

# Issue

---

王老师 Issue 写作方法及所有题库

yingying

2015/10/26

## 每天列提纲积累思路和例证

要想拿到理想的分数，至少要列 issue 和 argument 的提纲各 40 道，这个工作时很难在 1-2 星期内完成的。大部分同学在开始的时候总会出现对题目理解上的偏差或者思路无法展开，需要在我的帮助下调整，慢慢适应新的解题策略。这些都不是短时间能实现的。我的建议是每天都要列提纲，哪怕只花 15-30 分钟的时间，也可以列出 2-3 道题的提纲，发到论坛上来，可能会被打击一顿，回去再想，慢慢地就会想明白。

例子的积累不是要你去背历史事件或人物传记，而是要学习如何从自己熟悉的生活中找到切合题目的例子，并且学习从例子中提炼观点，构建自己的论证。

等提纲列的差不多了，还有写全文，又会被我各种打击。这时会对自己的英语彻底失去信心，怀疑自己这么多年的英语是不是白学的，怎么提笔写的句子都不对。绝望之后，开始看我写的文章，发现我用的词都不难、句子结构也容易懂，于是问自己为什么就想不到这么写。很简单，这需要积累。

我相信只要找对了思路、抓住了题目的重点，然后表达上不要让人不懂你在说什么，拿 4 分不是那么难的。但是现在真正做到每天坚持写提纲的版友还没有真正出现。可能还是时间问题。100 个寄托考生中，可能真正愿意投入认真思考题目的不到 10 个，但是我坚信，只要我一直在这里，总会遇到一些真正想学的孩子。

### 第 1 关：基本框架

首先要看同学的主旨句和主题句是否符合 1+3 模型的要求

主旨句是否切题 回应题目要求 是否有层次（有没有回应题目的关键词；有没有对关键词进行合理的诠释）

主题句和主旨句是否互相呼应

主题句是否明确合理

### 第 2 关：中间段的组织和结构

中间段是否集中讨论和支持主题句的点（有没有偏离中心的句子或细节）

这一关的重点是要做到中间段的每句话都在围绕一个中心意思展开讨论，不能偏离这个中心。要提出例子，同时要解释例子如何支持观点。句子之间要有连贯。检查你有没有过这一关，我不会太关注你具体写什么内容，或者内容是否合理，而重点看你有没有完成一些规定的动作：1) 提出观点；2) 提出例子；3) 解释例子如何支持观点；4) 对观点进行总结

而针对 argument，主要的动作包括：1) 提出某方面的假设、问题或论据；2) 指出其他的可能性；3) 结合假设、问题和论据解释这种可能性对原论证的影响

### 第 3 关：中间段的干货

第 2 关关注的是有没有完成规定动作，第三关就要看这些动作里的干货是否到位。动作如同武功招式，而干货就是内力。木有内力，招式就只是花架子而已。

issue 的干货，首要的当然是合适的例子。例子好，这篇文章写起来就很顺有木有。有了好例子，理由自然充分，反过来就会理亏。另一个重要的干货就是原题没有提到的概念，这一点以后会有例子具体解释。这种概念达到某个境界就可上升为理论，比如经济学上的 incentive theory。比如 Paine 对政府性质的看法。

### 第 4 关：句子加油站

过去我看到写的不好的句子总会发脾气，这里向之前得罪的版友致歉。写不好句子是拿不到 4 分的主要原因之一。那些说什么 GRE 对语言要求不高、更注重逻辑的人根本不知道自己在说什么，或者没有看看那些稀烂的句子能有多稀烂。

### 王老师针对 Argument 写作的 Tips:

1、注意新老 G 的考察区别：注意新 G 中应该讨论需要哪些新的证据和信息评估论证的合理性，放弃老 G 中要求的对存在的问题以及逻辑谬误的攻击。

2、根据写作要求措辞：虽然 Argument 中各种题型写法类似，但是需要根据题目中的要求重点进行措辞。例如题目中强调 Assumption 时，就要围绕 Assumption 来讨论；强调 evidence 时，重点强调需要哪些证据来检验论证；强调 question 时，讨论有哪些问题还需要回答以评估论证。当然，各种题型的写作内容是接近的。

3、5 段式 1+3 写法注意：Thesis statement 应该包括后面要讨论的三个大方面的关键词，三个大方面如何去分是重点难点。

4、Explore alternative possibility: 提出其他的可能性。例如题目提出一种因果关系时，我们需要提出其他可能因果关系以挑战原题的因果关系，从而提出更多的问题和需要获得的信息用以评估证据。该动作出现频率较高，为练习重点。

5、需要对各个 Argument 的题目背景有相关了解：Argument 涉及的知识范围较广，例如花洒头、专利、人类学研究方法等。在行文时需要相关背景知识和对词汇的掌握，因此需要通过提前准备熟悉题库来加强对背景知识的了解。

#### ✓ 关于 E-rater

GRE 作文评卷是人改和机改相结合的，据说 ETS 开发的 e-rater 和人改的结果吻合率高达 90% 以上。关于 e-rater 的具体运作，有 ETS 发表过几篇论文

等我有时间及版友对我的博客表现出足够的兴趣时我会详细讨论一下 erater 的运作原理以及我们可以如何应对。

Attali & Burstein (2006)对 e-rater 做了比较详细的介绍，指出评分时会考虑考生作文几方面的特征：

#### Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Style Measures

The writing analysis tools identify five main types of grammar, usage, and mechanics errors – agreement errors, verb formation errors, wrong word use, missing punctuation, and typographical errors. The approach to detecting violations of general English grammar is corpus based and statistical, and can be explained as follows. The system is trained on a large corpus of edited text, from which it extracts and counts sequences of adjacent word and part-of-speech pairs called bigrams. The system then searches student essays for bigrams that occur much less often than would be expected based on the corpus frequencies (Chodorow & Leacock, 2000).

其中包括五种主要的语法、用法和风格上的错误

- 主谓一致错误
- 动词形式错误
- 错误的用词
- 标点符号缺失
- 拼写错误

The writing analysis tools also highlight aspects of style that the writer may wish to revise, such as the use of passive sentences, as well as very long or very short sentences within the essay. Another feature of undesirable style that the system detects is the presence of overly repetitious words, a property of the essay that might affect its rating of overall quality (Burstein & Wolska, 2003).

其中在辨别用词错误时，e-rater 用的是语料库方法，查看文章中相邻两个词在语料库中出现的频率。因此，我在 61 楼介绍的语料库对修改用词方面的错误会很有帮助。而风格方面，e-rater 会找出太长或太短的句子、被动语态以及反复使用的词语。这就要求我们在写作时不

能写太长或太短的句子、多用主动语态以及在用词上要有变化，比如用同义词或者其他的指代词。

#### Organization and Development

Finally, the writing analysis tools provide feedback about discourse elements present or absent in the essay (Burstein, Marcu, and Knight, 2003). The discourse analysis approach is based on a linear representation of the text. It assumes the essay can be segmented into sequences of discourse elements, which include introductory material (to provide the context or set the stage), a thesis statement (to state the writer's position in relation to the prompt), main ideas (to assert the author's main message), supporting ideas (to provide evidence and support the claims in the main ideas, thesis, or conclusion), and a conclusion (to summarize the essay's entire argument). In order to identify the various discourse elements, the system was trained on a large corpus of human annotated essays (Burstein, Marcu, and Knight, 2003). Figure 1 (next page) presents an example of an annotated essay.

e-rater 采用一种话语分析的进路，假设文章可以分作一些话语元素的序列。然后根据已经做好标注的文章作为数据，系统通过机器学习，学会辨认哪些句子属于主旨句、主题句、支持句、结论句以及无关的句子。具体的算法还要再看其他的文献进一步研究。

The overall organization score (referred to in what follows as organization) was designed for these genres of writing. It assumes a writing strategy that includes an introductory paragraph, at least a three-paragraph body with each paragraph in the body consisting of a pair of main point and supporting idea elements, and a concluding paragraph. The organization score measures the difference between this minimum five-paragraph essay and the actual discourse elements found in the essay. Missing elements could include supporting ideas for up to the three expected main points or a missing introduction, conclusion, or main point. On the other hand, identification of main points beyond the minimum three would not contribute to the score. This score is only one possible use of the identified discourse elements, but was adopted for this study.

这里说明我们至少要写 5 段，包括开头、结尾和三个中间段。基本上和我提出的 1+3 模型是吻合的。当然，我的模型对 coherence 有更高的要求（见本帖 54 楼）。

The second feature derived from Criterion's organization and development module measures the amount of development in the discourse elements of the essay and is based on their average length (referred to as development).

这个有点坑，好像是看中间段的长度来打分。但是仅仅字数多是不够的，因为与主题无关的句子会被标为 irrelevant。

#### Lexical Complexity (2 features)

Two features in e-rater V.2 are related specifically to word-based characteristics. The first is a measure of vocabulary level (referred to as vocabulary) based on Breland, Jones, and Jenkins' (1994) Standardized Frequency Index across the words of the essay. The second feature is based on the average word length in characters across the words in the essay (referred to as word length).

这里主要是看词汇的深度和长度。也就是说用的词比较少见以及单词比较长就好些。

<http://www.usingenglish.com/resources/text-statistics.php>

这个在线工具可以分析你的文章的难词比例

#### Prompt-Specific Vocabulary Usage (2 features)

E-rater evaluates the lexical content of an essay by comparing the words it contains to the words found in a sample of essays from each score category (usually six categories). It is expected that

good essays will resemble each other in their word choice, as will poor essays. To do this, content vector analysis (Salton, Wong, & Yang, 1975) is used, where the vocabulary of each score category is converted to a vector whose elements are based on the frequency of each word in the sample of essays.

这两个特点是基于每道不同的题目的不同的范文库，然后将学生的作文转换成矢量，和范文的矢量进行对比，长得像几分，就是几分。这个听起来有点匪夷所思，难道 6 分的文章用的词都差不多么？考虑到现在的 GRE 作文要求已经很具体，我想至少 **argument** 的词还是很接近的。比如一道关于 **assumption** 的题目，你肯定要用相关的词吧。至于 **issue**，估计很难预计 6 分的文章会用什么词，但至少要尽量做到切题，这样就能比较接近。

总的来说，**e-rater** 对文章的结构有非常明确地要求，中间三段要支持主旨句，而主题句也要有足够的细节支持；同时在用词上要尽可能地道，就是在语料库中可以查到的搭配。另外，要根据题目的要求来写作，这样写出来的文章用的词才会和范文接近。

当然，**e-rater** 也不是完全可靠的，我们也没有必要为了迎合它而做出什么很夸张的事情，因为 GRE 作文还是会有 **human rater** 来看的。

#### Further Reading

Attali, Y., & Burstein, J. (2006). Automated essay scoring with e-rater® V. 2. *The Journal of Technology, Learning and Assessment*, 4(3). Retrieved from <http://napoleon.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/jtla/article/view/1650>

Burstein, J. (2003). The E-rater® scoring engine: Automated essay scoring with natural language processing. Retrieved from <http://psycnet.apa.org/psycinfo/2003-02475-007>

Lee, Y.-W., Gentile, C., & Kantor, R. (2008). Analytic scoring of TOEFL CBT essays: Scores from humans and e-rater. *ETS TOEFL Research Reports*, 81. Retrieved from <http://144.81.87.152/Media/Research/pdf/RR-08-01.pdf>

Monaghan, W., & Bridgeman, B. (2005). E-rater as a Quality Control on Human Scores. Retrieved from <http://www.researchgate.net/publ...49528baf70d5947.pdf>

Powers, D. E., Burstein, J. C., Chodorow, M., Fowles, M. E., & Kukich, K. (2002). Stumping e-rater: challenging the validity of automated essay scoring. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 18(2), 103–134.

### Issue 部分

#### Issue 入门系列之一：认真审题、按照题目要求立论

##### ◆ Issue 六种题型及基本布局套路

GRE 写作题库的 **issue** 部分 149 道真题有 6 种写作要求，包括是否同意命题及不同情况下是否正确（54 题），是否同意论断以及考虑反对意见（24 题），评估具体情况下某建议是否可取（24 题），是否同意论断及原因（19 题），论及观点的两面及自己的倾向（16 题），评估政策及其后果（12 题）。

首先要强调的是，在构思自己的作文时，必须根据每道题的具体写作要求来安排全篇的基本结构，这也是评分时的重要考虑部分。由于在辅导中发现部分同学写作时完全不考虑这一点，因此有必要特别提醒大家，审题的重要性。

其次，根据这六种不同的题目要求，我们可以发展出一些通用的解题和立论方法，这样即使人品不好遇到没有准备过的题目，在构思上也可以有所倚仗。

##### ➤ 是否同意命题及不同情况下是否正确

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting

your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

由于这道题要求我们讨论在多大程度同意某命题，以及这个命题何时成立、何时不成立，我们的基本观点可以是

under conditions A or B, the statement is true because ...; when conditions C or D are met, the statement does not hold true because ...

而中间段就针对 conditions A/B/C/D 展开讨论即可。

比如这道题

In any field of endeavor, it is impossible to make a significant contribution without first being strongly influenced by past achievements within that field.

I agree that for scientists and researchers, it is essential to review the past studies on specific problems before making any breakthroughs as the accomplishments of the earlier scholars provide the theoretical and methodological foundations for further studies. On the other hand, in the fields of politics and education, government officials and school teachers have to rely on their own experiences and wisdom to deal with new problems and challenges on a daily basis.

➤ 是否同意论断以及考虑反对意见

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

这道题要求我们选择一个基本的立场-赞成或反对，但需要讨论能挑战自己观点的例证。其实这就要求我们在讨论了某种可能的反对意见后，再作出相应的反驳，从而巩固自己的观点。基本思路为：

I agree with this claim because A and B. While some people may disagree because C, I think the claim is still true because C'.

The best way to teach—whether as an educator, employer, or parent—is to praise positive actions and ignore negative ones.

There is no doubt that praising positive actions or behaviours is the best way to teach students, children and employees as the positive reinforcement will lead to repetition of more desirable behaviours. While some people may emphasise the importance of correcting mistakes, I believe that incorrect actions will be gradually replaced by correct actions which receive positive feedback.

