak foreign languages have a disadvantage in international trade. 9)Another advantage is that it is easier to travel. 10)For instance, when people travel abroad, it is helpful to be able to speak the language to communicate in hotels, restaurants, public transport and in tourist spots. 11)Hence, travellers can save time and enjoy their holiday more.</p> | <b>Body Paragraph 1</b>      |
|   | 4)                           |
|   | 5)                           |
|   | 6)                           |
|   | 7)                           |
|   | 8)                           |
|   | 9)                           |
|   | 10)                          |
| 11)   |                              |
| <p>12)On the other hand, learning a foreign language may also have some negative effects. 13)The main one is that it takes a very long time, 14) because people have to study for many years and practice a lot before they can communicate well. 15)Consequently, they have to spend a lot of their time on it and not many people nowadays have so much time. 16)In addition, it can be quite expensive. 17)For instance, if people pay for language lessons, books and CDs in order to study at home, they may not have as much money to spend on other things, such as holidays.</p>  | <b>Body Paragraph 2</b>      |
|   | 12)                          |
|   | 13)                          |
|   | 14)                          |
|   | 15)                          |
| 16)   |                              |
| <p>18)In conclusion, there are advantages and disadvantages to learning a new language. 19)It may help in work and travel. However, it may take a lot of time and money. 20)Therefore, I advise any student who wants to learn a new language to prepare themselves to devote time, effort and money towards it.</p>  | <b>Conclusion</b>            |
|   | 18)                          |
|   | 19)                          |
|   | 20)                          |

**TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY ORGANISATION - REVIEW OF LINKERS**

*Listen to two people discussing the pros and cons of using the internet. Write down the linkers you hear in the correct box below.*

| <b>To state the first idea</b> | <b>To state subsequent ideas</b> | <b>To contrast ideas</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                |                                  |                          |
| <b>To state an example</b>     | <b>To state a reason</b>         | <b>To state a result</b> |
|                                |                                  |                          |

## TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY PRE-READING

*Discuss these questions with your partner:-*

1. Do you know anyone who has gone abroad to study?
2. What are some advantages?
3. What are some difficulties these students face?
4. What is the effect it has on their families and the way they think?

*You are going to read an essay about studying at university in a different country. First read the ideas below and decide if it is an advantage (A) or disadvantage of studying abroad (D). The first one has been done as an example.*

Studying at university in a different country...

1. gives students more subjects and majors to choose from. A
2. may be more expensive, so parents may have to work at two jobs to pay for the fees and living expenses.
3. makes students homesick.
4. gives students the chance to learn about different cultures and as a result be more accepting of other cultures.
5. may make students learn another language.

## TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY ORGANISATION - REVIEW OF LINKERS

Read the essay below and complete the gaps with one word only. The first letter of each word is given.

### These days, many students can study at a university abroad. Do the advantages of studying in a different country outweigh the disadvantages?

A good education is an important part of many people's lives. Nowadays, some students prefer to study at a university which is in a foreign country. I believe that it can be beneficial but it may also cause problems. T\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_  
d\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_  
o\_\_\_\_\_ studying overseas.

O\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_, studying in a foreign country has some important benefits. T\_\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_  
o\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ it gives students more subject majors to choose from. For e\_\_\_\_\_, not many universities in this country have specialised majors such as nuclear technology. H\_\_\_\_\_, if students are interested in these subjects, they can learn about these only at some foreign universities. A\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_  
i\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ it gives students a different cultural experience. If people study in a different country, they may have to learn a different language and learn to understand the different ways of doing things in that country. C\_\_\_\_\_, they learn to be more open-minded and accepting of other cultures.

O\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_ h\_\_\_\_\_, studying overseas may also have some negative effects. T\_\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_  
o\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ it might cause students to be homesick. Most university students are quite young and have no experience of living away from their parents for a long time, s\_\_\_\_\_ they could miss their families and become depressed. I\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_, it is much more expensive to study in a country abroad. For i\_\_\_\_\_, students who are in a foreign country have to pay higher tuition fees and for accommodation costs. A\_\_\_\_\_ a r\_\_\_\_\_, this may affect their family's finances and some parents might have to work harder or do two jobs to pay for their children's education.

