

**Task 49.** Comment on the following statement.

*Young people pay too much attention to their appearance and fashion.*

What is your opinion? Do you agree with this statement?

**Write 200—250 words.**

Use the following plan:

- make an introduction (state the problem)
- express your personal opinion and give 2—3 reasons for your opinion
- express an opposing opinion and give 1—2 reasons for this opposing opinion
- explain why you don't agree with the opposing opinion
- make a conclusion restating your position

**Task 50.** Comment on the following statement.

*Honesty is the best policy.*

What is your opinion? Do you agree with this statement?

**Write 200—250 words.**

Use the following plan:

- make an introduction (state the problem)
- express your personal opinion and give 2—3 reasons for your opinion
- express an opposing opinion and give 1—2 reasons for this opposing opinion
- explain why you don't agree with the opposing opinion
- make a conclusion restating your position

### 3.4. ВАРИАНТЫ СОЧИНЕНИЙ С ЭЛЕМЕНТАМИ РАССУЖДЕНИЯ

Представленные ниже примеры сочинений помогут учащимся понять структуру работы и ознакомиться с возможными аргументами по теме. **Не рекомендуется заучивать наизусть эти варианты,** так как при оценивании задания С2 особое внимание уделяется способности экзаменуемого продуцировать собственное развёрнутое письменное высказывание.

Если более 30% ответа имеет непродуктивный характер (т.е. текстуально совпадает с опубликованным источником или другими экзаменационными работами), то выставляется 0 баллов по критерию «Решение коммуникативной задачи», и, соответственно, всё задание оценивается в 0 баллов. Текстуальным совпадением считается дословное совпадение отрезка письменной речи длиной 10 слов и более. Выявленные текстуальные совпадения суммируются, и при превышении ими 30% от общего числа слов в ответе, работа оценивается в 0 баллов.

В качестве тренировки можно написать аналогичное сочинение, приняв за «своё мнение» противоположную точку зрения, или немного изменить формулировку темы.

**Task 1.** *Most people would prefer to live in the countryside.*

Nowadays many adults consider city life quite dangerous. On the contrary, lots of young people tend to move to cities in search of better life and I can understand their point of view.

In my opinion, most people would rather not live in the country because life in a big city has lots of advantages. For example, it is often easier to get a good education and to find a well-paid job. Besides, there is a wider choice of sports facilities and health centres. What is more, if you live in the city, you can visit museums or go to the theatre. All in all, city lifestyle is full of variety so you will never feel bored.

However, some people would prefer to live in the countryside. They argue that city life is rather unsafe as there is a lot of crime and violence. In addition, city dwellers have more problems with their health owing to pollution.

From my point of view, these arguments are not crucial because the government tries to eliminate crime in cities. I think that we must all do our best to make our city a safer place. As for pollution, there are lots of parks in cities and the restrictions on harmful emissions are tougher nowadays.

In conclusion, I believe that despite some drawbacks city life is really enjoyable. As for me, I would like to live in the city because I am a keen theatregoer and I do not mind noise and pollution.

**Task 2.** *The use of mobile telephones should be restricted.*

There are lots of different ways of communication nowadays, but perhaps the most popular one is a mobile phone. While some

people think that a mobile telephone can be harmful, I cannot imagine my life without it.

In my opinion, we should not restrict the use of mobiles as they do more good than harm. To begin with, they are small enough to fit into our pockets so we can easily take them everywhere and always stay in touch. Besides, they allow us to send messages, which is very cheap. What is more, today we can log on to the Internet, pay for things, take photos and send them to our friends.

However, some people are afraid that radiation from mobiles can cause cancer. Another concern is that teenagers are becoming too addicted to their mobiles and spend lots of their time playing games or sending messages.

From my point of view, these concerns are groundless. Firstly, there is still no proof that radiation from mobiles and cancer are interrelated. In addition, modern telephones have the level of radiation far below the safety limit. As for mobile addiction, I believe nobody is crazy about mobiles now because they have become part of our everyday lives.

To sum up, I want to say that every technology has both advantages and drawbacks. I am sure we should not reject mobile phones for the bad effect they might have. On the contrary, we must learn how to make the best use of them.

**Task 3.** *All subjects at school are equally useful.*

People have various preferences so it is natural that school students want to study the subjects they are interested in. However, many teachers are against this, arguing that all subjects must be studied in the same way.

In my opinion, students should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study because in this case they will be more enthusiastic about their school work. In addition, if students are forced to study all subjects, they can easily lose interest in education. What is more, if all subjects are compulsory for studying, students will not have enough time to learn all of them properly therefore they will be constantly under a lot of pressure,

Nevertheless, most teachers believe that their subject is of great importance and they will not let it be optional. Moreover, teachers claim that students must be well rounded, so they need to study all subjects equally.

Actually, I am afraid that when we learn a variety of subjects, we get very poor knowledge and we are not able to get an idea of what

our interests are. Besides, some subjects can be of no use for us in the future and we will forget everything we learned at school in these lessons.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that being free to choose what to study is an effective form of education. Yet I must admit that we should not completely reject all the other subjects. Instead, teachers ought to find an easier form of teaching them.

**Task 4.** *People will only study online in the future.*

Nowadays a growing number of people give up the classroom environment and choose to study online. They claim that distant learning will completely substitute traditional ways of education and I completely agree with them.

In my opinion, people will only study online in the future owing to obvious advantages. First of all, online learning provides an easier and more comfortable way of obtaining knowledge because there is no need to attend classes and to spend time getting to and from school. In addition, students can work at their own pace, taking time when they need it and speeding through courses that are easy. What is more, students will be able to specialize in courses they are most interested in.

However, many disbelievers argue that traditional school will exist for ever. Their main argument is that online education lacks interactive classroom setting, which makes it easier to master the subject. Besides, certain subjects like Maths or Physics may be hard to learn without a direct help of a teacher.

Personally, I cannot agree with them since modern software provides opportunities for online webinars, when students can discuss the subjects together. Moreover, with the help of special programmes, students can talk with their teachers and ask for help whenever they need it.

In conclusion, I want to say that although the real effectiveness of online education has not been evaluated yet, I am convinced that it will be widely used in the future as the most comfortable and convenient way of learning.

**Task 5.** *Electronic books will substitute printed books in the future.*

The latest advances in information technology make people think that schools of the future will use computers instead of printed books. Although electronic books have not been widely accepted

yet, many people claim they will be able to take the place of printed books.

In my opinion, electronic books will replace traditional books because computers can store lots of books in their memory and modern software allows us to find quickly the necessary information. Besides, with the interactive programmes on computers studying will be much more exciting. What is more, electronic books will not degrade overtime like their printed counterparts.

Nevertheless, some sceptics argue that computers will not be able to substitute printed books because a printed book is better for human eyes than a computer screen. In addition, books are cheaper and easier to use since they do not need electricity or the internet connection.

However, I disagree with this opinion because modern computer screens emit no radiation and allow us to read even in low light conditions, so they are even less harmful than books. Of course we will have to pay for electricity but I think it will be cheaper than to pay for printed books, which are very expensive nowadays.