➤ 评估具体情况下某建议是否可取

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

我一直怀疑 ETS 在改革 GRE 写作时引入更多的具体指引其实是为了帮助考生写出更好地文章。事实上这类指引是在十分明确的引导大家使用一种非常有用的策略-即分情况讨论。这样做的好处包括能够使观点和全文有一个清晰的框架，同时也能对问题提出一个有洞见和丰富的立场。所以这类题的基本思路可概括为

The recommendation is advantageous when condition A is met because ...

The recommendation is not desirable when conditions B or C are met because ...

Governments should place few, if any, restrictions on scientific research and development.

I believe that governments should never restrict research activities of any scientists in any fields

in order to respect the academic freedom and encourage creative activities of mankind. Nevertheless, the scientific communities should establish a set of ethical codes to restrict research activities that would clearly harm the well-beings of mankind.

这里我除了运用上面提到的基本模板外，还对建议的主体做出了调整，强调学界应该自治而非受制于外来的政治力量。

➤ 是否同意论断及原因

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

这种题目比较复杂，需要讨论是否同意某个论断及提出的原因。我们可以选择的立场也比较多，可以既同意论断又同意原因，可以同意论断但不同意原因并提出另一原因，甚至可以同意原因部分，但不同意论断。好在这类题仅有 19 道，建议全部列提纲准备，这样在考场上才能应付自如。

Claim: When planning courses, educators should take into account the interests and suggestions of their students.

Reason: Students are more motivated to learn when they are interested in what they are studying.

对于这道题，我们可以采取分类讨论的方式，将学生分作中、小学生和大学生。

I agree that at college and postgraduate levels, professors should communicate with students as much as possible when planning the courses in order to incorporate interesting materials and topics that would motivate students to learn and conduct independent researches. However, at primary and secondary schools, teachers have to plan their courses according to national curriculum to ensure the quality of basic education and suggestions from students at these levels are less likely to be useful.

Claim: We can usually learn much more from people whose views we share than from those whose views contradict our own.

Reason: Disagreement can cause stress and inhibit learning.

➤ 我们可以分不同情况来讨论 reason 是否成立，然后决定论断是否成立。

When interacting with other people, we can learn more from those holding different views as long as our relationships enable us to discuss and exchange viewpoints in a rational and equal manner, e.g. as colleagues and classmates. In such relationships, disagreement do not cause stress but promote learning. On the other hand, both the claim and the reason hold true when we could not stay calm and reasonable, e.g. fighting with spouses or political rivals.

➤ 论及观点的两面及自己的倾向

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

由于这道题要求我们讨论两面的立场并有一定的倾向性，如果我们采取分情况讨论的策略则可以提出某些情况的比率更高因此更倾向于某个立场。

I tend agree with A because under circumstances B and C, A is true. On the other hand, A may not hold true under circumstance D which is rather unlikely.

Some people believe that society should try to save every plant and animal species, despite the expense to humans in effort, time, and financial well-being. Others believe that society need not make extraordinary efforts, especially at a great cost in money and jobs, to save endangered species.

I believe that we should not use our scarce resources to save all species near extinction because in most cases the benefits of such endeavours do not outweigh the costs. In relatively rare cases in which such efforts may lead to significant economic and social returns, the investment in conservation may be worth the while.

➤ 评估政策及其后果

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

还是可以采取分类讨论的基本策略，注意每个分论点都要论及政策的后果。

Educational institutions should actively encourage their students to choose fields of study in which jobs are plentiful.

For vocational schools, there is no need to encourage students to choose majors based on career prospects as the schools should only offer programs that prepare students for industries which can provide enough jobs. For universities, however, the main purpose is to promote learning and research activities which may or may not related to students' future careers. The proposed policy would undermine the abilities of certain departments to attract talented students but force other departments to reorient their curriculums to more practical training.

在备考过程中，考生应针对这 6 种不同的题型列提纲、形成观点和收集例证，在计划全文的结构和思路时一定要全面的回应题目的要求。

之前 26 楼的一些内容和这里讨论的内容相近，转帖过来

Issue 写作必须完成题目要求，同时也可以锦上添花

新 GRE 作文提出了明确的写作要求，而且不同的题目要求还不太一样。Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based. 这个要求和以前区别不是很大，关键是处理好 claim 和 reason 之间的关系。而我在考场上由于时间比较充裕，联想到另一种写作要求

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position. 其实这个要求中关于如何回应读者可能提出的挑战是任何严谨的论述都应该涉及的，因此我就在题目没有要求的情况下，加了一段，虽然有画蛇添足的嫌疑，实际上达到了锦上添花的效果。

### Issue 入门系列之二：1+3 模型构建复杂而整合的思路

在开头段结尾部分必然会有一个由 3 个要点组成的观点，有时候可能是三句话，也可能是一句话里有三个点组成的并列结构。而中间三段的开头分别回应开头段的三个点，这样就形成了一个中间段与开头段相互照应的局面。

参照罗素文章：

What I Have Lived For

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a great ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy - ecstasy so great that I would often have



sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness--that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what--at last--I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me back to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate this evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.

This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.

1+3 模型的基本思想就是要主旨句(TS)和主题句(ts)的相互呼应, 1 个 TS 要包含 3 个点, 概括 3 个 ts。可以用以下伪码来概述:

TS (pt1, pt2, pt3)

ts (pt1)

ts (pt2)

ts (pt3)

以这道题为例

The well-being of a society is enhanced when many of its people question authority.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

我们要写出一个复杂而有层次的主旨句

Whether the statement holds true or not depends on which groups of people in the society are challenging the authority and in what ways. For groups of people such as secondary school students and workers in manufacturing sectors, challenging the school teachers and the factory supervisors will disrupt the normal operations of schools and factories that would harm the well-beings of the society. On the other hand, scientists should be encouraged to question the authority through which new theories can be developed and new technologies can be advanced to improve the productivity of the society.

这个主旨句将原题中的 people 具体化为三种人- 中学生、工人和科学家, 并简略讨论针对三个全体的不同分论点。这样写要求第一段对观点做出较详细的阐述, 可能和大家平时简略提出观点的做法不一样, 需要适应。而这样做的好处就是读者可以一开始就清晰的看到我们全篇的脉络, 而我们写中间段也有了一个纲要。

接下来三个主题句分别支持主旨句的一部分:

In institutions such as secondary schools, if students challenge the authority of their teachers, the schools will not operate normally and neither students nor teachers will benefit from the acts of questioning authority.

In places such as manufacturing factories, it is unnecessary and harmful for workers to question the authority and disobey the instructions of their supervisors.

While authorities should be respected in the above-mentioned contexts, scientific researchers should question the authority all the time in order to develop new theories and technologies for the progress of modern society.

这就是我所谓的 1+3 模型。

要用好这个 1+3 模型，关键是在写作习惯上要有个根本的改变。很多同学准备 GRE 作文心浮气躁，一心想着用最短的时间写出足够的字数，以为这样就能拿高分。却不愿意花时间认真读题目，认真思考一道题背后的意思，认真地构建一个复杂而合理的论证。用 1+3 模型就是迫使同学们在写完第一段的时候，已经想好了一篇完整的文章架构，这样就不会出现挤牙膏式的写作，写到一半憋不出来了。当然，对于初学者也可能出现写完开头段就发现自己的思路很有问题、无法展开。我觉得这未必是坏事，与其盲目追求字数的乱写，倒不如一开始就发现问题和困难，花时间理清思路再动笔。

用 1+3 模型的另一个好处就是可以避免出现自相矛盾的情况。有不少同学受了李建林 5.5 的误导，总希望写一个正-反-合的文章，结果正-反两段往往互相矛盾，到了合的时候更不知所谓。按 1+3 模型写作，作者必须将几个分论点在开头段进行整合，一旦相互矛盾就很容易可以发现。

### issue 入门系列之三：分情况、多角度讨论-issue 立论必杀技

上一讲介绍了 1+3 模型，其要旨在于构建一个开头段主旨句与中间段主题句相互呼应、浑然一体的结构，要做到这一点，除了要有这种相互呼应的意识，还需要在立论的时候掌握分情况、多角度讨论这一核心技巧。

分情况讨论我在博客 51 楼举了几个例子具体说明，这里转引其中一个：

37) Society should identify those children who have special talents and provide training for them at an early age to develop their talents.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

这道题可以将有天分的孩子分作三类，数学有天赋、在自然科学有天赋和语言有天赋。

数学有天赋的孩子需要特别培养，因为学校的数学课对他们来说太简单，比如 Terry Tao

自然科学有天赋的孩子也需要特别培养，因为做实验的设备只有大学才有，比如 Eva Vertes

语言有天赋的孩子不需要特别培养，因为语言能力可以通过日常的交流和阅读来提升，需要让他们过正常的生活

这里是对孩子进行分类，或者准确的说，是对孩子的天赋进行分类，根据不同的天赋来提出对这个问题的不同的观点。这样做的好处在于，即便对这个问题有不同的立场，也不会出现自相矛盾的情况，而是通过讨论不同的情况的不同观点而形成整合的复杂的观点。

我去年 8 月考 GRE 的时候写的是 issue 89

Claim: Many problems of modern society cannot be solved by laws and the legal system. Reason: Laws cannot change what is in people's hearts or minds.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

在考场上我的基本思路是这样的

基本观点：完全不同意 claim 同意 reason

第二段 从个人层面讨论法律可以通过提供 incentive 和 disincentive 来调整人的行为 举例包括闯红灯 酒驾 指出即使法律无法改变人的想法 只要能改变人的行为就能解决很多问题

第三段 从企业的层面讨论 法律可以通过提供 incentive 和 disincentive 改变企业经理人的行为 举例是逃税问题 通过罚款来减少逃税 即使经理不愿意交税 也得交

第四段 从政府的角度讨论 法律赋予政府权力 调配资源解决各种社会问题 举例是小布什的 No Child Left Behind Act 其实对于那个 Act 我只知道这个名字 具体是什么完全不记得了 不过这些法案都离不开拨款 所以说这个 Act 给联邦政府资金去帮助那些穷人读的学校

以上三段都在最后部分提到 reason 指出虽然法律无法改变思想 但可以改变行为 从而解决问题

写到这里本来可以结束的 但还有 10 分钟时间为了保险起见 加了第五段

第五段 既然法律这么牛 为什么还有这么多问题没有解决呢 问题不在于法律不能改变人的思想 而在于我们未能充分发挥法律的潜能 unleash the potential of the legal system

第六段 结束 同意 reason 但不同意 claim 强调一下法律制度还有潜力可挖

这里也是严格按照三个不同的层面来讨论问题，使得整个文章条理很清晰。

事实上，分情况讨论这种立论的方式在我们日常生活和学术研究中都经常出现。我们在成长过程中往往从最开始的非黑即白的世界观逐步发展出更加复杂、辩证的看问题的能力，而这种能力具体就体现在能够将抽象的原则灵活运用到具体的问题中去思考并作出具体的判断。比如，小时候大人总会说说谎是不对的，小朋友不能骗人，但是长大以后我们才知道其实这不是绝对的。很多时候的确存在善意的谎言；而人生经历也教会我们交浅言深的坏处。这些都是具体情况具体分析具体做决定的例子。而在学术研究中，我们往往需要有一个理论框架来构建我们的论述。

比如最近在读这本书 Invitation to Architecture: Discovering Delight in the World Built Around Us 作者就用了一个框架来构建整本书的论述：

Look up. Look around. There's architecture everywhere, from the homes in which we live to the buildings where we work, the historical sites we visit on vacation and the shopping malls we frequent on a daily basis. But what exactly is architecture and what differentiates it from mere "buildings"? How does it impact our lives? In this engaging, original work, architects Max Jacobson and Shelley Brock explore these and many other questions as they present a compelling case for the importance of architecture in our day-to-day lives. "Durability," "utility," and "beauty" are the three pillars on which Invitation to Architecture is built. These three concepts (originally coined by Vitruvius during the Roman empire as Firmitas, Utilitas, and Venustas) remain at the heart of what architecture strives for and are as relevant today as they were over 2,000 years ago.

durability, utility 和 beauty 作为三个核心概念贯穿整本书对建筑的讨论和探索。这样的专著需要框架，我们的 GRE 作文亦然。

除了分情况讨论可以构建框架之外，从不同的角度来分析问题也能构建框架。比如

3) Educational institutions have a responsibility to dissuade students from pursuing fields of study in which they are unlikely to succeed.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

虽然这道题是从教育机构的角度来论述，但是教育往往关系到多个不同群体的利益，因此在讨论机构的责任时也可以具体从多个角度来讨论。很多时候我们作为学生会强调个人的兴趣、自由、权利，这固然是一个角度。但是，我们也应该看到教育作为一种公益事业关系到社会人力资源的培训和储备、关系到经济发展，因此也可以从社会对人力资源需求的角度来考虑。同时教育机构本身也要谋求发展，也有自己的小算盘，比如需要校友成功后回馈母校，因此这又是一个角度。有了这些不同的角度，就可以分别对这个问题进行讨论，从而提出一个复杂的观点。

很多同学对待 GRE 作文的态度往往就是当做一场不得不完成的考试，我觉得这种态度虽然无可厚非，却并不理想。我一直认为 GRE 作文是一次扩展知识面、深刻思考人生与社会的学习机会。尽管 30 分钟、400 字的篇幅不太可能写出什么很深刻的文字，但是总能引导我们去思考一些平时较少有机会思考的问题，引领我们养成更有条理的思考问题的习惯，而这些对于在学术研究上做出一定的成绩是十分重要的。横看成岭侧成峰，远近高低各不同。希望大家都能领略到 GRE 作文带来的思维的乐趣。