I\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_, there are a\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_  
d\_\_\_\_\_ to studying overseas. It gives people more choices about what to study and students may become more tolerant of other cultures. H\_\_\_\_\_, overseas students may miss home and it is not cheap to study in a foreign university. T\_\_\_\_\_, I advise any student who wants an education abroad to consider the above issues carefully before they decide.

# TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAYS – VOCABULARY

## TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY VOCABULARY – WORD FORMS

Often, you can tell how different parts of speech (e.g. verbs, nouns, adjectives) by how they end. The table below shows some common endings of verbs, adjectives and nouns.

| Verbs                      | Adjectives                    | Nouns                              |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ~ ise/ize <i>advertise</i> | ~ ed <i>excited</i>           | ~ ance/ence <i>attendance</i>      |
| ~ ate <i>communicate</i>   | ~ ing <i>exciting</i>         | ~ ation/tion <i>education</i>      |
| ~ ify <i>satisfy</i>       | ~ al <i>cultural</i>          | ~ sion <i>occasion</i>             |
|                            | ~ ial <i>beneficial</i>       | ~ ure <i>pressure</i>              |
|                            | ~ ic <i>public</i>            | ~ ment <i>development</i>          |
|                            | ~ ous / ious <i>religious</i> | ~ age <i>marriage</i>              |
|                            | ~ y <i>hungry</i>             | ~ er/ee <i>employer / employee</i> |
|                            | ~ able <i>preventable</i>     | ~ ness <i>kindness</i>             |
|                            | ~ ful <i>helpful</i>          | ~ ty <i>sensitivity</i>            |
|                            |                               | ~ ing <i>smoking</i>               |

Write the word form (Noun, Verb or Adjective) under each word and then put the words into the correct sentences below.

| develop | development | developed |
|---------|-------------|-----------|
|         |             |           |

- Economic \_\_\_\_\_ is very important for all countries.
- All countries want to \_\_\_\_\_ their economies.
- In \_\_\_\_\_ countries, people have a better quality of life.

| benefit | beneficial | benefit |
|---------|------------|---------|
|         |            |         |

- Free healthcare is \_\_\_\_\_ for children in poor families.
- The main \_\_\_\_\_ of solar power is that there is no pollution.
- Many UAE students \_\_\_\_\_ from a free university education.

|                    |                  |                |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>educational</b> | <b>educating</b> | <b>educate</b> | <b>education</b> |
|                    |                  |                |                  |

1. Parents want their children to get a good \_\_\_\_\_ so that they can get well-paying jobs in the future.
2. Parents buy their children \_\_\_\_\_ toys in order for them to learn while they play.
3. Universities \_\_\_\_\_ the country's future leaders. Therefore, they have a big responsibility.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the country's future leaders is a big responsibility for universities.

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>tradition</b> | <b>traditional</b> |
|                  |                    |

1. Nowadays, because societies are changing, not many people live \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyles.
2. Looking after guests is an important \_\_\_\_\_ in many countries.

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>cultural</b> | <b>culture</b> |
|                 |                |

1. Museums are important for educating visitors about the country's \_\_\_\_\_ history.
2. Children need to understand their society's \_\_\_\_\_ to know how to behave properly.

|               |                 |                   |                   |                   |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>employ</b> | <b>employee</b> | <b>unemployed</b> | <b>employable</b> | <b>employment</b> | <b>employer</b> |
|               |                 |                   |                   |                   |                 |

1. ADNOC is a major \_\_\_\_\_ in the UAE.
2. UAE businesses \_\_\_\_\_ many foreign workers.
3. Finding good \_\_\_\_\_ is usually the first focus of university graduates.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ people often have problems because they have no money.
5. Having a university degree makes a person more \_\_\_\_\_.
6. An \_\_\_\_\_ of a company has certain responsibilities, such as coming to work on time and carrying out their duties.

**TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY PRE-READING**

These days, many people move to cities for job opportunities. However, some people choose to live in the countryside. Do the advantages of living away from cities outweigh the disadvantages?