To sum up, I think computers and printed books will peacefully coexist for years to come, but in the future technological progress will make it possible for pupils to carry laptops or even palmtops instead of traditional bags with lots of heavy books.

#### **Task 6.** *School attendance should be optional.*

Education is very important nowadays. Although in some countries children can be educated at home by their parents, many people still think that all pupils must attend school.

In my opinion, school attendance should be optional and pupils can study at home if they want to. First of all, children will study in a comfortable environment. They won't be teased and bullied, or just distracted from their studies by other pupils. Besides, home-educated children will study at their own pace. Moreover, this way of education perfectly suits gifted pupils, who are bored by traditional school lessons and, therefore, often play truant.

However, there are parents who insist on compulsory school attendance because it is easier for them to work while their children are at school. They believe their children won't study hard. What is more, parents are usually not qualified enough so they are afraid that their children will not receive an appropriate level of education.

Actually, I cannot agree with their opinion because while studying on their own children learn to be responsible and self-reliant so

their parents will be able to continue working. More than that, they will always have the opportunity to come to school and consult a teacher if they have any problems.

To conclude, I want to say that children should make their own choice whether to attend school or not. In this case their education will be more effective as they will choose the way of learning that suits them most of all.

**Task 7.** *Giving extra pocket money for good marks is a perfect way to encourage children to do well at school.*

It cannot be denied that money oils the wheels of the world. Therefore, many parents see pocket money as a way of making their children study well. However, I cannot agree with them.

From my point of view, pupils should try to do their best at school without any payment because it is their duty. They should understand that good education will help them to become successful in the future. Another argument against this practice is that children get upset when they do badly at school not because of their poor knowledge but because they will get no money. Finally, there are lots of other ways to encourage students to study better.

Nevertheless, parents think that getting pocket money for good school grades teaches pupils that money does not grow on trees and develops a sense of how much has to be done to earn it. Besides, children become more interested in good results at school and try to study better.

Personally, I disagree with their opinion because pupils should be ready to learn for learning's sake. Of course they may be rewarded but for extra work, not for their duties. Moreover, getting pocket money may become their main target so that students may start cheating so as to get good grades.

To sum up, I think that this practice has more bad than good sides. That is why I strongly believe that parents should not give their children any money in order to encourage them to study better.

**Task 8.** *Exams are a fair way of testing students.*

Every year thousands of students take exams which can determine their future. Some teenagers pass them successfully and are satisfied with their results whereas others fail and, therefore, consider exams to be unjust.

As far as I am concerned, exams seem fair because examination questions are the same for all students. Besides, exam papers are

marked according to a strict scheme and usually by more than one expert. Furthermore, students do exams at the same time and under the same conditions. If the examination procedure is strict, students have no opportunity to cheat, that is why the results of exams are quite objective.

Nevertheless, there is an opinion that exams do not reflect the real knowledge of students because they might be so nervous on this day that they make a mess of the exam. In addition, some students think that tests do not truly judge their intelligence. What is really evaluated is their short-term memory.

Actually, I cannot agree with these opinions because those students who prepare properly for their exams feel calm and confident and do not make mistakes. Moreover, modern exams include not only tests but also writing essays, where students can show their real knowledge and individual abilities.

To sum up, although exams are not an ideal way of testing students, I believe they assess our knowledge in a fair way. However, the best system would be a mixture of exams and course work, in which students will be able to show their creative abilities.

**Task 9.** *Students who take gap years are more successful in their university studies.*

Many roads are open before school-leavers. Therefore, it is not easy for them to make the right choice. Some students believe it is necessary to enter university whereas others prefer to get some experience first.

In my opinion, it is more effective to continue our education and get the necessary knowledge for our future profession, which we can apply later on in life. In addition, we still remember everything we were taught at school, so we can make a better use of this knowledge if we continue studying after school. What is more, with good qualifications we will be able to find a highly paid job because every company needs well-qualified employees.

However, many students take a gap year after school and start working in order to find out what their interests are and choose their future career. Some of my friends believe they will be more successful in their university studies if they get the necessary experience for their future education.

Actually, I cannot agree with their point of view because it is it is easier to continue studying after school and it will be more difficult

to do it after a gap year. Moreover, gap years may disrupt the process of studying, so teenagers will not return to education.

In conclusion, I want to say that the final choice depends on our attitude to education. Personally, I think that further education is very important, so after finishing school I am going to enter university and continue my education.

**Task 10.** *It is necessary to keep animals in zoos.*

There are lots of zoos in the world and millions of tourists visit them every year. Nevertheless, more and more people doubt the necessity of keeping animals in captivity.

From my point of view, we should not keep animals in zoos because captivity is not natural for them and it is a constant stress to a wild animal. In addition, zoos are like prisons for animals as they live in small cages and do not get necessary food. What is more, animals become very aggressive and unpredictable, and often attack zoo keepers and other people.

However, many people are sure that zoos help endangered species to survive as they get special care and treatment. Another argument for keeping animals in zoos is that people can watch these animals and learn new information about them.

Actually, I do not think that zoos help endangered species because most rare animals are extremely difficult to breed in captivity. Besides, in zoos, it is almost impossible to meet the animals' natural needs. I also believe that zoos do not teach us much because animals do not act the way they would in the wild. In my view, we can learn more about animals by watching wildlife programmes on TV.

In conclusion, I would argue that keeping animals behind bars only for the sake of our education and entertainment is not quite fair. In my opinion, people must create nature reserves, where wild animals will be able to live in their natural environment.

**Task 11.** *Cars should be banned from the centres of big cities.*

There is no doubt that the invention of the car changed the world and nowadays we can hardly find a family without a car. Nevertheless, some people are against cars, especially in the centres of big cities.

In my opinion, cars should not be allowed into the city centres as they add to pollution and poison the air we breathe. We must also think about the people who live in the centre and suffer from the



noise made by cars. Moreover, the streets in the centre are usually narrow, therefore people are often stuck in traffic for many hours and, as a result, arrive late at their destination. Finally, with no cars in city centres, there would be no need for large ugly car parks, which would allow more space for parks.

However, many people believe we would not be able to survive without cars because most of the goods for shops and other businesses are transported by cars. Besides, they are afraid that in this case public transport would be overloaded.

As for me, I cannot agree with this opinion. I am sure it is possible to solve all transportation problems by introducing a reliable high frequency tram service as well as developing the underground. As for the goods, we could use electric vehicles for their delivery.

To sum up, I believe that a clean, reliable and environmentally friendly public service would encourage people to use public transport and help smooth the transition to a car-free zone.

**Task 12.** *It is better to be an only child in the family.*

Nowadays one-child families are prevalent in most European countries. Despite the fact that most adults choose to have only one child, their children more often than not prefer to have a sibling.

In my opinion, it is better to have a brother or a sister than to be an only child. To begin with, if you have a sibling, you have someone to play with or to talk to, and you'll never feel bored. What is more, if you get into trouble, your brother or sister will give you a helping hand or at least some advice. Finally, children in large families are usually not overindulged by their parents so they are not selfish or greedy.

However, some teenagers think that it's great to be an only child because they have a room of their own. In addition, their parents give all their love, care and money only to them.