## 一.系统点评 Issue 的框架

1. 按照 1+3 模型对开头段、主旨句及主题句的点评。

**1.1 背景铺垫太长或内容不合适：**这个问题目前出现的频率并不高。但是由于背景句是给考官的第一印象，一定要写得比较靠谱。

**1.2 主旨句与主题句未能互相呼应：**这是 1+3 模型的核心所在，不仅主旨句要有层次，而且主旨句与主题句之间要能呼应。

**1.3 主旨句偏题或不清晰：**往往是由于误解题目或其他原因导致。这是很严重的问题。如果连主旨句都不知道在说啥或者不符合题目意思，这篇文章就废掉了。

**1.4 未能回应题目要求：**最典型的就是题目要求 address challenge；而有的题目要求讨论 consequence 或者 address both side 都是需要严格遵循的。

**1.5.主题句的内容不合适或不清晰：**这里针对每个中间段的开头主题句，检查内容是否合适、清晰。有些同学写的主题句根本就没有立场没有 point，这就很难往下看了。

2. 中间段的展开

**2.1 没有具体例子或者例子不适用：**这是最常见的问题。举例支持中间段的观点是中间段展开的核心所在。如果全段只说理不举例子或者举的例子不合适，这段话就废掉了。

**2.2 没有充分的展开讨论例子或解释例子如何支持观点：**这也是常见问题。有些同学尝试举很多例子，一段写好几个 point，但是却没有深入讨论，结果事倍功半。

**2.3 句子之间不连贯：**一般来说前一个句子的内容在后一个句子里会继续讲，这样两个句子才有理由放在一起。如果前一个句子和后一个句子讲的内容完全不相关，读者就会很困惑。通常句子连贯的根本原因还是作者在写之前没有想清楚这段该如何展开，硬着头皮写，写到后来没话说了，就开始憋，然后就呵呵呵呵了。

**2.4 中间段的讨论没有回应原题的关键概念：**这往往是偏题的征兆，一定要警惕。原 issue 里的关键词，到了中间段要么已经转化为更具体的概念，要么就得直接回应。

3. 其他直接的点评

**3.1 提供新的论点或想法：**有时候作者的论点不太合适或表达的不好，我会直接提出一些其他的论点或想法。或者建议作者去读我的范文。

**3.2 提供新的例子：**同上，作者的例子不合适时，提出其他的例子。

（以上这样做是有争议的，因为老师应该给学生独立思考的机会而不是代替学生思考或者将自己的想法强加给学生。因此希望大家考虑一下我这样做是否合适，以及尝试在我提出的想法或例子的基础上举一反三，最终学会独立思考。）

**3.3 针对学生的练习记录，提出一些写作或学习上的策略建议：**这些建议往往不是针对具体的文章的段落、句子，而是更一般性的建议。在这里也希望同学们能不断的总结自己的练习，思考需要在今后的练习中做哪些策略性的调整。这方面最好能由同学主动的思考、提出问题，我提供辅助。

## 二. 关于提前构思和限时写作

进入第二周的练习，看到还有同学花一个多小时写全文，甚至一边写一边查资料。我觉得这种备考方式大大的不妥。GRE 写作的一个特点就是时间很短，每篇只有 30 分钟。平时如果不注意限时练习，写得再好，到了考场上写不完，也不可能拿到理想的分数。因此，我强烈建议大家从一开始就要限时写作。这里的关键是提前花时间构思。GRE 预先公开题库的目的就是给大家机会提前思考这些题目，因此我们完全可以从容的思考，不仅要按照 1+3 模型想好基本的观点和分论点，还要考虑清楚每个分论点在中间段如何展开，用什么例子。这个构思的过程不是线性的，而是有波折的。只有当你考虑到中间段如何展开时，你才会发现你的论点、分论点可能并不靠谱。因为一个靠谱的论点及分论点不仅要符合题目、能站得住脚，更重要的是你的语言能够表达清楚并能找到合适的例子。所以构思的过程是漫长而痛苦的。最后很有可能找不到合适的思路和例子，这时勉强去写只会浪费时间。正确的做法是去看我的博客 2 楼链接到各道题的讨论以及我的范文，借鉴我的思路和例证，然后重新构思。

一旦构思好了，25 分钟内写出全文应该是不难的。如果写不出来，只能说明你的构思超越了你的英语写作表达能力，这时你必须简化你的构思。而写的时候，我建议按以下的步骤：

1. 写出含有三个分论点的主旨句。
2. 根据主旨句写出中间三段的主题句。
3. 在主题句下面写出几个关键词，提醒自己中间段展开时要用到的概念和例子。
4. 写开头段主旨句前的引言。
5. 写各个中间段。
6. 写结尾。

这样做的好处是做到第 3 步的时候你的文章框架已经定下来，剩下的就是加细节了。即使你某一段写的不顺，不会影响下一段的写作。我自己写文章通常会先写出主旨句，然后根据主旨句逐段写。大家可以尝试下我这里的步骤，在本周五的小结时反馈一下。

## 三.天下文章一大抄

很多同学苦于作文写不出内容，达不到字数的要求。其实写作的终极秘诀就是一个字“抄”。为什么老外这么紧张剽窃这件事，说白了，就是因为抄的诱惑太大，不能让你抄的太容易。写文章必须抄，但是要抄的合理合法，抄出一个境界、一片属于自己的天地，却是需要下功夫学习的。

略高明一点的抄是关注一些句子的模板和词语的搭配，比如我比较喜欢用 *it is ... for ... to ...* 这类的句型。至于搭配，通过平时读书的积累，知道哪些词可以在一起用，其实也是一种抄。

我所讲的 1+3 模型是在文章结构层面上的抄，或者可以算是一种内容和思路的模板，用熟了也可以节省一些气力，也是一种抄。到了这个层面，抄就不再是机械的复制，而需要利用这个框架来引导自己思考。

比起结构框架的再利用更高级的是对概念、思路、视角的利用。其实真正意义上的原创是很少有的，我们对很多问题的思考都需要借鉴或借用前人的思考方式和角度，具体来说就是要借用一些概念工具。比如我在很多文章里都会用到 *incentive* 这个概念。我拿 6 分的 *issue89* 就用了。如果你仔细读我博客里的文章，几乎每篇 *issue* 都会有一些原题目没有涉及的概念和角度，而这些其实也是来自于我平时的积累。

很多同学备考喜欢准备例子尤其是名人的故事或者一些历史事件，总觉得这种东西准备多了就能胸有成竹。其实一篇文章要写好，首先在立论，就是要有一个切合题目的复杂的观点。而准备了各种例子的同学往往以例子出发去套题目，而不是从题目出发想观点再想例子，这样做就是本末倒置、缘木求鱼。要形成好的观点，关键还是要好的概念和视角作为引导。以我最近写的 *issue 30* 为例。

111) In any profession—business, politics, education, government—those in power should step down after five years.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

这道题的题干已经将 *profession* 分作几个不同的类型，完全符合我所说的分情况讨论。但是要注意写作指引中要 *address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position*。如果分情况讨论的话，如何回应这个要求是需要提前想清楚的。

Leadership is vital for the success of any enterprises, whether it is in the field of business, education or public administration. It is argued that, in order to prevent power abuse and revitalize the organizations, those in the leadership positions should quit their jobs after a certain number of years. I think this proposal will not benefit businesses and educational institutions as leaders in these fields need many years to build their reputation and earn trust from the stakeholders. Nevertheless, it is important for government officials to serve for a limited number of years only.

像 *reputation* 和 *trust* 就是我说的概念。这是干货，题目中没有的，但是很切题的内容。

Consider the leadership in business world first. With the separation of ownership and management in modern corporations, it is important for the stockholders to trust the managers of the businesses. But to earn the trust of the stockholders often takes a relatively long period of time. The managers will need to demonstrate their competence as leaders through years of services and accumulate more experience while working with the staff to develop the best strategic plans for the long-term development of a company. Once the manager reaches the

top management, s/he will become a valuable asset that the company cannot afford to lose. If s/he has to leave the position in five years, the company will have to start over the process of cultivating a leader all over again. Therefore, to save money for the investors of the company, this rule should not apply.

本段一开始讲的其实公司制的核心 在资本主义发展初期 这种制度为很多需要资本的企业提供了资本 这其实是新制度经济学里的思想 说到底就是专业的人做专业的事 后面将 manager 比作 asset 这也是一种 metaphor 将人力资源当做资产也是一种很常见的思维

你会问我想不到这些干货肿么办 其实我在博客里不断的更新 issue 和 argument 的范文 给干货不够的同学提供了很好的机会

这些范文你完全可以拿去“抄”啊。

当然不是 ctrl-c ctrl-v 那么低端的抄或者机械的背诵

而是可以学习里面的句型、用词、概念、思路以及例证

看到有些同学花很大的力气写的东西 被我看了两眼就认定偏题了或者例子不合适 这其实是很浪费时间的

与其这样 不如老老实实的“抄”我的文章

这里再次不厌其烦的抄录 guoguo 同学的 4 分经验（见博客 214 楼）

离考试很近的时候才发现这个论坛。当看到论坛上王老师贴的整篇范文的时候我几乎泪流满面啊。我虔诚地把所有的范文都贴到我的 excel 里，提炼观点，模仿写作套路。看王老师和同学们的讨论很有启发，有几个关键词被不断提到，就是分类讨论，细化问题，思想实验。于是到了没话可说的时候我就试着分类，比如教育方面分成小学初中大学类简直对任何题目都适用。

我做的就是按照王老师的分类做了一个 excel 表格，每个类别占一页，然后把每类里的题目都列出来，旁边一栏写上自己的观点和论点，再一栏贴上别人的范文。自己没有观点的从别人的范文里借鉴观点。有的时候受范文启发可以自己想出些类似的例子，比如关于政府是否应该重点资助大城市，王老师的范文中用了纽约的自由女神做例子。我就把这个替换成巴黎的埃菲尔铁塔，这样也勉强过关。

最近看的几篇习作，基本都要推倒重来。建议大家还是多“抄”一下吧。

=====

再说两句题外话，其实抄或者复制在我们的日常生活和大千世界里也是无所不在的。

自然界万物的生长、繁衍其实都是根据基因的不断复制。工业文明也是基于对技术和设计的不断复制而构建的。我们每个人的生活不也是按照我们为自己设定的各种规则不断的重复。而每个人所扮演的角色所做的事情其实在地球的各个角落都有差不多的人用差不多的方式演绎着差不多的故事。小到红绿灯大到政治体制，其实都是一种复制行为的规范。

我说这些并不是说世界因为复制而变得无趣。相反，正是因为有了无穷无尽的大规模的复制，为我们节省了大量的时间、精力的同时，也为创新和进步提供了巨大的空间。因此，要写好自己的文章，首先要学会复制别人的。

### 3 分党的通病-不明觉弱

这里重点讨论一下不明觉弱的问题。没错这个词是我借用不明觉厉而编造出来的。说的是很多同学用英语写作时的一种陋习，就是凭自己的想象或者汉译英写一些语法正确但意思不清晰或者表达有问题的句子。由于我不明白你说什么但觉得你写的英语很弱，所以简称“不明觉弱”。这个标签对于部分在绝望中挣扎的 G 友来说或许是一种打击。

我先来具体解释一下不明觉弱问题的根源，然后提出可能的解决方案。

其实英语写作并不是随便按照语法规则堆砌英语单词就能做到的。写作的核心其实是一种社交活动，你面对的读者是一个群体，这个群体有传统与规则，尊重这些传统与规则，才能被读者接受。最简单的做法就是你写一个句子和表达之前，在自己的脑海里搜索一下自己有没有在地道的英语读物中见过这个表达，如果没有的话，这个表达就很可能有问题。

这是一个艰难的转型。很多跟我学作文的同学会出现提笔不敢写的情况，因为自己想到的任何表达都很难回想起在哪里见过。说白了就是读地道的英语太少。这个问题有办法解决么？短期来讲是没有的，3 分党就认命吧，反正 3 分、3.5 分拿 offer 的大有人在，包括哈佛的 offer 都有可能。

长远来讲，如果你打算在美国有所发展，利用准备 GRE 作文的契机提高自己的写作能力是值得考虑的。我在寄托上其实就是守候那些愿意花时间学习 GRE 作文、摆脱 3 分党的精英。

至于具体如何解决不明觉弱，主要还是要靠阅读。其实读什么都没关系，关键是

1. 读的内容是自己感兴趣的或者和自己的工作有关的英语国家发表的作品
2. 读的过程中要关注一些你觉得有用的表述，摘抄下来，自己有机会写作时用

在这里再次推荐 <http://www.becker-posner-blog.com/>

### 四.一些常用的句型

每位作者都应该通过阅读和模仿逐步形成自己的风格。在自己的风格尚未形成前，一定要有意地模仿，切忌随意瞎写，以致不明觉弱。

这里先分析一下我自己写的 issue 111

111) In any profession—business, politics, education, government—those in power should step down after five years.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

**Leadership is vital for the success of any enterprises, whether it is in the field of business, education or public administration.**

这个句子的基本结构是 主语+系动词+表语 然后后面跟一个介宾结构 逗号之后是 whether 引出的从句

通过一个逗号把主从句分开了 句子的结构比较清晰

其实要把一个句子写长并不一定要写很复杂，一个主句一个从句足够了，有时候简单句也可以

但是在这个主系表或主谓宾的框架下 可以通过一些介宾结构以及平行结构来扩展句子的内容 这样即达到丰富内容的效果 又不必太担心语法错误

从功能的角度来讲 这个句子是在说某件事很重要 用了 vital 这个词 而我们说某件事重要的时候 往往要说清楚针对什么来说很重要 这样你说重要才比较清楚明白 也是一种支撑

而后面 whether 的从句是对涉及的领域和范围的某种刻画和限定

因此这里的介宾结构在句子中所起的作用就是通过增加信息将要表达的内容放在一个具体的语境中去 这也是我们写作的一个基本原则 就是要具体。实现具体的方法就是用介宾结构



和从句来进行限定

**It is argued that, in order to prevent power abuse and revitalize the organizations, those in the leadership positions should quit their jobs after a certain number of years.**

用 it is 开头的句子也称作 slot filler 或者 it 作形式主语 你们可以去看看自己写的文章 最好每段都有一个这种开头的句子

这里真正的主语是后面 that 引出的从句 这个句型用来复述题干中别人的观点是很合适的 建议大家多练习一下

另一个值得注意的是我在 that 的从句引出之前用一个双逗号加了一个插入语 而这个插入语又是用 in order to 引出的一个动宾并列结构 这样一来 我没有从句却把句子一下子拉长了 对于那些憋字数的同学这种句型很好用有木有

注意这个 in order to 是怎么来的呢 其实就是揣测出题人的意图 提出这个观点 说领导到时间要下课 这是出于什么目的呢 这道题没说 相当于留下了一个空由我们来填

接下来的主语从句 也有一个介宾结构 然后对 step down 做了同意转 用了 quit the job 原题说的是 5 年 其实比较难说这么具体 于是我含糊了一下

这个句子值得学习的地方包括

1. it 引出从句
2. 双逗号引出的插入语
3. 对题干进行同意转换

**I think this proposal will not benefit businesses and educational institutions as leaders in these fields need many years to build their reputation and earn trust from the stakeholders.**

这里提出自己的观点 用了一个很稀松平常的 I think 类似的表达也有很多

In my opinion, I believe, As far as I am concerned, it is my belief that, From my point of view, I tend to believe that

接下来一个很普通的主谓宾结构 但是在宾语里出现了并列结构 (这个并列结构其实为中间段分述建立了框架) 并列结构是最容易使句子丰满起来的 因为你不必另外想语法结构 and 前后的语法结构必然是平行和同类的

那么提出观点之后自然要解释观点 顺势就是一个原因状语从句

你也可以用 because since 想 fancy 一点可以用 for the reason that

如果你前面观点很复杂的话 你可以另起一句写原因 I hold this viewpoint for three reasons: first, ...; second, ...; finally, ...