In the table below, write down the names of some cities and some countryside areas in the UAE.

| Cities | Countryside areas |
|--------|-------------------|
|        |                   |

Look at the images below. Decide if they are usually associated with a city (circle these) or the countryside (underline these). Then decide if they are positive or negative features. Put a tick (✓) beside those that you think are positive features.



A - Supermarkets

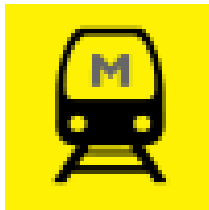


B – Fresh Air

C – Traffic Jams



D – Crime



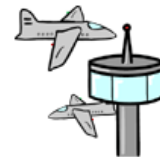
E – Metro systems



F – Small local shop



G – Bank Building



H – Airport



I – Many good jobs



J – Not much to do



K – Restaurants



L – No traffic



M – Air Pollution



N – Hospitals



**TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY VOCABULARY – WORD FORMS PRACTICE**

*Read the essay below. For each line with a number beside it, there is a word form mistake. Underline the word and write a one word answer in the gap provided. The correct answer is only one word.*

**These days, many people move to cities for job opportunities. However, some people choose to live in the countryside. Do the advantages of living away from cities outweigh the disadvantages?**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1.<br/>2.</p>                        | <p>Many people choose city life because of the availability of jobs. However, as more people now have enough money, the quality of life is becoming increasingly important and some people are moving to live in rural areas. I believe that living in the countryside can be benefit but it may also cause problems. The following essay will discuss the pros and cons of live in rural areas.</p>  | <p>1. _____<br/>2. _____</p>  |
| <p>3.<br/>4.<br/>5.<br/>6.</p>          | <p>On one hand, living in the countryside has some important benefits. The most important one is that it allows people to live in an environmental which is cleaner. For example, because the countryside does not have as many vehicles and factories, the air is cleaner and fresher. As a result, people do not become sick from diseases such as asthma and other respiratory ill. Another advantage is that there is less crime in the countryside. This is because if the population is smaller and most residential in country villages know each other, it is more difficult for crime to commit crime.</p>   | <p>3. _____<br/>4. _____<br/>5. _____<br/>6. _____</p>                |
| <p>7.<br/>8.<br/>9.<br/>10.<br/>11.</p> | <p>On the other hand, living away from the city may also have some negative effects. The main one is that people living in these areas may not enjoyable as many facilities as people in cities. For instance, in many big cities, there are numerous entertain facilities, such as shopping malls, movie theatres, restaurants and cafes. These are not available in the countryside. Hence, people living there may feel bore easily. In addition, there are not many good jobs outside the cities which payment a high salary. For example, most businesses in the countryside are small, so they might only pay a lower salary. As a result, if people choose to stay in the countryside, it could be difficulty for them to earn a lot of money.</p> | <p>7. _____<br/>8. _____<br/>9. _____<br/>10. _____<br/>11. _____</p> |
| <p>12.<br/>13.<br/>14.<br/>15.</p>      | <p>In conclude, there are advantages and disadvantages to living in rural areas. People can life in a healthier environment and the crime rate is not as high as in cities. However, there are limitation facilities in the countryside and there are also fewer jobs which are well-paid. Therefore, people should thought about if it is more important for them to live in a safe place or have a good career.</p>   | <p>12. _____<br/>13. _____<br/>14. _____<br/>15. _____</p>            |

## TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY PRE-READING

Education is free for nationals in the UAE. However, some people believe that students would work harder if they had to pay for their education. Do the advantages of a free education outweigh the disadvantages?

*Discuss these questions with your partner.*

1. Why is education free in the UAE? Where does the money come from?
2. Do you think all governments provide free education?
3. Should all governments provide free education?
4. Put these in order of importance for a country and its government:- Health, Education, Parks and Sports Facilities, Roads and Transport, Police and Army, Developing the Economy
5. What would happen if there were too many graduates in a country and not enough people with trade skills?