As for me, I disagree with them because kids should learn at the very early age that the world doesn't revolve around them and that they have to share their possessions or wait for their turn. Moreover, in large families parents love all their children equally and kids learn how to love each other, too.

In conclusion, I want to say that despite the fact that one-child families have some advantages, I would like to have a brother or a sister because no matter what happens in life, I will always have someone to share my thoughts and feelings.

**Task 13.** *Fast food is harmful to our health.*

Fast food restaurants are becoming increasingly popular nowadays, especially among teenagers. Yet not everyone understands how junk food affects our health.

In my view, this kind of food is not useful because it is high in fat, which is believed to be one of the major causes of obesity and heart disease. Besides, it is loaded with calories because burgers, nuggets and other dishes at fast food restaurants are usually three times larger than the amount you should consume. Moreover, fast food may be addictive as high levels of salt and sugar content in most fast food items cause our brain to seek them out.

Nevertheless, lots of young people enjoy fast food because it is tasty and they do not have to wait for a long time until their food is prepared. In addition, fast food is rather inexpensive, which is very important for teenagers who usually do not have much pocket money.

However, what is tasty is not always healthy and junk food is obviously not nutritious. In my opinion, it is better to have a plate of soup than to eat a hamburger. More than that, a plate of soup in our school canteen is cheaper than a hamburger and having lunch does not take up much time.

In conclusion, I want to say that everybody should make their own choices whether to eat junk food or healthy food. Personally, I am convinced that fast food is harmful to our health so I prefer home-made meals.

**Task 14.** *The best way to lose weight is following a diet.*

Nowadays many people think that the best way to improve their fitness is following a diet. However, scientists believe that dieting is not really healthy and effective.

In my opinion, strict dieting may be dangerous. To begin with, dieting causes muscle loss and this loss is also from your heart, which may have severe consequences. Moreover, while dieting your body is more susceptible to different diseases. Finally, dieting lowers your metabolic rate, so when you return to your normal food intake, you will put on weight even faster than before.

Nevertheless, lots of people consider dieting to be the best way of losing weight. First of all, you don't spend time on fitness clubs. You just cut out snacks and desserts, which is much easier. Besides, you may count the number of calories you eat every day, which may

substantially reduce the amount of food you consume and help you lose weight.

Personally, I believe dieting is a wrong way because you cut out sugar and fat, which are necessary for your body. In addition, the lower the calories eaten per day, the harder it is to get the daily requirements of proteins and vitamins.

To conclude, I believe that to stay healthy everybody should follow a sensible, well-balanced diet that gives their body exactly what it needs. Yet I think the best way of keeping fit is doing sports. If you do regular exercise, you can eat and drink whatever you want because you are burning it all off.

**Task 15.** *Genetic modification will bring more harm than benefits.*

Genetically-modified crops have made a big splash in the news lately. Farmers are encouraged to produce genetically-modified food although many people are worried about harmful effects of genetic technologies.

In my opinion, genetic modification may have harmful effect because there is a possibility that introducing a gene into a plant may have an unexpected and negative impact on human health. For instance, it may create a new allergen and cause an allergic reaction in individuals. Moreover, GM crops may also pose a health risk to animals that eat them as they may be poisoned by the built-in pesticides.

Nevertheless, many scientists believe that genetic technology is one of the best solutions to the problem of world hunger. First of all, genetically-modified crops are faster and cheaper to grow. Therefore, it will be possible to increase production and lower the cost of food. Besides, these crops could be grown in areas suffering from drought and salt.

However, despite possible benefits I still doubt the necessity of using genetic modification for solving the problem of hunger because it may lead to dangerous epidemics since some crops are modified using the DNA from viruses and bacteria. In addition, we should use the advances of computerised technology for mastering new lands.

In conclusion, I would like to say that although we cannot afford to ignore a technology that has such enormous potential benefits, we must proceed with caution to avoid causing unintended harm to human health and the environment.

**Task 16.** *Young people today are not as healthy as they were fifty years ago.*

We can often hear from our grandparents that the health of modern teenagers is much worse than that of their counterparts fifty years ago and I think they are right,

In my opinion, young people today are not as healthy as they used to be. To begin with, they eat lots of genetically modified food, which is definitely harmful. Besides, modern teenagers often smoke or even take drugs, which leads to serious diseases. Moreover, lots of teens play computer games or watch TV all day long instead of walking and doing sports. As a result, many young people are overweight and suffer from heart diseases.

However, many people ignore these facts arguing that teenagers' health is steadily improving due to modern health care and better nutrition. They also claim that young people do not die today of such diseases as pneumonia or tuberculosis.

Nevertheless, I am sure that the health of modern teenagers is definitely getting worse because modern health care cannot cope with polluted air and water as well as harmful additives in food. Additionally, teenagers usually ignore their doctors' advice to eat healthy food and eat whatever they want or even skip meals. I should also add that today we are threatened with such incurable diseases as AIDS.

In conclusion, I want to say that teenagers' health is the basis of our future and it is not as good as it may seem. I believe our society should pay more attention to the health of a younger generation.

**Task 17.** *People should be responsible for their own health care and have private health insurance.*

In the USSR almost all medical care was guaranteed by the state and was free of charge. Nowadays only a small part of it is covered by state insurance. In other cases people have to pay for their medical expenses or to buy private health insurance, which is not right.

From my point of view, the government should have overall responsibility for people's health. Firstly, those people who work pay enough taxes for the government to ensure sufficient health care for everybody. In addition, disabled people who do not work and have no money to pay for their treatment should not be underprivileged. Finally, medications are getting more and more ex-

pensive that is why not all people can afford to pay for the required medical care.

However, there are people who think that we should have private health insurance because it will provide better health care than state insurance. Moreover, they are sure that if we pay extra, we will get a better treatment and medications of higher quality.

Personally, I think the quality of health care does not depend on who pays for your expenses. Actually, it depends on the overall development of medicine in the country. What is more, private insurance companies may go bankrupt and people will not get any medical help at all.

To sum up, I strongly believe that in a democratic society everybody should have the right to health insurance. I am convinced that the government must provide people with proper treatment and medications.

**Task 18.** *Any holiday is just a day off.*

Holidays are an essential part of our culture. Yet not all people understand the importance of their celebration. They consider any celebration to be a waste of time, which is not true.

In my opinion, holidays are not just days off because they help to keep up our traditions and to preserve our culture. In addition, it is a good chance to bring the family together and to meet all your friends and relatives. What is more, there is a special atmosphere behind each holiday and it is a good opportunity to make people happy. As for me, I like the spirit of a holiday and I always try to follow the traditions connected with it.

Nevertheless, not all people enjoy celebrations. They are not interested in ancient traditions and only regard holidays as additional time off work. They also believe that holidays are just an excuse for spending money or making it.

Actually, such attitude is wrong. I believe it is very important that traditions do survive in the country as they help to define who people are. Of course people spend lots of money on presents. However, it is not only the present that counts, but also the fact that people greet each other and share the joy of the day.

To conclude, I want to say that holidays help to bring generations together. Personally, I enjoy celebrations. For me, a holiday is not just a day off but a special occasion and I usually prepare for it beforehand.