很多同学觉得句型要怎么花哨用词要如何高大上 我个人比较喜欢简洁、朴实的文字 尤其是英语这种非母语的写作

注意我的原因从句 as leaders in these fields need many years to build their reputation and earn trust from the stakeholders. 里面也是一个主谓宾的结构 但是在后面加了一个不定式 指出目的 而不定式本身又是一个并列结构

当然并列结构虽然语法上不难 但是对于干货是有要求的

**Nevertheless, it is important for government officials to serve for a limited number of years.**

这也是一个 it is 开头的句子 不过这里 it 指代的是后面的不定式 同样的 说重要要说清楚对谁重要 于是有了这个介宾结构

**Consider the leadership in business world first.**

举例子的句型可以有多种。有些同学看了北美范文喜欢用 To support this point we need to look no further than ... 可能写出这样的句子还会觉得很得意 很爽 哇 好多字啊 占了大半行呢 其实有意思么 我觉得挺无趣的

像我这样一个简洁的祈使句引出后面的论述也挺好嘛 如果你要靠范文的复杂句型模板来撑字数的话 我就只能呵呵了

**With the separation between ownership and management in modern corporations, it is important for the stockholders to trust the managers of the businesses.**

我就是喜欢用 it is 开头 感觉这样比较客观吧 虽然用得太多也有点黔驴技穷的感觉 但是对于很多同学来说还是值得借鉴的

注意前面有一个 with 开头的介宾结构 这个结构可以用来引出这个句子的前提或者背景 甚至带有一点解释或理由的意思

另一个相关的介词是 without 也很好用 后面会遇到

**But to earn the trust of the stockholders often takes a relatively long period of time.**

这里不得不说一下连贯的问题

何谓连贯? 很多同学以为连贯就是要用 In addition, on the other hand, nevertheless, first, second, third 这类词组 这些词组偶尔用下也是可以的 但这不是连贯的关键所在 连贯的关键在于前后两句之间的指代或者重复 比如这里前句用了 trust 接下来还是说 earn the trust 需要很多时间 这样的连贯没有用任何短语 却很自然

这句话的结构也是简单的主谓宾 但是主语有点不同是一个不定式

所以说要想句式变换不一定要写从句套从句 同样的主谓宾 偶尔把不定式放在主语的位置上会让人耳目一新

同样的 我偶尔还会把不定式放在表语的位置上 效果也不错

**The managers will need to demonstrate their competence as leaders through years of services and accumulate more experience while working with the staff to develop the best strategic plans for the long-term development of a company.**

这个句子算比较长的了 但是结构还是主谓宾而已

只是在 need 后面的不定式用了一个并列结构 需要两件事 而前面一个结构又加了介宾结构 后面加了 while+ doing+ 介宾+ 不定式+ 介宾

这种句子谈不上很精彩吧 但是 简单明了还是做到了 内容也挺丰富

**Once the manager reaches the top management, s/he will become a valuable asset that the company cannot afford to lose.**

接着一个从句、主句的结构 比简单句略复杂 字数反而短了 这就是所谓长短句的交替，写了一个长句，再写一个短句给读者给自己一点休息

**If s/he has to leave the position in five years, the company will have to start over the process of cultivating a leader all over again. Therefore, to save money for the investors of the company, this rule should not apply.**

接下来的两句嘛 其实也是灌水的秘诀 就是把一件事正着说完后再反着说一遍

正着说某人或某件事好 反着说就是如果没有这个人或者不做这件事会产生如何负面的后果

反着说完了再做一个总结 点出这里的核心是省钱嘛

另外注意这里 the rule 这个词是指代题干中提出的这个规则 在语言学里叫做 signaling noun 我的导师和师兄去年出了一本专著讲的就是这个

Flowerdew, J., & Forest, R. (2014). Signalling nouns in English: A corpus-based discourse approach. New York: Cambridge University Press.

我有空再专门讨论吧

**With the increasing corporatization of higher education, the same logic also applied to the leadership of universities.**

这里又是一个介宾结构指定了这里的语境、背景和前提 当然干货也是很重要的 你不能只知道 with the development of modern society 吧

这句话将重心转移到大学领导

logic apply 这个搭配是需要知道的

**As a president of a university, one has to spend years to develop intimate knowledge about the industry of higher education and build his/her network with the key people in the circle.**

作为大学教授 指定身份的短语用 as 引出 大家都会吧 没有说具体是谁 所以用 one 接下来还是不定式指出目的 然后不定式还是并列结构

是的我很喜欢并列结构 不过前提是有干货

**S/he will need to promote the university aggressively at a global scale and raise money for different projects and programs that can help the university to stay competitive.**

这里句子的主干又是一个并列结构

后一个加了一个介宾短语 而介宾后面又跟了一个定语从句 算是略为复杂的句子吧

**This is a very challenging job and if a university is lucky enough to find someone who can do the job well, it makes little sense to let him/her go in 5 years. This is why the leaders of universities often hold their positions for years.**

接下来的这句是一个独立句子的并列结构 前一个句子用了 this 指代上句的内容 通过指代

实现了连贯 而后面先用条件状语从句引出前提 主句又是用 it 开头  
分析完了 指出某个现象来呼应和印证前一句的结论

**Nevertheless, the proposed rule may apply to government officials who do need to leave their jobs after certain years.**

Nevertheless 偶尔用作转折过渡

这里用 proposed rule 指代题干中的观点 这类 signalling noun 要多累积一些  
后面用 who 引出的从句实际上复述了自己的立场和观点

**One may argue that, just like corporate CEOs and university presidents, it also take years for a government official to learn to do his/her job well and build his/her reputation.**

这个句子用来提出别人可能挑战自己的观点 引出必须在写完自己观点后再写  
这里的句型包括插入语、it 开头和并列结构前面都说过了 这里不赘述

**This is true to some extent. But it is important to bear in mind that “government, even in its best form, is a necessary evil” as it takes away certain amount of freedom from the citizens in order to preserve peace and order.**

先做一个简单让步 然后反驳 it is important to bear in mind that 这个算灌水短语吧  
顺便印了 Paine 的名言 并用一个原因状语从句来解释 这个句子也是 it 开头 这是我个人的  
偏好吧 后面加一个 in order to 的目的状语

**As a result, the power of the government officials have to be limited through the institutional arrangement that any officials, no matter how competent or reputable they are, have to step down after a certain number of years.**

这句话开头的 As a result 算是一个固定搭配引出因果关系里的果 类似的表达还有  
Consequently, therefore, it follows that ...

之后是一个简单的被动语态结构 背后的理念对权力的限制也是现代社会常见的理念 接下  
来的介宾结构 through ... 是引出一个实现某个目的的手段 我们在讨论问题的时候经常会  
先说要达到的效果或目的 然后再讨论达到这个目的的手段 用 through...就很合适 也可以  
用 by + -ing

另外值得注意的是 arrangement 后面跟的从句 好像是叫同位语从句 或者简单当做 noun  
clause 是对 arrangement 这个词的某种补充  
而在这个从句中又有一个双逗号引出的插入语 对前面提到的能力和声誉等问题做了回应

**The risk of having a dictator justifies the cost of reducing the tenure of a capable leader.**

这句话只是一个简单的主谓宾结构 但是主语和宾语都由 of 引出一个动名词  
而这里指出某种风险 justify 了某种成本 也是一种经济学的思维方式

**In conclusion, I believe that the proposed rule should not be applied to the fields of business and higher education. But for the government leaders, they should definitely leave their**

### positions after a certain number of years.

最后的结论其实是将主要观点复述一遍 由于观点是分层次的，这个层次在结尾处也再次体现。

其实写了这么多文章之后 我也开始感到自己句型的多样性还有待进一步提高。晚些时候我打算把我的这些文章拿给系里的大牛们看看，请他们指点一下。不过在这里分析指出的一些句型希望大家有意识地练习、模仿，相信对作文会很有帮助。

### 五.写 issue 的中间段要确保举的例子支持观点、同时要集中讨论一个分论点

issue 题库中有一类题型要求指出自己论证可能受到的挑战并作出回应。

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim.

In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

在 149 道题中占 24 道，虽然不算多却难度不小。

其实这种要求考生考虑可能挑战自己的观点是帮助考生能加强自己的论证。要达到这个要求，一般要在文章的倒数第二段完成这样几个动作

1. 指出对自己某个分论点可能收到的质疑
2. 回应这个质疑，通过另一个角度的讨论（提出另一个分论点）来支持原来的分论点
3. 对上一步提出的新分论点展开论述

举例

College students should be encouraged to pursue subjects that interest them rather than the courses that seem most likely to lead to jobs.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim.

In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

分论点 1 家里穷的学生由于经济压力大应该选择好找工作的专业

分论点 2 家里富裕的学生应该根据自己的兴趣来选专业 不必担心找工作的问题

中间第三段 有人会提出难道穷人的孩子就没有追求自己兴趣的权利么；回应：他们可以先找到稳定的工作摆脱贫困后再利用业余时间学习自己感兴趣的内容 学习是终身的 ..... 接下来具体支持业余追求兴趣终身学习的分论点

### Issue 中间段如何用例证讲道理

部分同学开始写全文，是在提纲修改之后写的，但是写中间段的时候暴露了一些问题。中间段要写好，首先应该有一个能支持主旨句的主题句，这个主题句除了要支持主旨句的其中一部分外，本身也要能被具体的例子支持

以 44 楼的示范为例

主旨句

Do advances in scientific researches help us better understand the world we live in? Or are we increasingly perplexed by the new scientific knowledge constructed by the research community? The answers to these questions would depend on which groups of people we are talking about here. For the general public, science has provided solutions and resolved puzzles about the world we live in and enabled us to understand events in the world with confidence. For the scientific researchers, however, science is far less certain and settled, creating more complex puzzles than anyone can possibly solve completely.

中间第一段

1 There is no doubt that science has offered plausible explanations to many phenomena and events which used to confuse and intimidated people in the past.

- 2 Take germ theory for example.
- 3 Before the advent of germ theory, human beings did not understand why they got sick and often came up with bizarre theories and treatments which did more harm than good.
- 4 Germ theory has greatly advanced our understanding of how and why people caught different diseases and more effective therapies had been developed as a result.
- 5 Likewise, the discovery of relativity theories have enabled human beings to better understand how mass can be converted to nuclear energy.
- 6 Such insights not only helped us to learn more about how energy was generated in the sun.
- 7 They also created new opportunities for us to harness nuclear energy.

第一句是讲一个道理，回应主旨句的前面一部分 For the general public, science has provided solutions and resolved puzzles about the world we live in and enabled us to understand events in the world with confidence.

第二句提出例子

第三句指出理论出现之前的情况 各种愚昧无知

第四句讲具体这个理论（作为 science 的例子）如何帮人们增长知识

第五句 举另一个例子 还是对第一句这个道理的解释

第六、七句 继续讨论第二个例子

接下来两段的分析 我想请版友做一下

主要关注如何通过例子来支持观点的

分析一下下面两段每句话分别做了什么

- 1 In addition to natural science, social sciences also brought the public many new knowledge about how the society worked.
- 2 Microeconomic theories, for example, have been developed to explain and predict human behaviours in a wide range of contexts.
- 3 Through the quantitative analysis of a large amount of data about drivers' behaviours before and after the introduction seatbelt laws, economists have learned that while seatbelt laws may provided extra protection for drivers and passengers, more pedestrians had been killed as drivers tended to drive less cautiously with the protection of seat belts.
- 4 Such insights from social science carry important implications for the relevant social and legal policies and contributed to our understanding of the society.

1 While theoretical insights from both natural and social sciences have greatly advanced the public understanding of the natural world and the human society, the frontier researchers in sciences are far less certain about the world as they know it.

2 When it comes to the cutting-edge research areas, the well-established theories may not be very useful in explaining the empirical observations.

3 For example, theoretical physicists have long struggled to unify the theory of general relativity that offers elegant explanation for the world at the macro level with the theory of quantum mechanics that is more applicable to the micro world.

4 Economists also find it difficult to explain why free markets could fail soundly to rescue the developed world from periodic financial crisis and why less liberal economies such as China seem to be more robust than its more democratic counterparts like India.

4 To explain the empirical observations that may challenge the existing theories, scientists have to search for new theories constantly and be prepared to be challenged with even more empirical

data.

### **issue 5 funding for big city culture 示范及中间段过渡技巧**

The first sentence of each middle paragraph should fulfil two functions, to briefly remind the reader of the main idea from the previous paragraph and to summarise the main point for this paragraph. Writing the sentences this way can ensure the smooth transition across the paragraphs and help the readers to follow the argument effortlessly. Again we can look at the essay by Russell as an example.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy - ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy.第一个分论点与主旨句呼应 I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness--that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what--at last--I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. 第二个分论点与主旨句呼应。注意这里的 equal 与上一个目标呼应 I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

这里的 equal passion 实际上就是和上段的 love 相呼应 形成某种衔接

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. 注意这里的承上启下与前两段实现衔接 But always pity brought me back to earth. 第三个分论点与主旨句呼应 Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate this evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.

而这一段的首句就是对前面两段内容的总结和提醒

再来看一个我写的例子

Issue 5:

Claim: Governments must ensure that their major cities receive the financial support they need in order to thrive.