*Organise the ideas in the boxes below into advantages and disadvantages of a free education.*

|   |                        |                                      |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| educated workforce                                  | raises literacy levels | waste of government's money          |
| students may not value education                    |                        | poor people have the chance to study |
| some students are not serious about studying        |                        | not enough jobs for graduates        |
| too many graduates and no one to do low-paying jobs |                        | people love the government more      |

**Advantages**

**Disadvantages**

## TASK 2: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ESSAY GENERAL REVIEW

**Education is free for nationals in the UAE. However, some people believe that students would work harder if they had to pay for their education. Do the advantages of a free education outweigh the disadvantages?**

*Put the sentences of the introduction into the correct order.*

- a) The following essay will discuss the pros and cons of free education.
- b) I believe that free university can be beneficial, but it may also cause problems.
- c) Many people think that students do not work hard unless they pay for their own education, but in the UAE, education is free for Emiratis.
- d) Education is important for economic development in all countries.

*Fill the gaps in body paragraph 1 with the words from the box.*

|         |    |             |                           |             |
|---------|----|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| because | so | As a result | Another advantage is that | For example |
|---------|----|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|

On one hand, free education has some important benefits. The most important one is that it gives everyone a chance to study and improve their lives. 1) \_\_\_\_\_, children from poor families can attend university and graduate with good qualifications, 2) \_\_\_\_\_ they can get good jobs and help their families. 3) \_\_\_\_\_ free education means that the country has many well-educated people who can do specialised and technical work. This is important 4) \_\_\_\_\_ the UAE needs skilled workers to develop the economy and build the country. 5) \_\_\_\_\_, the country can become more developed and this will improve most people's lives.

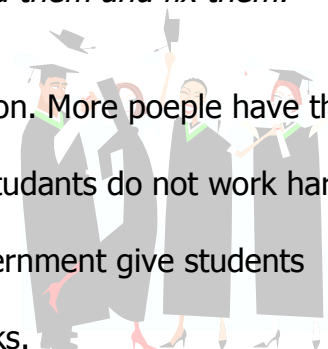
Fill the gaps in body paragraph 2 with the words from the box.

|    |              |              |                 |                   |    |
|----|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|
| so | Consequently | For instance | Because of this | On the other hand | as |
|----|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|----|

1) \_\_\_\_\_, free education may also have some negative effects. The main one is that if the government gives a free university education to any student, some unsuitable students might enroll in courses. This is a problem 2) \_\_\_\_\_ these students do not care about their studies, 3) \_\_\_\_\_ they do not work hard. 4) \_\_\_\_\_, they may spend all their time playing iPad games in class. 5) \_\_\_\_\_, they will fail the course. In addition, the government might waste its money. Because it pays for both good and bad students, the government will waste the money it spends on the bad students. 6) \_\_\_\_\_, the government will have less money to spend on hospitals or roads.

In the conclusion below, there are three spelling mistakes on each line. Find them and fix them.

In conclusion, there are advantages and disadvantages to free education. More people have the opportunity to study and the country can develop faster. However, some students do not work hard, and the government might waste its money. Therefore, I suggest that the government give students free university education, but it should check their attendance and their marks.



## Task 2: Advantages and Disadvantages Essay – Practice Topics

*Below are some IELTS Task 2 questions. Check that you understand the underlined words. Some of these words and topics come out again and again in the IELTS exam. How are the last two essay prompts different from the first four? Plan your essays by drawing boxes to show how you would organise each one.*

1. Nowadays we see more advertisements on the streets and on our TV screens. Do the advantages of seeing more advertisements outweigh the disadvantages?
2. In some countries young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies. Do the advantages of traveling before starting university outweigh the disadvantages?
3. In most developed countries the average life expectancy is constantly increasing. Do the advantages of an increasing life expectancy outweigh the disadvantages?
4. With the increasing popularity of computers and calculators, student literacy is decreasing dramatically. Do the advantages of progressing technology outweigh the disadvantages?
5. Some teachers think that international student exchange programs would be beneficial for all teenage school students. Discuss the positive and negative effects of this. Do you think its advantages outweigh the disadvantages?
6. People have different job expectations. Some people prefer to do the same job for the same company, whereas others prefer to change jobs frequently. Write about the advantages and disadvantages of each. Give your own opinion as to which is better.