**Task 19.** *Sending to prison is the most effective way to punish criminals.*

There is a lot of violence in our society and imprisonment is a common form of punishment. Although prisons keep us safe from dangerous criminals, I believe they do not completely solve the problem of crime.

In my opinion, people should find more effective punishments for criminals than prison. First of all, prisoners face horrible conditions in prisons, which, coupled with an environment of criminal peers, often make criminals more violent than when they went in. Besides, they are released with a perspective of being unemployed. As a result, most ex-prisoners commit a crime again. What is more, a vast majority of prisoners are locked up for non-violent crimes such as low-level property crimes.

Nevertheless, some people consider prisons to be the most effective punishment because they think that prisons teach criminals that 'crime doesn't pay'. They also suppose that prisons protect people from those who might harm them.

However, I think that imprisonment works adversely against crime because criminals learn in prison how to commit worse crimes. Therefore when they leave, they break the law again. Moreover, some prisoners are not really dangerous because they are mentally ill, so doctors can help them more than prisons. Rehabilitation programmes cost far less and are more effective than prison.

In conclusion, I believe that prisons are necessary for criminals who are a real threat to society. Although murderers deserve being sent to prison, it may be better if less dangerous criminals receive different punishments, such as community service or a fine.

**Task 20.** *The death penalty must be imposed on all murderers.*

At one time capital punishment was used in almost every part of the globe, but in recent years some countries have abolished it. However, many people consider the death penalty to be the best punishment for murderers.

From my point of view, killing a person is inhumane and society should show how much it values a life by never killing anybody, even murderers. A second argument against capital punishment is that sometimes innocent people are found guilty. If they are imprisoned, they can be released. This cannot happen if they have already been executed.

Nevertheless, there are people who believe that the death penalty acts as a deterrent. In other words, people are afraid of committing crimes as long as the death penalty exists. Besides, the punishment should fit the crime therefore the appropriate punishment for all murderers is death.

As for me, I cannot agree with this point of view. First of all, there is no conclusive proof that the death penalty acts as a better deterrent than the threat of life imprisonment. What is more, criminals can have different reasons for murder such as jealousy or revenge, so it is unfair to apply capital punishment to all murderers.

To sum up, there are arguments both in favour and against capital punishment. Although it seems reasonable to impose the death penalty on the most violent criminals, we ought to do it with great caution. I personally believe that people should focus on the reasons of crimes rather than on their punishment.

**Task 21.** *Pupils should learn at least two foreign languages.*

There is no doubt that knowledge of foreign languages is extremely beneficial nowadays. That is why in some schools pupils learn two or even three foreign languages, although it may be challenging for them.

In my opinion, children should learn at least two foreign languages at school because it is easier to learn languages when you are young. In addition, knowledge of foreign languages will help children to get acquainted with foreign culture. Moreover, pupils will be able to compare different languages, and this comparison will help them to master their native tongue.

However, some parents are afraid that it will be too difficult for their children to learn several languages simultaneously because some languages are very tricky to learn. They also believe that it is enough for children to learn only English as it is the language of international communication.

As for me, I disagree with this opinion. Although it is difficult to learn foreign languages, it will be a good exercise for the children's intellect and memory. Actually, if a child studies regularly, there will be no difficulty in learning languages. Besides, knowledge of foreign languages will help pupils in their future education and work because not all information can be found in English.

In conclusion, I believe that young people should know a lot of foreign languages so as to be educated and to be able to communi-

cate effectively in the modern world. I'm sure new technology will help to make language acquisition easier and more exciting.

**Task 22.** *There should be only one language on our planet.*

No doubt that learning foreign languages takes up a lot of time. That is why some people think that it would be better to reduce the number of languages on our planet, which in fact is not beneficial for mankind.

In my opinion, the reduction in the number of languages is a disaster because it will totally destroy our great cultural heritage. With each loss of a language there comes a loss of a culture that deserves to be protected and treated as valuable. I also believe that leaving one language for communication will reduce the linguistic diversity of our planet, which is important for our culture. Moreover, it will be rather difficult to choose which language to use and it may even lead to wars.

However, many people suppose that if we have only one language on our planet, communication will become easier. In addition, there will be no need to waste time learning foreign languages.

Actually, I cannot agree with them because knowledge of foreign languages makes a person educated and well rounded. You cannot broaden your mind if you see the world only from the perspective of your own culture. Besides, people are a lot more helpful if you speak their language.

In conclusion, I would argue that we should try our best to preserve the linguistic diversity of our planet. I believe that larger cultures should have a respect for minority languages, but, first of all, the younger generation must want to preserve their native language.

**Task 23.** *The best way to learn a foreign language is to speak with native speakers.*

Nowadays people spend lots of money in order to go to an English-speaking country to improve their language skills. However, I doubt that is it the most effective way of learning a language.

From my point of view, studying in a foreign country has certain drawbacks. Firstly, this way is very expensive as the tuition fee for overseas students is rather high. Besides, you will have to adapt to a very different way of life, which can be quite stressful. What is more, English teachers do not speak Russian so if you do not know English well, you will not understand their explanation.



Nevertheless, it is often assumed that it is better to study a language abroad because you can practise it speaking with native speakers. Some parents also believe that Russian teachers are not as qualified as those in England.

In my opinion, it is unlikely that we will have lots of opportunities to speak with native speakers as we do not know many people there. Moreover, today it is possible to improve our speaking skills in Russia using the Internet. I am also convinced that Russian teachers can explain grammar rules better as they can compare two languages.

To sum up, I would argue that the best way to learn a language is to study it in your native country because you can always get the necessary help from your teachers. I think that we should travel abroad to practise a language but not to study it.

**Task 24.** *Computer games teach us nothing and young people should avoid them.*

People have always had different hobbies but technological progress has caused the appearance of computers and computer games, which can keep a child occupied for hours. However, adults consider computer games a complete waste of time.

As for me, I believe computer games are more than mindless entertainment. Firstly, computer games can teach people to achieve their aims as they regularly put obstacles in the way of players which are necessary to overcome in order to progress through the rest of the game. Secondly, computer games can be a valuable source of accidental learning that can be applied to school, home, and social events. Finally, teachers have also started to appreciate educational games as an opportunity to make their lessons more exciting.

Despite all positive effects, quite a few people are against this activity as they find it rather harmful for children's health. They also argue that computer games make teens waste their time and neglect their school work.

Nevertheless, I am sure that if we play games for an hour just to relax after a hard day at school, this will not do us any harm. What is more, modern technology has made it possible to eliminate the bad effect of computers on our eyes.

To sum up, I believe that computer games have more advantages than drawbacks. They make us persistent, develop our logical reasoning and help us to escape from everyday problems. The thing is to find a right balance between virtual reality and our everyday life.

**Task 25.** *The world will be better without advertising.*

Nowadays everyone is exposed to a continuous chain of advertising messages. Despite the fact that advertising has a lot of advantages, quite a few people consider it useless.

As for me, I cannot imagine our world without advertising. First of all, it will be impossible to learn about new products, films or travel options. Besides, advertisements help people find real bargains as they have access to price information, availability of products, and improvements being made. More than that, clever and informative advertisements help companies promote their products and develop their business. Many TV companies also get most of their money from advertising.