Reason: It is primarily in cities that a nation's cultural traditions are preserved and generated.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

Due to the development of modern technology, many people are concerned about how to preserve their nations' cultural traditions and promote their national identities for the new generations who have been exposed to globalised culture with little local flavour. Since government resources are limited, it is argued that major cities should be the top priority for financial support because the cultural traditions are generated and preserved here. While I agree that major cities are important for preserving and generating cultural tradition, other areas are equally important in many countries. Since cultural programs in major cities can receive support from different financial sources such as advertising, donation of city residents and big corporations, government money should be invested to programs in small towns and rural regions where resources from private sectors are not available.

There is no doubt that major cities are important sites for preserving, generating and celebrating cultural traditions. Take the well-known Statue of Liberty in New York City as an example. This giant copper statue was a gift of France to the US and has become a popular icon for freedom and democracy inspiring people all over the world. In late 19th century and early 20th century, Statue of Liberty had welcomed nearly 14 million immigrants who entered the United States through New York. For these immigrants and their descendants, the Statue of Liberty was a symbol of hope and freedom. For the rest of the United States, the Statue of Liberty celebrates diversity and tolerance, the core values that define the cultural tradition of a young republic.

Despite the importance of major cities for cultural traditions, government funding should not be heavily invested here because there are other funding sources available. The national park service that manages the Statue of Liberty in New York, for example, receive financial support in the form of admission ticket fares from thousands of tourists who come to visit everyday from all over the world. Major corporations and private citizens also donated large amount of money to the private foundation built for the Statue of Liberty. In addition, the cultural heritage site also attracts thousands of volunteers every year to donate their time to the daily operation of national park services for the Statue of Liberty. Therefore, as this example adequately illustrates, cultural traditions in major cities are not the top priorities for government funding given all the alternative sources for funding and support.

On the other hand, other preservation programs for cultural traditions in small towns or rural areas should be supported by taxpayers' money. For example, the use of abacus in mathematical calculation, which has been listed as world intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO, is almost unheard of nowadays in major Chinese cities. With the advent of computers, calculation tasks are performed by sophisticated financial management software in the stores



and offices in modern cities. Even schoolchildren are granted access to pocket calculators to do their math homework. To preserve the art of using abacus, one has to visit the small towns and villages in China where people without access to computers still use abacus for calculation. Since abacus has little value for advertising, it is unlikely that any program for promoting abacus would attract sponsorship from large corporations. Therefore, the government should step in and provide necessary support to build programs that preserve the use of abacus as a traditional way of mathematical calculation.

In conclusion, as the two examples aptly demonstrate, government funding should be used to support culture preservation programs in small towns and rural areas and the cultural traditions in major cities will thrive with the funding and support from non-governmental sectors.

练习

请指出以下两句话如何做到承上启下的。

Despite the importance of major cities for cultural traditions, government funding should not be heavily invested here because there are other funding sources available.

On the other hand, other preservation programs for cultural traditions in small towns or rural areas should be supported by taxpayers' money.

#### 六. Issue 必杀技-分类讨论

参加提纲互改小组的同学辛苦了！有部分同学写的提纲未能抓住题目的重点，被我不客气的批评，希望不要见怪。这里介绍一个 issue 必杀技，可以用来处理很多 issue。我打算利用这个帖子来将题库中适用这个策略的题目逐一讨论一遍。快考的同学也可以参与这个活动，尝试用这个策略来列提纲。如果人品爆发考试时抽中这里讨论的题目，用我们讨论过的提纲拿到理想的分数，记得回来报喜哦~~O(n\_n)O 哈哈~

先上一道题目本身已经分好类的

8) Claim: In any field—business, politics, education, government—those in power should step down after five years.

Reason: The surest path to success for any enterprise is revitalization through new leadership.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

111) In any profession—business, politics, education, government—those in power should step down after five years.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim.

In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

149) In any field—business, politics, education, government—those in power should be required to step down after five years.

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible

consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

这道题的切入点当然是按不同领域的特点来讨论。比如政府比较容易滋生腐败，经常换人是必须的；企业需要不断创新，也应该换人；而教育机构需要有威望、经验丰富的人，因此不必换。也可以提美国的法官终身制。

131) Claim: Researchers should not limit their investigations to only those areas in which they expect to discover something that has an immediate, practical application.

Reason: It is impossible to predict the outcome of a line of research with any certainty.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

这道题其实可以对 researcher 进行分类，政府资助的科研人员、企业研发部门的科研人员，指出政府可以支持做更多的长远的理论研究，同意对于这类研究确实不太好预测结果，但很有意义，同时企业的研发部门做的研究往往需要有较短线的成果，要能够预测，这样企业才能收回成本等等。然后有人可能会说政府支持这种不可预测的研究会不会是浪费钱，如何评估其价值，回应是这些研究即使没有应用或发现，也还是可以发论文，只要同行觉得有价值就不浪费，同时也培训了科研人员去做其他有价值的研究。

135) Educational institutions should actively encourage their students to choose fields of study that will prepare them for lucrative careers.

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

这类题目可以将学生分作几种情况

- 对于经济压力比较大的学生，应该鼓励他们学这种学科，将来可以脱贫（比如精算）
- 对于本身感兴趣的学科就能为 lucrative career 做准备的，当然也应该鼓励 因为这样的同学以后又能赚钱又能做自己喜欢的事情
- 对于经济负担不重的学生 应该鼓励他们学自己喜欢的学科 即使将来不能很赚钱 也可以去做很对专业没什么要求的工作

37) Society should identify those children who have special talents and provide training for them at an early age to develop their talents.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

这道题可以将有天分的孩子分作三类，数学有天分、在自然科学有天分和语言有天分。数学有天分的孩子需要特别培养，因为学校的数学课对他们来说太简单，比如 Terry Tao 自然科学有天分的孩子也需要特别培养，因为做实验的设备只有大学才有，比如 Eva Vertes 语言有天分的孩子不需要特别培养，因为语言能力可以通过日常的交流和阅读来提升，需要让他们过正常的生活

21) Laws should be flexible enough to take account of various circumstances, times, and places.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

提纲: Constitutional law does not need to be very flexible to take account of different kinds of factors because the constitution will vest ultimate authority in one central administration and legislature, and judiciary.宪法为其他普通法律提供法律原则和权威性, 因此最抽象, 起到法律纲领的作用。由于宪法需要有极高的权威性, 不宜根据现实变化时常调整时常调整, 因此宪法具有抽象性, 不用考虑各种情况的具体细节。举例: 美国宪法。

State law, which is the law of each separate U.S. state, should be flexible to take account of characteristics in different places.州法律是各个州独立制定的法律, 可以考虑到当地的具体文化、历史、信仰等情况, 在不违背宪法的情况下制定, 因此需要考虑当地的具体情况。举例: 其实很多针对某个问题推出的法案都是考虑了具体场景的

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California\\_Master\\_Plan\\_for\\_Higher\\_Education](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Master_Plan_for_Higher_Education)

这个可以参考一下

Case law should be flexible enough to take account of various circumstances, times, and places.不同判例可以考虑具体情况, 较为灵活, 能够随时适应新的状况。

判例法的概念需要解释一下 不是判例法应该灵活 而是判例本身成为法律 就决定了其灵活性 或者说判例法制度的目的就是为了法律更灵活

#### 七. 如何实现 6 分标准里提到的 well focused and well organized

如何实现 6 分标准里提到的 well focused and well organized, 其中一种方式就是用我提倡的 1+3 模型, 详见这里 <http://bbs.gter.net/thread-1777364-1-1.html>

这个模型在诺贝尔文学奖得主、大神罗素的著名散文 What I live for 里可见一斑

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. 这里的并列结构统领全文 分别指向中间三段的中心 是一个经典的主旨句 These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a great ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy - ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy.第一个分论点与主旨句呼应 I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness--that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what--at last--I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. 第二个分论点与主旨句呼应。注意这里的 equal 与上一个目标呼应 I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. 注意这里的承上启下与前两段实现衔接 But always pity brought me back to earth. 第三个分论点与主旨句呼应 Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate this evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.

This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.

不仅仅要通过主旨句与主题句的呼应来实现段落之间的连贯，段落内部的连贯也很重要。

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy - ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness--that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what--at last--I have found.

不仅仅使用了 first, next 和 finally 这类转折词，同时句子之间也有各种 reference，比如第一句中的 love 在第二句、第三句中用 it 指代 最后一句的 This 再次指代 love 再来看我自己写 issue 109 的某段话

<http://bbs.gter.net/forum.php?mo ... age=3#pid1778917460>

1 In addition to natural science, social sciences also brought the public many new knowledge about how the society worked.

2 Microeconomic theories, for example, have been developed to explain and predict human behaviours in a wide range of contexts.

3 Through the quantitative analysis of a large amount of data about drivers' behaviours before and after the introduction of seatbelt laws, economists have learned that while seatbelt laws may provide extra protection for drivers and passengers, more pedestrians had been killed as drivers tended to drive less cautiously with the protection of seat belts.

4 Such insights from social science carry important implications for the relevant social and legal policies and contributed to our understanding of the society.

1 natural science 指向上段的重点，承上启下

2 for example 说明这一句是举例支持上句 theories 是 knowledge 的一种

3 economists 呼应上句的 microeconomic theories drivers' behaviours/ drivers tended to drive less cautiously 是上句 human behaviours 的具体例子

4 such insights 是对上句的总体概况 social science 呼应第一句 social science

由此可见，段落内要实现连贯必须在句子之间设置各种呼应点。写作过程中未必要有意识地这样做，只要思路清晰，自然就会有这些呼应。但在修改点评时，句子之间是否实现呼应应该成为一个重点考察对象。如果发现两个相邻的句子之间完全没有呼应点，那么这个段落的连贯性就存疑了。

总的来说，要做到 well focused and well organized 就应该在段落之间和段落内实现呼应，确保文章和段落都在集中讨论一个中心议题和具体的分论点。

## issue-recommendation 题型开头段造句练习

有版友提出语言表达的问题如何解决。这确实是很头疼的问题。一个基本的原则就是要多看好的句子、多模仿；与此同时要纠正自己随意写句子的习惯，只有见过的句型、用法才写，没见过的、自己生造的坚决不写。我会尝试设计一些造句练习，希望大家踊跃回帖参与，这样我才有动力继续。同时欢迎提出各种建议。

回帖时请将完整的练习、例句帖出来。

### Issue 82

Colleges and universities should require their students to spend at least one semester studying in a foreign country.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

I agree that this recommendation would be beneficial for students specialising in certain disciplines such as foreign languages, international trade and comparative politics. Yet, students in other fields such as national language and literature, history and archeology would find the requirement unnecessary. Moreover, students with limited financial resources or abilities to adapt to the new environment may not benefit from the recommendation.

I agree that this recommendation would be beneficial for students specialising in certain disciplines such as foreign languages, international trade and comparative politics.

句子的功能：针对题目的建议提出立场，指出这个建议对某个群体的学生是有益的。

同意转换：this recommendation would be beneficial for 如果改成 benefit 怎么写 如果改成 students 做主语又怎么写

语法结构：

students specialising 动名词后置对前面的名词进行限定

disciplines 作为一个概括性的名词后面跟 such as 及并列结构引出具体的例子

注意下面的两个句子也是表面立场，但是针对不同的学生群体，这个建议就可能不好

Yet, students in other fields such as national language and literature, history and archeology would find the requirement unnecessary. Moreover, students with limited financial resources or abilities to adapt to the new environment may not benefit from the recommendation.

这个句子里是如何表达不好的？这里为了避免词汇重复用了什么词？还可能用什么词？

### 练习

129) College students should base their choice of a field of study on the availability of jobs in that field.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

尝试用上面的句型写出这道题的第一段

基本思路为

对于家境富裕的学生，这个建议没有好处，他们可以根据自己的兴趣来选专业

对于特别有才华的学生，这个建议也不好，因为他们应该根据自己的才华来选专业，将来总会有工作

对于经济压力较大的学生，这个建议很合适，因为对他们来说找到工作最重要

### issue 的主要问题之一：自相矛盾的观点(Inconsistent Stance)

这是我 3 月份在 Quip 上指导时写的一个文档，现在放在这里。以后遇到同学有这类问题会直接给出这层楼的链接

在 issue 写作中，很多同学不能写出一个自圆其说的复杂观点。常常在写出一个观点句之后，用 however 紧跟另一句否定前面的观点。关于这个问题，论坛上其他的高分网友也讨论过。

<http://bbs.gter.net/thread-1604684-1-1.html>

\*AW 拿 4 分其实并不难，阻碍我们拿高分的因素无外乎两点

1) 过多拼写，语法错误导致意思无法准确传达

2) 过于纠结 2 正一反或者 2 反一正八股文论证导致分析不透彻，而且观点容易自相矛盾。

对于原命题我们可以说部分同意、部分反对，但是我们必须清晰的指出在什么情况下同意，什么情况下反对。其实这个要求，题目的 writing instruction 已经写得很清楚-

[http://bbs.gter.net/forum.php?mo ... age=4#pid1778934728](http://bbs.gter.net/forum.php?mo...age=4#pid1778934728)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should **\*\*consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true\*\*** and explain how these considerations shape your position.

这里的 ways in which 就是要我们分不同情况讨论

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

这种题型只是换了一种说法- specific circumstances

其实所谓的批判性思维就是一种对于简单的一般性结论 (generalization) 及刻板印象 (stereotype) 的理性拒绝。要做到这一点就要具体情况具体分析。

看一个反面的实例：Issue 123 Outline by 妄言 (<https://quip.com/qLCbAmwJwFRO>)

123. The best way for a society to prepare its young people for leadership in government, industry, or other fields is by instilling in them a sense of cooperation, not competition.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

In the age of globalization, there is no denying that collaboration plays an essential role in fostering future leaders since it equips the young to address greater challenges. I believe that a lesson of cooperation works better than the idea of tug-of-war in promoting youth leadership in many fields, be it politics or business. However, cooperation is not necessarily superior compared with friendly competition as they highlight different aspects of leadership.

原作者在 however 前后的内容明显是自相矛盾的

可以改为

I believe that teaching cooperation can better prepare young people for future challenges as leaders who will have to supervise a team of people to work together to solve problems. While it is equally important for leaders to have a strong sense of competition, I believe that there is no need to tell them the importance of competition because it is already institutionalized in our daily life.