However, lots of people think that the world will be better without advertising because advertisements show life unrealistically and give untrue information. Adverts are often misleading and do not talk about products defects. What is more, advertising increases prices for consumers so people think that without advertising products will be cheaper.

Actually, I disagree with this opinion. Although some advertisements may be of poor quality, most of them are clever and informative and help people get the best value for money. As for the prices, today people usually get information from the Internet, and online advertising is really cheap and does not influence the price of the product.

To sum up, I'd like to say that advertising plays an important part in the development of our society. I'm sure that we need advertising, but it should be done correctly. Otherwise it will mean annoying consumers and wasting money.

**Task 26.** *Only people who earn a lot of money are successful.*

We can hardly find a person who does not want to become successful. Although lots of people believe that success depends on the amount of money a person earns, rich people are sometimes as unhappy as the poor.

In my opinion, being rich does not necessarily mean that you are successful. Firstly, if you only work for money, you will not get satisfaction from your job. Secondly, while making your fortune, you may not have enough time for your family so you are bound to have problems in family relationships. Finally, lots of money can worsen your character because rich people are often greedy and arrogant so you are unlikely to have any true friends.

Unfortunately, most people view success in terms of money. They believe that money will bring happiness because they will be

able to buy luxurious things, travel around the world and realise their dreams.

However, there are a lot of millionaires with personal problems and they are often unhappy. We can buy houses and cars but I am sure money will not help us to buy love, friendship and good health, which are the most valuable things in life. Moreover, being wealthy is a powerful predictor that people spend less time doing pleasurable things, so their dreams seldom come true.

In conclusion, I would argue that being rich is not the only way of being successful in life. In my view, it is more important to have an interesting job, good friends and a happy family.

**Task 27.** *Being rich has more drawbacks than advantages.*

No doubt that everybody wants to earn as much as possible so as to be able to do whatever they want. However, lots of young people are afraid of being wealthy.

As for me, I do not see any drawbacks in being rich. On the contrary, with lots of money you can travel around the world and support your family. Besides, if you have a large income, people think you are very successful and respect you more. Finally, being wealthy means you can help poor people. For instance, you could give some money to cancer research or donate to charities.

Nevertheless, many teenagers think that wealth brings additional problems. They are afraid of becoming rich because they think someone will rob or kill them. In addition, they consider rich people to be criminals who have made a fortune by committing crimes.

Actually, this is not true at all because nowadays even the poorest person can be robbed or killed. I also believe there are many millionaires who are absolutely honest, for example, Bill Gates, who has turned a tiny software company into a multi-billion dollar business. Now he is one of the wealthiest people on the planet and yet he is a noted philanthropist.

In conclusion, I want to say that money is power, and having money means having the power to make positive changes. Although being rich means hard work, I would like to be a millionaire so as to be able to help people who are in need.

**Task 28.** *Governments spend too much money on space research while there are still a lot of problems in our world.*

Space exploration can mean a major leap for mankind. However, it is often criticized because the price for space experiments is too high, especially while poverty still exists in many parts of the world.

In my opinion, we should spend more money on space exploration because it can bring enormous benefits to mankind. For example, we can find new minerals or even discover new laws of physics that will help us create new technology. Moreover, space exploration will allow us to establish a human civilization on another planet as a refuge in case of a nuclear catastrophe on the Earth.

Nevertheless, there are quite a few people who think that the benefits of space exploration are not self-evident and governments should spend money on meeting the needs of the poor rather than on space exploration. Besides, they are afraid that while exploring space we may discover something extremely harmful for human beings.

As for me, I cannot agree with this opinion since I consider space research to be extremely beneficial. As a result of this work, we can have lots of inventions that will make the lives of poor people much more comfortable. What is more, I believe that modern technology guarantees the safety of space exploration so it will not bring new problems.

To conclude, I want to say that space exploration satisfies the human desire for adventure. I am convinced that our governments should find the right balance between social and scientific programmes and continue space research.

**Task 29.** *Cloning experiments should not be subject to government scrutiny.*

Recent advances in genetic biology have led to quite a doubtful situation. People all over the world argue whether human cloning research should be controlled by the government since solving problems connected with human cloning is definitely not an easy task.

In my opinion, the government must oversee human cloning experiments because there are huge risks of abnormalities in human clones. Moreover, clones will obviously have serious psychological problems connected with their unusual birth. Finally, there is no doubt that human cloning will change our perception of what is the value of a human life as we might switch from having children to manufacturing them.

However, scientists claim that human cloning is absolutely safe and should be allowed to develop without any restrictions as therapeutic cloning could provide tissues for transplantation. Besides, reproductive cloning will give parents who are both infertile an opportunity to have children.

Nevertheless, I believe that this technology is quite new so it is not safe enough to use on humans. In addition, it is possible that clones will age quicker because the cell used in the cloning procedure has already been used in a real life individual therefore the results of cloning can be rather unpredictable.

In conclusion, we should question whether cloning is really worth doing when weighed against the problems it raises. I am convinced that human cloning should be under the tight control of the government because it is dangerous to interfere with nature and the consequences can be really disastrous.

**Task 30.** *Graffiti is a form of art rather than vandalism.*

Art has lots of different forms. However, its evaluation is especially problematic today when controversial art forms such as graffiti have become rather popular. Although the artistic value of graffiti is still highly contested, I regard it as a new form of art.

In my opinion, works produced by graffiti artists demonstrate a range of personal and cultural expression as it is the way for people to express their feelings and emotions. In addition, graffiti like any other art work takes vision and planning as well as a lot of effort. What is more, in many ways viewing graffiti is very much like viewing contemporary art in a gallery and it is appreciated by many people.

Nevertheless, graffiti is often seen as vandalism because instead of canvas graffiti artists choose train cars or public walls. Moreover, for many people graffiti is often associated with crime and violence.

Actually, these opinions are unfair as most graffiti artists do not belong to any rebellious subculture. I am convinced that people paint on public things because they have nowhere else to express their feelings. I believe city authorities should create special places for graffiti where all people will be able to appreciate it. In fact, graffiti can be very artistic, colourful and can brighten up an area.

In conclusion, I would argue that graffiti is definitely a form of art worthy of display in public places, although I agree that artists should get permission from those whose property will be used as canvas.

**Task 31.** *Science plays a more important role in the development of our civilisation than poetry.*

People often argue about the role of science and poetry in the development of our civilization as both of them have contributed to our society and without them our world cannot exist.

As for me, I consider science to be of higher priority as it makes our lives much more comfortable. Most of the things we use nowadays are the results of scientific research. What is more, due to the improvements in medical science many diseases can now be cured and people live longer. However, the importance of science goes far beyond its use in technology or medicine. Without science we are unable to reveal our past and to predict our future.

On the contrary, some people argue that poetry is more important as it helps to tell good from evil and teaches us to be sympathetic and honest. They doubt the necessity of science blaming it for the appearance of chemical weapons and nuclear bombs.

Although these objections are true, they do not diminish the role of science. No development is possible without mistakes, and the humanity has learned quite a lot from this sad experience. I am sure that science can be as rich a teacher as poetry although it differs in technique. It is a vital tool in expanding our knowledge about the world and, consequently, about ourselves.

To sum up, I believe that science has been more beneficial to mankind. Nevertheless, we should not underestimate the importance of poetry as it helps us to appreciate beauty.

**Task 32.** *People can do without sport.*

In one way or another, everyone is involved in sport. It is one of those things that make our lives really worth living. Although a lot of people seem to be interested in sport, not all of them consider it beneficial.

As far as I am concerned, we cannot do without sport as it allows us to keep fit and to stay healthy. Among the benefits of regular exercise are a healthier heart, weight control and less susceptibility to illnesses. In addition, sport helps us to overcome difficulties and gives a chance to acquire self-confidence. What is more, sport makes us more organised and better disciplined in our daily activities.

Nevertheless, some people argue that sport is not useful because it takes a lot of energy and time. Besides, they consider sport rather dangerous claiming that people often have serious injuries.

Personally, I cannot agree with this point of view because not all sports are equally exhausting and if you are not a professional sportsman, it will not take up much of your time. Moreover, improvements in equipment allow the reduction in risk and if you do not take things to the edge, sports activities are rather safe.

To sum up, I would argue that sport is essential for people's health and we cannot survive without it. However, it is not necessary to become a professional sportsman. If you go in for sports just to stay in good shape or to relax, then, I am sure, sport is definitely useful.

**Task 33.** *Extreme sports are not worth the risk.*

There is no doubt that extreme sports are very popular nowadays. Nevertheless, they are considered rather dangerous and it is quite difficult to understand why people put their lives at risk.

As for me, I can understand why people risk their lives in extreme sports. First of all, they try risky sports because they want to experience new emotions and for them extreme sport is an antidote to our safety-first world. Besides, risky sports enable people to confront their fears and to satisfy their curiosity. Finally, young people want to go beyond the usual limits of a human body and this is really worth risking.

However, parents are often against extreme sports because of the possibility of injury. They are also afraid that young people will become addicted to taking risks and will take their life to extremes.

In fact, many risky sports are even less dangerous than traditional ones. I am sure that improvements in equipment allow the reduction in risk and if you do not take things to the edge, extreme sports are rather safe. In addition, risky sports help people to find new friends who share the same passion. In my opinion, it is much better than drug addiction.

To sum up, I strongly believe that extreme sports are as beneficial as traditional ones. They offer the opportunity to carve your own path and find out where your limits lie. Although I am not a risk taker, I still think that extreme sports are worth the risk.

**Task 34.** *Watching reality shows is a complete waste of time.*

Reality shows have become an inseparable part of TV programmes. However, while lots of people admire them glued to their TV screens, there are more sceptical viewers who doubt the quality of these shows.

From my point of view, reality TV is great fun and it is one of the best ways of entertainment, which helps people to unwind after a long day at school or at work. Another reason why they are worth watching is interactivity. Most people enjoy reality shows because they have an opportunity to participate so they feel in control of the participants' destiny.

Nevertheless, some people consider watching reality shows a waste of time because all of them are exactly the same and they have no educational value. What is more, most reality shows are actually a fake because participants are made to rehearse their performance so we cannot trust them.

Actually, I cannot agree with this opinion because most participants are not professional actors and there is always a bit of unexpected performance in every show. Besides, we can watch how contestants react under pressure thus imagining how we would behave under the same circumstances. I am sure it can be really instructive.

In conclusion, I can say that no matter whether we like reality TV or hate it, it is here to stay and it reflects our life. Personally, I think it is a good way to relax after a hard day and a wonderful opportunity for people to boost their careers.

**Task 35.** *Most soap operas are not worth watching.*

Several decades ago, nobody could have predicted that today soap operas would take over most of TV prime time. Yet there are quite a few people who consider watching soaps a complete waste of time.

As for me, I am not a die-hard fan analysing every episode but I certainly enjoy watching soaps. The prime reason is that they help me to release tension and to escape from the pressures of everyday life. Another thing that attracts me to soaps is the presence of suspense. They always keep me guessing about the characters and their fate, and I want to know what comes next and how it all ends. Finally, some actors are so talented that I always look forward to meeting them in the next episode.

However, there are people who claim that soap operas are not worth watching as they have boring and predictable scripts and unbelievable story lines. They think that soaps show life unrealistically.

Personally, I do not think it is correct to blame soaps for being unrealistic. On the contrary, the reality of the problems portrayed in soaps make them so recognisable to the viewer. I also cannot agree that all soaps are boring and predictable as people involved in watching them are usually captivated by their story lines.

In conclusion, I want to stress that despite strong criticism, we cannot deny that soap operas are one of the most popular genres on television. They possess an incredible magnetic attractiveness and are certainly worth watching.



**Task 36.** *Children watch too much TV nowadays.*

Most kids plug into the world of television long before they enter school. No wonder that their parents are worried about the consequences of excessive TV viewing and I completely agree with them.

In my opinion, children are too addicted to watching television, spending hours in front of their TV set. As a result, TV can get in the way of studying, playing and interacting with parents and friends. In addition, excessive TV viewing can result in obesity as kids are inactive and tend to snack while watching TV. What is more, there is a lot of violence on television, which can set a bad example for children.

Nevertheless, kids need entertainment and they consider TV one of the best ways of spending their free time. They also say that TV helps them to broaden their minds as they can see what's happening in the world without leaving their homes.

As for me, I cannot totally agree with them. Although TV can be an excellent entertainer and educator, there are lots of active ways of entertainment such as playing games or doing sports, which are actually much healthier. Moreover, we should not forget about the educational value of reading a good book.

To sum up, I agree that television, in moderation, can be a good thing. However, if children watch TV all day long, it is really harmful. That is why I believe parents should set viewing limits to ensure their kids do not spend too much time watching TV.

**Task 37.** *Violence on TV and crime in society are clearly related.*

Over the last fifty years we have seen a huge rise in TV violence and a corresponding rise in the crime rate. Many people are sure this is not a coincidence and blame television for the negative influence.

In my opinion, those who think that TV violence accounts for the rise of crime in society get the situation the wrong way round. Television just reflects the increase in violence and crime in society. On the contrary, crime programmes can actually stop people from breaking the law as they usually show that crime doesn't pay.

Nevertheless, some people claim that violence on TV has a negative influence on children as they become more aggressive after watching violent shows. There is also an opinion that young people tend to imitate crime techniques watched on TV and therefore are likely to be arrested for criminal acts as adults.

However, lots of people watch violent crimes on TV without wanting to commit similar crimes themselves. That is why I believe

that the main reason for committing crimes is poverty and bad education, not television. Moreover, programmes where real life crimes are re-enacted get people to ring in with information and eventually help to catch criminals.

To conclude, I do not think it is necessary to forbid all crime programmes because television should tell people the truth about the world they live in. I strongly believe we should concentrate on what people experience in their daily life before we worry about what is on TV.

**Task 38.** *The Internet is not as good as it seems to be.*

We live in the age of information technology and nowadays the Internet is nearly as common as the telephone. However, some people consider it to be one of the greatest evils of our time.