## Preparing for the Issue Task

The "Analyze an Issue" task assesses your ability to think critically about a topic of general interest and to clearly express your thoughts about it in writing. Each Issue topic makes a claim that can be discussed from various perspectives and applied to many different situations or conditions. Your task is to present a compelling case for your own position on the issue. Before beginning your written response, be sure to read the issue and the instructions that follow the Issue statement. Think about the issue from several points of view, considering the complexity of ideas associated with those views. Then, make notes about the position you want to develop and list the main reasons and examples you could use to support that position.

It is important that you address the central issue according to the specific instructions. Each task is accompanied by one of the following sets of instructions:

- Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.
- Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.
- Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.
- Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.
- Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.
- Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

The *GRE*® readers scoring your response are not looking for a "right" answer — in fact, as far as they are concerned, there is no correct position to take. Instead, the readers are evaluating the skill with which you address the specific instructions and articulate and develop an argument to support your evaluation of the issue.



The Issue task is an exercise in critical thinking and persuasive writing. The purpose of this task is to determine how well you can develop a compelling argument supporting your own evaluation of an issue and effectively communicate that argument in writing to an academic audience. Your audience consists of *GRE*® readers who are carefully trained to apply the scoring criteria identified in the [scoring guide for the "Analyze an Issue" task](#). To get a clearer idea of how GRE readers apply the Issue scoring criteria to actual responses, you should review scored [sample Issue essay responses and reader commentary](#). The sample responses, particularly at the 5 and 6 score levels, will show you a variety of successful strategies for organizing, developing and communicating a persuasive argument. The reader commentary discusses specific aspects of evaluation and writing, such as the use of examples, development and support, organization, language fluency and word choice. For each response, the commentary points out aspects that are particularly persuasive as well as any that detract from the overall effectiveness of the essay.

Since the Issue task is meant to assess the persuasive writing skills you have developed throughout your education, it has been designed neither to require any particular course of study nor to advantage students with a particular type of training.

Many college textbooks on composition offer advice on persuasive writing and argumentation that you might find useful, but even this advice might be more technical and specialized than you need for the Issue task. You will not be expected to know specific critical thinking or writing terms or strategies; instead, you should be able to respond to the specific instructions and use reasons, evidence and examples to support your position on an issue.

Suppose, for instance, that an Issue topic asks you to consider a policy that would require government financial support for art museums and the implications of implementing the policy. If your position is that government should fund art museums, you might support your position by discussing the reasons art is important and explain that government funding would make access to museums available to everyone.

On the other hand, if your position is that government should not support museums, you might point out that art museums are not as deserving of limited governmental funding as are other, more socially important institutions, which would suffer if the policy were implemented. Or, if you are in favor of government funding for art museums only under certain conditions, you might focus on the artistic criteria, cultural concerns or political conditions that you think should determine how, or whether, art museums receive government funds. It is not your position that matters as much as the critical thinking skills you display in developing your position.

An excellent way to prepare for the Issue task is to practice writing on some of the published topics. There is no "best" approach: some people prefer to start practicing without regard to the 30-minute time limit; others prefer to take a "timed test" first and practice within the time limit. Regardless of which approach you take, you should first review the task directions and then follow these steps:

- Carefully read the claim and the specific instructions and make sure you understand them; if they seem unclear, discuss them with a friend or teacher.
- Think about the claim and instructions in relation to your own ideas and experiences, to events you have read about or observed and to people you have known; this is the knowledge base from which you will develop compelling reasons and examples in your argument that reinforce, negate or qualify the claim in some way.
- Decide what position on the issue you want to take and defend.
- Decide what compelling evidence (reasons and examples) you can use to support your position.

Remember that this is a task in critical thinking and persuasive writing. The most successful responses will explore the complexity of the claim and follow the specific task instructions. As you prepare for the Issue task, you might find it helpful to ask yourself the following questions:

- What, precisely, is the central issue?
- What precisely are the instructions asking me to do?
- Do I agree with all or any part of the claim? Why or why not?
- Does the claim make certain assumptions? If so, are they reasonable?
- Is the claim valid only under certain conditions? If so, what are they?
- Do I need to explain how I interpret certain terms or concepts used in the claim?
- If I take a certain position on the issue, what reasons support my position?
- What examples — either real or hypothetical — could I use to illustrate those reasons and advance my point of view? Which examples are most compelling?

Once you have decided on a position to defend, consider the perspectives of others who might not agree with your position. Ask yourself:

- What reasons might someone use to refute or undermine my position?
- How should I acknowledge or defend against those views in my essay?

To plan your response, you might want to summarize your position and make notes about how you will support it. When you've done this, look over your notes and decide how you will organize your response. Then write a response developing your position on the issue. Even if you don't write a full response, you should find it helpful to practice with a few of the Issue topics and to sketch out your possible responses.

After you have practiced with some of the topics, try writing responses to some of them within the 30-minute time limit so that you have a good idea of how to use your time in the actual test.

It would probably be helpful to get some feedback on your response from an instructor who teaches critical thinking or writing or to trade essays on the same topic with other students and discuss one another's responses in relation to the scoring guide. Try to determine how each essay meets or misses the criteria for each score point in the guide. Comparing your own response to the scoring guide will help you see how and where to improve.

### **Tips**

You are free to organize and develop your response in any way you think will enable you to effectively communicate your ideas about the issue. Your response may incorporate particular writing strategies learned in English composition or writing-intensive college courses. *GRE*® readers will not be looking for a particular developmental strategy or mode of writing; in fact, when GRE readers are trained, they review hundreds of Issue responses that, although highly diverse in content and form, display similar levels of critical thinking and persuasive writing.

Readers will see some Issue responses at the 6 score level that begin by briefly summarizing the writer's position on the issue and then explicitly announcing the main points to be argued. They will see others that lead into the writer's position by making a prediction, asking a series of questions, describing a scenario or defining critical terms in the quotation. The readers know that a writer can earn a high score by giving multiple examples or by presenting a single, extended example. Look at the [sample Issue responses](#), particularly at the 5 and 6 score levels, to see how other writers have successfully developed and organized their arguments.

You should use as many or as few paragraphs as you consider appropriate for your argument; e.g., you will probably need to create a new paragraph whenever your discussion shifts to a new cluster of ideas. What matters is not the number of examples, the number of paragraphs or the form your argument takes, but the cogency of your ideas about the issue and the clarity and skill with which you communicate those ideas to academic readers.

Following is a sample Issue task that you might see on the test:

*As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate.*

*Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.*

### **Strategies for This Topic**

In this task, you are asked to discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement. Thus, responses may range from strong agreement or strong disagreement to qualified agreement or qualified disagreement. You are also instructed to explain your reasoning and consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true. A successful response need not comment on all or any one of the points listed below and may well discuss other reasons or examples not mentioned here in support of the position taken.

Although this topic is accessible to respondents of all levels of ability, for any response to receive a top score, it is particularly important that you remain focused on the task and provide clearly relevant examples and/or reasons to support the point of view you are expressing. Lower level responses may be long and full of examples of modern technology, but those examples may not be clearly related to a particular position. For example, a respondent who strongly disagrees with the statement may choose to use computer technology as proof that thinking ability is not deteriorating. However, the mere existence of computer technology does not adequately prove this point; e.g., perhaps the ease of computer use inhibits our thinking ability. To receive a higher level score, the respondent should explain in what ways computer technology may call for or require thinking ability.

This topic could elicit a wide variety of approaches, especially considering the different possible interpretations of the phrase "the ability of humans to think for themselves." Although most respondents may take it to mean problem solving, others could interpret it as emotional and social intelligence; i.e., the ability to communicate/connect with others. With any approach, it is possible to discuss examples such as calculators, word processing tools such as spell/grammar check, tax preparation software, Internet research and a variety of other common household and business technologies.

You may agree with the topic and argue that:

- reliance on technology leads to dependency; we come to rely on problem-solving technologies to such a degree that when they fail we are in worse shape than if we didn't have them
- everyday technologies such as calculators and cash registers have decreased our ability to perform simple calculations, a "use it or lose it" approach to thinking ability

Or you may take issue with the topic and argue that technology facilitates and improves our thinking skills, arguing that:

- developing, implementing and using technology requires problem solving
- technology frees us from mundane problem solving (e.g., calculations) and allows us to engage in more complex thinking
- technology provides access to information otherwise unavailable
- technology connects people at a distance and allows them to share ideas
- technology is dependent on the human ability to think and make choices (every implementation of and advance in technology is driven by human intelligence and decision making)

On the other hand, you could decide to explore the middle ground in the debate and point out that while technology may diminish some mental skill sets, it enables other (perhaps more important) types of thinking to thrive. Such a response might distinguish between complex problem solving and simple "data maintenance" (i.e., performing calculations and organizing information).

Other approaches could involve taking a historical, philosophical or sociological stance or, with equal effectiveness, using personal experience to illustrate a position. One could argue that the value or detriment of relying on technology is determined by the individual (or society) using it or that only those who develop technology (i.e., technical specialists) are maintaining their problem-solving skills, while the rest of us are losing them.

Again, it is important for you to avoid overly general examples or lists of examples without expansion. It is also essential to do more than paraphrase the prompt. Please keep in mind that what counts is the ability to clearly express a particular point of view in relation to the issue and specific task instructions and to support that position with relevant reasons and/or examples.

For more information, see the ["Analyze an Issue" Sample Essay Responses and Reader Commentary](#).

**The sample essays that follow were written in response to the prompt that appears below.**

The rater commentary that follows each sample essay explains how the response meets the criteria for that score. For a more complete understanding of the criteria for each score point, see the ["Analyze an Issue" Scoring Guide](#).

*As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate.*

*Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.*

**Note:** All responses are reproduced exactly as written, including errors, misspellings, etc., if any.

### **Essay Response — Score 6**

The statement linking technology negatively with free thinking plays on recent human experience over the past century. Surely there has been no time in history where the lived lives of people have changed more dramatically. A quick reflection on a typical day reveals how technology has revolutionized the world. Most people commute to work in an automobile that runs on an internal combustion engine. During the workday, chances are high that the employee will interact with a computer that processes information on silicon bridges that are .09 microns wide. Upon leaving home, family members will be reached through wireless networks that utilize satellites orbiting the earth. Each of these common occurrences could have been inconceivable at the turn of the 19th century.

The statement attempts to bridge these dramatic changes to a reduction in the ability for humans to think for themselves. The assumption is that an increased reliance on technology negates the need for people to think creatively to solve previous quandaries. Looking back at the introduction, one could argue that without a car, computer, or mobile phone, the hypothetical worker would need to find alternate methods of transport, information processing and communication. Technology short circuits this thinking by making the problems obsolete.

However, this reliance on technology does not necessarily preclude the creativity that marks the human species. The prior examples reveal that technology allows for convenience. The car, computer and phone all release additional time for people to live more efficiently. This efficiency does not preclude the need for humans to think for themselves. In fact, technology frees humanity to not only tackle new problems, but may itself create new issues that did not exist without technology. For example, the proliferation of automobiles has introduced a need for fuel conservation on a global scale. With increasing energy demands from emerging markets, global warming becomes a concern inconceivable to the horse-and-buggy generation. Likewise dependence on oil has created nation-states that are not dependent on taxation, allowing ruling parties to

oppress minority groups such as women. Solutions to these complex problems require the unfettered imaginations of maverick scientists and politicians.

In contrast to the statement, we can even see how technology frees the human imagination. Consider how the digital revolution and the advent of the internet has allowed for an unprecedented exchange of ideas. WebMD, a popular internet portal for medical information, permits patients to self research symptoms for a more informed doctor visit. This exercise opens pathways of thinking that were previously closed off to the medical layman. With increased interdisciplinary interactions, inspiration can arrive from the most surprising corners. Jeffrey Sachs, one of the architects of the UN Millenium Development Goals, based his ideas on emergency care triage techniques. The unlikely marriage of economics and medicine has healed tense, hyperinflation environments from South America to Eastern Europe.

This last example provides the most hope in how technology actually provides hope to the future of humanity. By increasing our reliance on technology, impossible goals can now be achieved. Consider how the late 20th century witnessed the complete elimination of smallpox. This disease had ravaged the human race since prehistorical days, and yet with the technology of vaccines, free thinking humans dared to imagine a world free of smallpox. Using technology, battle plans were drawn out, and smallpox was systematically targeted and eradicated.

Technology will always mark the human experience, from the discovery of fire to the implementation of nanotechnology. Given the history of the human race, there will be no limit to the number of problems, both new and old, for us to tackle. There is no need to retreat to a Luddite attitude to new things, but rather embrace a hopeful posture to the possibilities that technology provides for new avenues of human imagination.

### **Reader Commentary for Essay Response — Score 6**

The author of this essay stakes out a clear and insightful position on the issue and follows the specific instructions by presenting reasons to support that position. The essay cogently argues that technology does not decrease our ability to think for ourselves, but merely provides "additional time for people to live more efficiently." In fact, the problems that have developed alongside the growth of technology (pollution, political unrest in oil-producing nations) actually call for more creative thinking, not less.

In further examples, the essay shows how technology allows for the linking of ideas that may never have been connected in the past (like medicine and economic models), pushing people to think in new ways. Examples are persuasive and fully developed; reasoning is logically sound and well supported.

Ideas in the essay are connected logically, with effective transitions used both between paragraphs ("However" or "In contrast to the statement") and within paragraphs. Sentence structure is varied and complex and the essay clearly demonstrates facility with the "conventions of standard written English (i.e., grammar, usage and mechanics)," with only minor errors appearing. Thus, this essay meets all the requirements for receiving a top score, a 6.

### **Essay Response — Score 5**

Surely many of us have expressed the following sentiment, or some variation on it, during our daily commutes to work: "People are getting so stupid these days!" Surrounded as we are by striding and strident automatons with cell phones glued to their ears, PDA's gripped in their palms, and omniscient, omnipresent CNN gleaming in their eyeballs, it's tempting to believe that technology has isolated and infantilized us, essentially transforming us into dependent, conformist morons best equipped to sideswipe one another in our SUV's.