In my opinion, the Internet offers people excellent opportunities. To begin with, it is much cheaper and faster to send an email to another country than a letter. Besides, with the Internet, it is now possible to speak to relatives and friends living abroad almost free of charge as you only have to pay for the Internet connection. Finally, the Internet allows people to show their talents and to find a job.

Nevertheless, there are people who consider the Internet a real danger for society because teenagers often spend all their free time on the Net neglecting their schoolwork and everyday duties. Another concern is lack of privacy as hackers can read your emails or steal some private information from your computer.

As for me, I think we should not be afraid of the Internet. I suppose that it is less addictive than watching TV or playing computer games. More than that, it actually helps us to do our work quicker and better. In addition, the progress in software development allows us to keep our information safe from interference.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that despite the criticism from some people and the fears of others, the Internet has changed our world for the better and we must try to make the best use of it.

**Task 39.** *Our world would be better without cars.*

There is no doubt that the invention of the car completely changed the way people thought about travelling, causing the development of many other means of transport. However, the drawbacks of cars make people think that we should stop using them.

In my opinion, cars are necessary in today's world. To begin with, they help us transport goods to places that cannot be reached

by other means of transport. In addition, cars are the main way of transportation for people who live far from their workplaces, especially now when public transport is frequently lacking. Finally, cars are the best way of travelling as you need not buy tickets and you can stop wherever you like.

Nevertheless, cars are often criticised because they cause air pollution, which, in turn, leads to serious lung diseases. Another argument against using cars is that people are turning into legless creatures, and inactivity is the main reason for obesity and heart diseases.

As for me, I cannot agree with this opinion because nowadays all cars have to be equipped with special emission control systems to reduce their exhaust fumes, and new environmentally friendly cars are being developed. Moreover, with cars, people have better opportunities to reach sports facilities and therefore spend more time doing sports.

In conclusion, I would argue that although cars have certain disadvantages, people will not be able to survive without them. I am sure that instead of rejecting cars, we should improve them to lower their harmful influence on people's health.

**Task 40.** *The future of humanity looks bleak.*

People have always dreamed of what the future will look like. That is why there are a lot of futuristic books, films and ideas, both optimistic and pessimistic.

As for me, I am optimistic about the future. We have already seen major technological advances over the last fifty years and the next fifty years are going to be equally exciting. For example, in the not too distant future scientists will create robots that will do all dangerous and difficult jobs. In addition, medicine technology will conquer many diseases including AIDS and cancer. As for entertainment, I believe we will get it from the Internet free of charge.

Nevertheless, there are people who are afraid of the future. They worry about the activity of terrorists and the possibility of a nuclear war. Another problem, in their opinion, is our environment, which is in a sorry state. They predict that we will run out of natural resources and will die of hunger.

However, I believe their concerns are groundless. I am convinced that people will be able to control their weapons because everybody understands what disastrous consequences nuclear wars may have. We will also take care of our environment and in the fu-

ture people will drive petrol-free cars, drink purified water and recycle their rubbish.

To sum up, I am sure that we will finally solve all our problems and will live happily. History shows that people can make the right choices. That is a good reason to be optimistic about humanity.

**Task 41.** *Tourism ruins everything that it touches.*

It goes without saying that tourism can bring economic gain to the development of all countries. Although some people think that the price for this development is too high, I would argue that tourism is a blessing rather than a curse.

From my point of view, tourism is extremely beneficial as it creates new jobs for people and brings substantial profit for the country's economy. In addition, most of the money from tourism is spent on schools, roads, cultural development and maintenance of architectural sights, which otherwise would be in a sorry state. What is more, we may say that tourism brings cultures and people closer as well as broadens their minds.

However, there are people who are against tourism claiming that it causes damage to historical monuments and the environment. They also say that tourists create problems for local residents bringing with them noise, nuisance and crime and ruining their habitual way of life.

Nevertheless, I do not think these people are right because the problems caused by tourism are not something that cannot be solved or avoided. Firstly, some of the money earned by the tourist industry should be spent on renovation of historical monuments and rubbish disposal. I also believe that we must teach people to respect local cultures and human rights.

In conclusion, I want to say that we should not reject tourism for the bad effects it may have. I am sure that tourism can minimise its own environmental impact as well as promote understanding.

**Task 42.** *Travel broadens the mind.*

Modern life is impossible without travelling. People travel the globe to see modern cities and ancient towns or just to enjoy picturesque places. Although many teenagers view travelling as entertainment, I believe it has the ability to educate.

In my opinion, travel helps us understand the world so that we can accept other people's ideas and beliefs. First of all, travelling gives us an opportunity to explore the country and to learn about its

history. Additionally, it is a good chance to try national food and to take part in national festivals, where you can learn about local customs and traditions. Finally, travelling is the best way to study nature, for example, when you go hiking in the mountains.

However, there are people who travel to 'all inclusive' hotels and for them travelling means only entertainment. They suppose that going on excursions and visiting museums is a waste of time so they just relax and have fun.

Nevertheless, I think that travel broadens their minds regardless of their expectations because while travelling they are exposed to things which they would probably never experience if they stayed at home. Moreover, when they travel, they practise foreign languages and make new friends.

In conclusion, I believe that travel may truly expand people's outlook only if they travel in order to gain new experiences. On the contrary, if tourists are lazy, the influence will be insignificant. So I am convinced that travel broadens the minds but only those that want to be broadened.

**Task 43.** *Teenagers should work part-time to earn their pocket money.*

Most teenagers today are given some pocket money by their parents. Yet teens often feel this is not enough for their needs. As a result, the question of whether they should have a part-time job often comes up.

In my opinion, young people should be allowed to work part-time if they want to. First of all, it will give them a useful introduction to the world of work. By earning money, teens can learn how a business works as well as get some working experience. Besides, a part-time job will teach teenagers the value of things and make them more responsible and careful with money. Finally, having extra money will make young people more independent of their parents.

However, many parents are afraid that even a part-time job will take up a lot of teenagers' time. They believe that teens are too young to work and they should only concentrate on their school work.

Even though this is true, I believe there are special jobs for teenagers that do not take up too much time or can be done at weekends such as delivering newspapers or babysitting. In addition, young people can find a holiday job during the summer which will not interfere with their studies and earn money for something special.

In conclusion, I want to stress that teenagers will really benefit from having a part-time job so I would like to have one. Nevertheless, we should not forget that our part-time jobs must not distract us from studying.

**Task 44.** *Most people enjoy a 9-to-5 working day in an office.*

With recent advances in technology, people have a chance to work at home instead of going to the office every day. However, this working style doesn't suit everyone.

In my opinion, most people would rather work in the office even if they have to stay there from nine to five. Firstly, they enjoy communicating with colleagues. If they stay at home, they may feel cut off from the rest of the world. Secondly, it takes a lot of self-discipline to start working when you don't have to be at the office by nine. Not everyone is so highly motivated.

Nevertheless, some people prefer to work from home because they can structure their day according to their personal needs. For example, they can spend more time with their kids. Besides, people don't have to commute long distances to and from work and pay for their travel expenses.

Although I can partly agree with this opinion, I don't think many people would choose this option because there is always a danger of overworking since no one will tell you that your working day is over. Besides, if you spend time with your kids, you won't do your work properly. Moreover, you will lack professional communication, which is worth your travel expenses.

To sum up, working from home can be a great solution for certain people. Yet there are very few people who can work successfully without outside pressure. So I believe most people would prefer a 9-to-5 working day in an office.

**Task 45.** *Money is more important than job satisfaction when making a career choice.*

Nowadays young people have various job opportunities. No wonder that it is difficult for them to choose their future occupation, so they often have to make a choice between money and job satisfaction.

In my view, the major concern when choosing a job should be our interests and talents. To begin with, a future career should fit our personality otherwise it is not going to be very fulfilling. Besides, it is unlikely that a job will be done properly unless we are interested

in it. Our attitude will surely have a negative impact. So I think it is better to choose a profession that suits our interests.

Nevertheless, it is natural that many teenagers want to have high salaries to be able to buy everything they want. In their opinion, the more money they get, the more they will be respected and admired.

However, I don't share their opinion. Countless surveys show that money does not necessarily lead to happiness, which is impossible to buy. What is more, if you only work to earn money, your life will soon become extremely boring. On the contrary, if you really enjoy your job, you will achieve success and get the reward and respect that you truly deserve.

In conclusion, I want to stress that while salary is important, teenagers should not consider earnings as the primary factor when choosing their future occupation. Although I cannot say that I am indifferent to money, the most important thing for me is job satisfaction.

**Task 46.** *Modern teenagers are awful.*

It is often believed that today's teenagers are much worse than they used to be in the past. However, I doubt that they are really as bad as they are thought to be.

To my mind, there are no reasonable grounds for criticising teenagers. To start with, nowadays more teenagers leave school with good qualifications and go to universities than ever before. There are millions of young people who achieve great things and become successful. In addition, lots of teens do household chores or look after their younger siblings. Moreover, a growing number of teenagers take part in different sports competitions and win medals.

Nevertheless, many adults criticise teens for having bad habits like smoking, drinking or taking drugs. They also claim that modern teenagers show no respect to adults and are often cruel and aggressive.

In my opinion, it is unfair that all teenagers are being labelled as problem. Not everyone who is a teenager smokes, drinks or takes drugs. More than that, very few of them think it is clever to go out and start fighting. There are some rebellious teenage subcultures, but they are opposed to the materialism in the society. In fact, most teens think about changing the world for the better.

To sum up, I suppose that the main reason for such unjust attitude to teenagers is the generation gap. Although I can agree that not all teens are ideal, I am sure that by and large they are no worse than their parents.

**Task 47.** *Our grandparents say their way of life was much more secure. However, young people have many more life opportunities nowadays.*

There is no doubt that the present way of life differs much from the one in the past. However, while young people appreciate the advantages of the modern lifestyle, it is often criticized by the older generation.

In my opinion, today young people are offered more life opportunities than in the past. To begin with, due to technological progress teenagers can travel around the world and expand their outlook. Besides, the Internet allows talented people to show their achievements and to find a job in any part of the world. Furthermore, new technology has made our everyday lives easier. Therefore, we can spend more time on our education and leisure activities.

Nevertheless, our grandparents claim that their way of life was better because it was more secure. They believe today young people are in greater danger because of drugs, new viruses and violence.

Actually, I don't agree with them because modern teenagers are aware of the bad effects of drug addiction and take care of their health. Moreover, the most dangerous diseases can now be cured whereas in the past people died of incurable illnesses. As for violence, crime has always existed in the world but today we have better ways of protection.

In conclusion, I want to say that the old days were not as good as some people think they were. Although we still have lots of problems, I find modern way of life more attractive as it allows young people to make the most of their abilities.

**Task 48.** *Schoolchildren should wear a uniform at school.*

Although wearing a school uniform is not compulsory any more, it continues to be a subject of heated debate between teachers and schoolchildren.

From my point of view, all schoolchildren should wear a uniform because it helps them to perform better at school. Children are often so focused on their wardrobe that it distracts them from learning. In addition, experts claim that teenagers who wear school uniforms behave more appropriately in the school environment. What is more, lots of pupils are often teased because they do not wear expensive designer clothes to school. So those students whose parents cannot afford stylish clothes will feel more comfortable.



However, most children say they do not want to wear a school uniform because wearing the same clothes all the time stifles their self-expression. Besides, most uniforms are formal and rather uncomfortable, especially in hot weather, whereas children need to feel comfortable in order to maximize learning.

Actually, I do not think they are right because a good uniform allows children to wear personal items so as to express their individuality. Moreover, each school can choose the design that will differ from others. I also believe that modern industry can produce a specially designed comfortable uniform with different items for different seasons.

To conclude, I would argue that a uniform makes schoolchildren look neat and tidy. Personally, I am for wearing a uniform because it gives me a sense of belonging and makes me feel a bit different from the students of other schools.

**Task 49.** *Young people pay too much attention to their appearance and fashion.*

What people wear says a lot about who they are and what they do, and it's not surprising that teenagers are so concerned about their clothes. Nevertheless, their parents think that following fashion is a waste of time.

In my opinion, it's important to look smart and attractive because we cannot go through life with the same hairstyle or make-up. I also believe it is necessary for teenagers to follow fashion. When you keep up with fashion, you feel confident. What is more, everyone should find their own style to express their individuality. I hate it when people dress alike. Personally, I prefer hand-made or designer clothes and try to look stylish.

However, many parents do not understand why teens spend so much time and money on their clothes. Quite a lot of adults are old-fashioned and do not accept modern trends in clothing. They say that fashion comes and goes but the classical style remains.

As for me, I cannot agree with them because teenage fashion is quite specific. Nobody likes to dress in styles that are too old for them, and it is no fun being teased because of it. Moreover, clothes will be especially important in our future career, so learning to choose the right clothes is worth spending time and money.

In conclusion, I would argue that our modern lifestyle forces us to look stylish because people judge us by our clothes. Therefore, I think we should pay as much attention to our appearance as possible.

**Task 50.** *Honesty is the best policy.*

Honesty has always been of great value in the world. However, not all people are truthful. Although they find different excuses for not being honest, I consider lying impossible.

From my point of view, we should always try to be honest if we want people to trust us. If a person tells a lie once, people will think he or she may deceive them again and again, so it is unlikely that they will have good relationships. Besides, sincere people are usually respected and if you always tell the truth, that means you have strength of character. On the contrary, dishonest people have no friends and are often failures.

Nevertheless, there are people who argue that in some cases it is right to lie, for example, if your lie can save a person's life. Moreover, they think that insignificant lies such as excuses for not having done your homework will harm nobody, so it is possible to lie in order to achieve your goals.

As for me, I disagree with them because even if your lie doesn't cause any trouble, you will acquire a habit of lying and people will stop trusting you. What is more, I believe that even in critical situations we can find a way how to save a person's life without lying.

In conclusion, I want to stress once again that under no circumstances should we lie to other people no matter what aims we want to achieve. In my opinion, honesty is the best policy.