Furthermore, hanging around with the younger, pre-commute generation, whom tech-savviness seems to have rendered lethal, is even less reassuring. With "Teen People" style trends shooting through the air from tiger-striped PDA to zebra-striped PDA, and with the latest starlet gossip zipping from juicy Blackberry to teeny, turbo-charged cell phone, technology seems to support young people's worst tendencies to follow the crowd. Indeed, they have seemingly evolved into intergalactic conformity police. After all, today's tech-aided teens are, courtesy of authentic, hands-on video games, literally trained to kill; courtesy of chat and instant text messaging, they have their own language; they even have tiny cameras to efficiently photodocument your fashion blunders! Is this adolescence, or paparazzi terrorist training camp?

With all this evidence, it's easy to believe that tech trends and the incorporation of technological wizardry into our everyday lives have served mostly to enforce conformity, promote dependence, heighten consumerism and materialism, and generally create a culture that values self-absorption and personal entitlement over cooperation and collaboration. However, I argue that we are merely in the inchoate stages of learning to live with technology while still loving one another. After all, even given the examples provided earlier in this essay, it seems clear that technology hasn't impaired our thinking and problem-solving capacities. Certainly it has incapacitated our behavior and manners; certainly our values have taken a severe blow. However, we are inarguably more efficient in our badness these days. We're effective worker bees of ineffectiveness!

If technology has so increased our senses of self-efficacy that we can become veritable agents of the awful, virtual CEO's of selfishness, certainly it can be beneficial. Harnessed correctly, technology can improve our ability to think and act for ourselves. The first challenge is to figure out how to provide technology users with some direly-needed direction.



## Reader Commentary for Essay Response — Score 5

The language of this essay clearly illustrates both its strengths and weaknesses. The flowery and sometimes uncannily keen descriptions are often used to powerful effect, but at other times, the writing is awkward and the comparisons somewhat strained. See, for example, the ungainly sequence of independent clauses in the second-to-last sentence of paragraph 2 ("After all, today's tech-aided teens ...").

There is consistent evidence of facility with syntax and complex vocabulary ("Surrounded as we are by striding and strident automatons with cell phones glued to their ears, PDA's gripped in their palms, and omniscient, omnipresent CNN gleaming in their eyeballs, it's tempting to believe..."). However, such lucid prose is sometimes countered by an over-reliance on abstractions and reasoning that is not entirely effective. For example, what does the fact that video games "literally train [teens] to kill" have to do with the use or deterioration of thinking abilities? On the whole, however, the response develops its ideas about the ways that technology can promote isolation and conformity with well-chosen examples, even if its ideas about the positive effects of technology are less successfully realized.

Because this essay provides generally thoughtful analysis and takes a complex approach to the issue (arguing, in effect, that technology neither enhances nor reduces our ability to think for ourselves, but can do one or the other, depending on the user) and because the author makes use of "appropriate vocabulary and sentence variety," a score of 5 is appropriate.

## Essay Response — Score 4

In all actuality, I think it is more probable that our bodies will surely deteriorate long before our minds do in any significant amount. Who can't say that technology has made us lazier, but that's the key word, lazy, not stupid. The ever increasing amount of technology that we incorporate into our daily lives makes people think and learn every day, possibly more than ever before. Our abilities to think, learn, philosophize, etc. may even reach limits never dreamed of before by average people. Using technology to solve problems will continue to help us realize our potential as a human race.

If you think about it, using technology to solve more complicating problems gives humans a chance to expand their thinking and learning, opening up whole new worlds for many people. Many of these people are glad for the chance to expand their horizons by learning more, going to new places, and trying new things. If it wasn't for the invention of new technological devices, I wouldn't be sitting at this computer trying to philosophize about technology. It would be extremely hard for children in much poorer countries to learn and think for themselves with out the invention of the internet. Think what an impact the

printing press, a technologically superior machine at the time, had on the ability of the human race to learn and think.

Right now we are seeing a golden age of technology, using it all the time during our every day lives. When we get up there's instant coffee and the microwave and all these great things that help us get ready for our day. But we aren't allowing our minds to deteriorate by using them, we are only making things easier for ourselves and saving time for other important things in our days. Going off to school or work in our cars instead of a horse and buggy. Think of the brain power and genius that was used to come up with that single invention that has changed the way we move across this globe.

Using technology to solve our continually more complicated problems as a human race is definitely a good thing. Our ability to think for ourselves isn't deteriorating, it's continuing to grow, moving on to higher thought functions and more ingenious ideas. The ability to use what technology we have is an example

#### **Reader Commentary for Essay Response — Score 4**

This essay meets all the criteria of a level-4 essay. The writer develops a clear position ("Using technology to solve problems will continue to help us realize our potential as a human race"). The position is then developed with relevant reasons ("using technology to solve more complicated problems gives humans a chance to expand their thinking and learning" and "we are seeing a golden age of technology").

Point 1, "using technology," is supported with the simple but relevant notion that technology allows us access to information and abilities to which we would not normally have access. Similarly, point 2, the "golden age," is supported by the basic description of our technologically saturated social condition. Though the overall development and organization of the essay does suffer from an occasional misdirection (see paragraph 3's abrupt progression from coffee pots to the benefits of technology to cars), the essay as a whole flows smoothly and logically from one idea to the next.

It is useful to compare this essay to the level-3 essay presented next. Though both essays entail some surface-level discussion and often fail to probe deeply into the issue, this writer does take the analysis a step further. In paragraph 2, the distinction between this essay and the next one (the level-3 response) can most clearly be seen. To support the notion that advances in technology actually help increase thinking ability, the writer draws a clever parallel between the promise of modern, sophisticated technology (computer) and the actual "impact" of equally "promising" and pervasive technologies of the past (printing press).

Like the analysis, the language in this essay clearly meets the requirements for a score of 4. The writer displays sufficient control of language and the conventions of standard

written English. The preponderance of mistakes are of a cosmetic nature ("trying to solve more complicating problems.") There is a sentence fragment ("Going off ...") along with a comma splice ("Our ability ... isn't deteriorating, it's continuing to grow ...") in paragraph 3. However, these errors are minor and do not interfere with the clarity of the ideas being presented.

### **Essay Response — Score 3**

There is no current proof that advancing technology will deteriorate the ability of humans to think. On the contrary, advancements in technology had advanced our vast knowledge in many fields, opening opportunities for further understanding and achievement. For example, the problem of debilitating illnesses and diseases such as alzheimer's disease is slowing being solved by the technological advancements in stem cell research. The future ability of growing new brain cells and the possibility to reverse the onset of alzheimer's is now becoming a reality. This shows our initiative as humans to better our health demonstrates greater ability of humans to think.

One aspect where the ability of humans may initially be seen as an example of deteriorating minds is the use of internet and cell phones. In the past humans had to seek out information in many different environments and aspects of life. Now humans can sit in a chair and type anything into a computer and get an answer. Our reliance on this type of technology can be detrimental if not regulated and regularly substituted for other information sources such as human interactions and hands on learning. I think if humans understand that we should not have such a reliance on computer technology, that we as a species will advance further by utilizing the opportunity of computer technology as well as the other sources of information outside of a computer. Supplementing our knowledge with internet access is surely a way for technology to solve problems while continually advancing the human race.

### **Reader Commentary for Essay Response — Score 3**

This essay never moves beyond a superficial discussion of the issue. The writer attempts to develop two points: that advancements in technology have progressed our knowledge in many fields and that supplementing rather than relying on technology is "surely a way for technology to solve problems while continually advancing the human race." Each point, then, is developed with relevant but insufficient evidence. In discussing the potential of technology to advance knowledge in many fields (a broad subject, rife with possible examples), the writer uses only one limited and very brief example from a specific field (medicine and stem-cell research).

Development of the second point is hindered by a lack of specificity and organization. The writer creates what might be best described as an outline. The writer cites a need for regulation/supplementation and warns of the detriment of over-reliance upon technology.

However, the explanation of both the problem and solution is vague and limited ("Our reliance ... can be detrimental. If humans understand that we should not have such a reliance ... we will advance further"). There is neither explanation of consequences nor clarification of what is meant by "supplementing." This second paragraph is a series of generalizations that are loosely connected and lack a much-needed grounding.

In the essay, there are some minor language errors and a few more serious flaws (e.g., "The future ability of growing new brain cells" or "One aspect where the ability of humans may initially be seen as an example of deteriorating minds"). Despite the accumulation of such flaws, the writer's meaning is generally clear. Thus, this essay earns a score of 3.

### **Essay Response — Score 2**

In recent centuries, humans have developed the technology very rapidly, and you may accept some merit of it, and you may see a distortion in society occurred by it. To be lazy for human in some meaning is one of the fashion issues in thesedays. There are many symptoms and reasons of it. However, I can not agree with the statement that the technology make humans to be reluctant to thinkng thoroughly.

Of course, you can see the phenomena of human laziness along with developed technology in some place. However, they would happen in specific condition, not general. What makes human to be laze of thinking is not merely technology, but the the tendency of human that they treat them as a magic stick and a black box. Not understanding the aims and theory of them causes the disapproval problems.

The most important thing to use the thechnology, regardless the new or old, is to comprehend the fundamental idea of them, and to adapt suit tech to tasks in need. Even if you recognize a method as a all-mighty and it is extremely over-spec to your needs, you can not see the result you want. In this procedure, humans have to consider as long as possible to acquire adequate functions. Therefore, humans can not escape from using their brain.

In addition, the technology as it is do not vain automatically, the is created by humans. Thus, the more developed tech and the more you want a convenient life, the more you think and emmit your creativity to breakthrough some banal method sarcastically.

Consequently, if you are not passive to the new tech, but offensive to it, you would not lose your ability to think deeply. Furthermore, you may improve the ability by adopting it.

### **Reader Commentary for Essay Response — Score 2**

The language of this essay is what most clearly links it to the score of 2. Amidst sporadic moments of clarity, this essay is marred by serious errors in grammar, usage and mechanics that often interfere with meaning. It is unclear what the writer means when

he/she states, "To be lazy for human in some meaning is one of the fashion issues in thesedays," or "to adapt suit tech to tasks in need."

Despite such severe flaws, the writer has made an obvious attempt to respond to the prompt ("I can not agree with the statement that the technology make humans to be reluctant to thinking thoroughly") as well as an unclear attempt to support such an assertion ("Not understanding the aims and theory of them [technology] causes the disapproval problems" and "The most important thing to use the thechnology ... is to comprehend the fundamental idea of them"). On the whole, the essay displays a seriously flawed but not fundamentally deficient attempt to develop and support its claims.

(**Note:** In this specific case, the analysis is tied directly to the language. As the language falters, so too does the analysis.)

### **Essay Response — Score 1**

Humans have invented machines but they have forgot it and have started everything technically so clearly their thinking process is deteriorating.

### **Reader Commentary for Essay Response — Score 1**

The essay is clearly on topic, as evidenced by the writer's usage of the more significant terms from the prompt: "technically" (technologically), "humans," "thinking" (think) and "deteriorating" (deteriorate). Such usage is the only clear evidence of understanding. Meaning aside, the brevity of the essay (one sentence) clearly indicates the writer's inability to develop a response that follows the specific instructions given ("Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement above and explain your reasoning for the position you take").

The language, too, is clearly level 1, as the sentence fails to achieve coherence. The coherent phrases in this one-sentence response are those tied to the prompt: "Humans have invented machines" and "their thinking process is deteriorating." Otherwise, the point being made is unintelligible.

### **Score 6 Outstanding**

In addressing the specific task directions, a 6 response presents a cogent, well-articulated analysis of the issue and conveys meaning skillfully.

A typical response in this category:

- articulates a clear and insightful position on the issue in accordance with the assigned task
- develops the position fully with compelling reasons and/or persuasive examples
- sustains a well-focused, well-organized analysis, connecting ideas logically
- conveys ideas fluently and precisely, using effective vocabulary and sentence variety
- demonstrates superior facility with the conventions of standard written English (i.e., grammar, usage and mechanics), but may have minor errors

### **Score 5 Strong**

In addressing the specific task directions, a 5 response presents a generally thoughtful, well-developed analysis of the issue and conveys meaning clearly.

A typical response in this category:

- presents a clear and well-considered position on the issue in accordance with the assigned task
- develops the position with logically sound reasons and/or well-chosen examples
- is focused and generally well organized, connecting ideas appropriately
- conveys ideas clearly and well, using appropriate vocabulary and sentence variety
- demonstrates facility with the conventions of standard written English, but may have minor errors

### **Score 4 Adequate**

In addressing the specific task directions, a 4 response presents a competent analysis of the issue and conveys meaning with acceptable clarity.

A typical response in this category:

- presents a clear position on the issue in accordance with the assigned task
- develops the position with relevant reasons and/or examples
- is adequately focused and organized
- demonstrates sufficient control of language to express ideas with acceptable clarity
- generally demonstrates control of the conventions of standard written English, but may have some errors

### **Score 3 Limited**

A 3 response demonstrates some competence in addressing the specific task directions, in analyzing the issue and in conveying meaning, but is obviously flawed.

A typical response in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:

- is vague or limited in addressing the specific task directions and in presenting or developing a position on the issue or both
- is weak in the use of relevant reasons or examples or relies largely on unsupported claims
- is limited in focus and/or organization
- has problems in language and sentence structure that result in a lack of clarity
- contains occasional major errors or frequent minor errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that can interfere with meaning

### **Score 2 Seriously Flawed**

A 2 response largely disregards the specific task directions and/or demonstrates serious weaknesses in analytical writing.

A typical response in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:

- is unclear or seriously limited in addressing the specific task directions and in presenting or developing a position on the issue or both
- provides few, if any, relevant reasons or examples in support of its claims
- is poorly focused and/or poorly organized
- has serious problems in language and sentence structure that frequently interfere with meaning
- contains serious errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that frequently obscure meaning

### **Score 1 Fundamentally Deficient**

A 1 response demonstrates fundamental deficiencies in analytical writing.

A typical response in this category exhibits ONE OR MORE of the following characteristics:

- provides little or no evidence of understanding the issue
- provides little or no evidence of the ability to develop an organized response (e.g., is disorganized and/or extremely brief)
- has severe problems in language and sentence structure that persistently interfere with meaning
- contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage or mechanics that result in incoherence

### **Score 0**

Off topic (i.e., provides no evidence of an attempt to address the assigned topic), is in a foreign language, merely copies the topic, consists of only keystroke characters or is illegible or nonverbal.

**Score NS** The essay response is blank

219 楼: issue 1 rely on tech and ability to think 示范  
116 楼: issue 2 study major cities 根据主旨句写主题句练习  
187 楼: issue 3 schools dissuade students 示范  
220 楼: issue 4 scandals are useful or not 示范  
100 楼: issue 5 funding for big city culture 示范  
141 楼: issue 6 same national curriculum 示范  
253 楼: issue 7 的思路及示范 政府资助艺术会否威胁艺术的 integrity  
270 楼: issue 8 leaders should step down in 5 years 示范  
275 楼: issue 9 make contribution under the influence of past achievement 示范  
202 楼: issue 10/ 125/148 示范 nations should preserve wilderness areas  
287 楼: issue 11/99 示范 behaviours largely determined by external forces  
331 楼: issue 12 示范 Free university education for students who cannot afford  
341 楼: issue 13 46/70/102/112/140 选修其他课程  
141 楼: issue 14 与 issue 6 类似  
342 楼: issue 15 /135 encourage students to take courses for lucrative career  
344 楼: issue 16 50/86/114/115/139 天然高频啊 政府官员或领袖应否受民意左右  
276 楼: issue 17/68 思路、提纲 formal education restrain minds and spirits  
343 楼: issue 18 人们挑战权威对社会的利弊 示范  
345 楼: issue 19 政府应专注长远问题还是眼前问题 示范  
334 楼: issue 20/32/39/98/129/136 是否应根据就业市场来选专业 天然高频 这类题我最  
拿手了  
332 楼: issue 21 法律应该考虑不同的情况 有点冷门  
193 楼: issue 22/122 study heroes to understand society 示范  
346 楼: issue 23 政府应少限制科研  
323 楼: issue 24 29/52 示范 最好的教学方式是鼓励好的行为忽略不好的行为  
331 楼: issue 25 和 issue 12 类似  
324 楼: issue 26 示范 奢侈与方便会让人软弱而依赖  
347 楼: issue 27 新手比专家更有可能贡献 很有趣的问题  
229 楼: issue 28/ 113/120/121/127/145 greatness of nations measured by achievement or  
welfare 示范  
323 楼: issue 29 同 issue 24  
273 楼: issue 30 83 teachers salaries based on academic performance 示范  
333 楼: issue 31 63/67 示范 政府应否拯救濒临灭绝物种 题目略有不同 需要写其他题  
目的提纲  
334 楼: issue 32 同 20/32/98/129/136  
44 楼: issue 33 同 issue 109  
335 楼: issue 34 49/76/79/118/146 不同意见人士沟通之必要 天然高频  
187 楼: issue 35 同 issue 3  
336 楼: issue 36 72 政府应否资助后果不清晰的科研项目  
337 楼: issue 37 应否特别训练资优儿童  
102 楼: issue 38 示范 define ourselves through social groups  
334 楼: issue 39 同 issue 20  
338 楼: issue 40 47/90 设计课程要考虑学生兴趣



158 楼: issue 41 示范 greatness of individuals decided by contemporaries or people after them

339 楼: issue 42 示范 学生应否怀疑授课内容 提纲

125 楼: issue 43 思路 rapid pace of life causes more problems than it solves

140 楼: issue 44/75/84 regard living men as heroes 示范

340 楼: issue 45/138 competition limits quality of learning

341 楼: issue 46 同 issue 13

338 楼: issue 47 同 issue 40

348 楼: issue 48/92 教学或评估时应先解释概念与趋势

335 楼: issue 49 同 issue 34/118

344 楼: issue 50 同 16/86/114/115/139

349 楼: issue 51/71 年轻人应该厚积薄发还是只争朝夕

323 楼: issue 52 24/29 示范 最好的教学方式是鼓励好的行为忽略不好的行为

350 楼: issue 53 /144 未达目的不择手段

228 楼: issue 54 the course requirement for reading imaginative literature 示范

351 楼: issue 55 艺术作品要雅俗共赏 提纲

352 楼: issue 56 发现和创作皆意外 提纲

182 楼: issue 57 study history to dispel illusion 示范

353 楼: issue 58 学习靠学生自己 老师很难推动 提纲

400 楼: issue 59 科研的重点应在于让多数人受惠 已写提纲

355 楼: issue 60/151 政客应妥协务实 示范

356 楼: issue 61 三思而后行 提纲

62 楼: issue 62 leaders are created by demands 示范

333 楼: issue 63 31/67 示范 政府应否拯救濒临灭绝物种 题目略有不同 需要写提纲

174 楼: issue 64 示范 human minds always superior to machines

57 楼: issue 65 just and unjust laws 示范

357 楼: issue 66 越支持观点就越批判

333 楼: issue 67 31/63 示范 政府应否拯救濒临灭绝物种 题目略有不同 需要写提纲

276 楼: issue 68 思路、提纲 formal education restrain minds and spirits

358 楼: issue 69 官员应否对公众隐瞒

341 楼: issue 70/102/112/140 选修其他课程

349 楼: issue 71/51 年轻人应该厚积薄发还是只争朝夕

336 楼: issue 72 36 政府应否资助后果不清晰的科研项目

359 楼: issue 73 大学老师应走出校园工作

42 楼: issue 74 的巧妙思路 (133/134)

140 楼: issue 75 44/75/84 regard living men as heroes 示范

335 楼: issue 76 34/49/76/79/146 不同意见人士沟通之必要 天然高频

361 楼: issue 77 analyse the trend of youth to understand culture

169 楼: issue 78 attitudes determined by situation or society 示范

335 楼: issue 79 34 49/76/79/146 不同意见人士沟通之必要 天然高频

177 楼: issue 80/88 gov funding for arts when there is hunger/unemployment

362 楼: issue 81/ 95 parents required to volunteer

363 楼: issue 82/97/100/124 students should spend one semester abroad

273 楼: issue 83/30 teachers salaries based on academic performance 示范

140 楼: issue 84/75/44 regard living men as heroes 示范  
364 楼: issue 85 overall success of society and individual well-being  
344 楼: issue 86 同 16/86/114/115/139  
365 楼: issue 87 facts can be trusted or not  
177 楼: issue 88/80 gov funding for arts when there is hunger/unemployment  
366 楼: issue 89 考场回忆及习作  
338 楼: issue 90 47/40 设计课程要考虑学生兴趣  
322 楼: Issue 91 科技进步是为了提高效率以致有更多休闲时间 (示范)  
348 楼: issue 92/48 教学或评估时应先解释概念与趋势  
367 楼: issue 93 image more important than reality  
368 楼: issue 94/ 147 effectiveness of leaders measured by well being  
362 楼: issue 95 / 81 parents required to volunteer  
141 楼: issue 96/6/14/116 same national curriculum 示范  
363 楼: issue 97/82/100/124 students should spend one semester abroad  
334 楼: issue 98/20/32/39/129/136 是否应根据就业市场来选专业 天然高频 这类题我最  
拿手了  
287 楼: issue 99/11 示范 behaviours largely determined by external forces  
363 楼: issue 100/97/82/124 students should spend one semester abroad  
369 楼: issue 101 数码技术会否使学生分神  
341 楼: issue 102 13/112/140 选修其他课程  
370 楼: issue 103 最好的想法来自对普通事情的热诚  
371 楼: issue 104 有效的领导需要保持高尚的道德  
372 楼: issue 105/106/126 想象力比知识更重要  
372 楼: issue 106/105/126 想象力比知识更重要  
371 楼: issue 107/104 有效的领导需要保持高尚的道德  
373 楼: issue 108/110 批判性判断必须来自本领域专家才有价值  
44 楼: Issue 109 示范  
373 楼: issue 110/108 批判性判断必须来自本领域专家才有价值  
270 楼: Issue 111 leaders should step down in 5 years 示范  
341 楼: issue 112 同 13 46/70/102/140 选修其他课程  
229 楼: issue 113/28/120/121/127/145 greatness of nations measured by achievement or  
welfare 示范  
344 楼: issue 114 同 16/86/114/115/139  
344 楼: issue 115 同 16/86/114/115/139  
141 楼: issue 116/6/14/96 same national curriculum 示范  
100 楼: issue 117/5 funding for big city culture 示范 是 issue 5 的一部分  
335 楼: issue 118 49/76/79/146 不同意见人士沟通之必要 天然高频  
374 楼: issue 119 历史建筑保育与城市发展的关系  
229 楼: issue 120/121/127/145/28/113/ greatness of nations measured by achievement or  
welfare 示范  
229 楼: issue 121/120/127/145/28/113/ greatness of nations measured by achievement or  
welfare 示范  
193 楼: issue 122/22 study heroes to understand society 示范  
375 楼: issue 123/128 培养青年领袖应注重合作而不是竞争

363 楼: issue 124/82/97/100 students should spend one semester abroad  
202 楼: issue 125/10/148 示范 nations should preserve wilderness areas  
372 楼: issue 126/105/105 想象力比知识更重要  
229 楼: issue 127/121/120/145/28/113/ greatness of nations measured by achievement or welfare 示范  
375 楼: issue 128/123 培养青年领袖应注重合作而不是竞争  
334 楼: issue 129/20/32/39/98/136 是否应根据就业市场来选专业 天然高频 这类题我最拿手了  
376 楼: issue 130/150 企业的社会责任与法律责任  
377 楼: issue 131 科研不宜急功近利  
378 楼: issue 132 科技减少还是促进人际互动  
42 楼: issue 133 74/134 过去对将来做决定的参考价值  
42 楼: issue 134 74/133 过去对将来做决定的参考价值  
342 楼: issue 135 /15 encourage students to take courses for lucrative career  
334 楼: issue 136/20/32/39/98/129 是否应根据就业市场来选专业 天然高频 这类题我最拿手了  
187 楼: issue 137 /3/35 schools dissuade students 示范  
340 楼: issue 138/45 competition limits quality of learning  
344 楼: issue 139 同 16/86/114/115/139  
341 楼: issue 140 13/46/70/102/112 选修其他课程  
124 楼: Issue 141 思路 compromising beliefs is more harmful  
341 楼: issue 142 命题和后面几道相反 13 46/70/102/112/140 选修其他课程  
379 楼: issue 143 任何领域的发展都要考虑前人的工作  
380 楼: issue 144 成功取决于自己设定的目标  
229 楼: issue 145/121/127/28/113/120/121/127/ greatness of nations measured by achievement or welfare 示范  
335 楼: issue 146 79 34 49/76/79/146 不同意见人士沟通之必要 天然高频  
368 楼: issue 147/94 effectiveness of leaders measured by well being  
202 楼: issue 148/10/125/ 示范 nations should preserve wilderness areas  
270 楼: Issue 149 leaders should step down in 5 years 示范  
376 楼: issue 130/150 企业的社会责任与法律责任  
355 楼: issue 60/151 政客应妥协务实 示范  
549 楼: issue 152 解决城市垃圾问题 提纲

注:

题目第一行用蓝色荧光标注表示, 此题第一次出现有大纲或范文, 绿色荧光标注的是与前面题目有重复

## Issue topics

This page contains the Issue topics for the Analytical Writing section of the *GRE*® revised General Test. When you take the test, you will be presented with one Issue topic from this pool.

Each Issue topic consists of an issue statement or statements followed by specific task instructions that tell you how to respond to the issue. The wording of some topics in the test might vary slightly from what is presented here. Also, because there may be multiple versions of some topics with similar or identical wording but with different task instructions, it is very important to read your test topic and its specific task directions carefully and respond to the wording as it appears in the actual test.

---

1. As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

示范:

There is no doubt that modern people have become increasingly dependent on advanced technologies to solve many problems in different fields. Whether or not our abilities to think independently would deteriorate over time depends on the specific roles we play in the modern society. For people who develop the technologies to solve problems, their abilities to think will be sharpened continuously as they have to refine the technologies to meet new demands of the end users. For people who participate in the policy making regarding the use of technologies, their thinking capabilities will also improve as they are forced to ponder on the fundamental problems related to technology and society. Nevertheless, the statement may hold true for those people who do not actively seek opportunities for critical and creative thinking in this technology-driven society.

Consider the scientists and engineers who are responsible for developing the theoretical and practical aspects of the new technologies. It is true that they also rely on technologies to solve their problems in research and product developments. But they also rely on their own thinking abilities to solve problems in their works. For example, software engineers of mobile apps rely on the mobile programming platforms to develop the apps as the platform can help the engineers to visualize the user interface of the apps. The computers they use can also collect and analyze the user data for the software engineers to better understand how the users behave in response to different app design decisions. But ultimately, no computer softwares can replace the engineers in solving the key problems such as how to attract more users and how to improve the quality of user

experiences. If the engineers are to improve the mobile apps, they still have to think by themselves to decide how to improve the design by taking into account the data provided by different tools. Likewise, the computer scientists are challenged to optimize the algorithms used in different programs to reduce the time required to run the programs. Sophisticated computer programs such as Matlab can help the scientists to simulate different algorithms and get data on their computational performance. But the computer scientists have to think by themselves to tweet the mathematical models and develop more efficient algorithms.

The development of new technologies also challenges those people responsible for formulating policies and rules regulating the use of technologies. The popularity of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter presents a wide variety of social problems such as cyberbullying, hacking and privacy violation that call for the introduction of new rules and policies. Government officials, legislators and experts in relevant fields have to work together to address these issues through developing more sophisticated policies and laws. For example, Facebook has now gathered a staggeringly large amount of data about its users in digital forms and used the data to to make profits in many different ways. To address issues like these, the policy makers will of course rely on the state-of-the-art technologies for communications such as email, video conferencing and even Facebook to collect feedback from the users and data from different sources. They may also rely on statistical software packages such as SPSS to analyze the data. But the technologies can never make the decisions for them. They still have to think about these issues from different perspectives and come up with their own decisions. As a result, for these policy makers, this statement does not hold true, either.

The concern that reliance on technology to solving problems may lead to the deterioration of thinking abilities is more valid for the people who do not have the opportunities to think creatively and critically as a result of technological development. For example, as TVs become prevalent, people rely on this technology for news, entertainment or even baby-sitting. As TV offers a multimedia stream of news, there is no need to read newspaper critically and make one's own decisions. As TV episodes brings people amusement 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, people do not have to think about what to do to live a meaningful and fulfilling life. As TV can keep the children busy and occupied for hours, parents do not need to think about how to develop interesting and creative activities for their children. For the people who rely on TV or similar technologies to solve the problems in their daily life, they may gradually lose the abilities to develop more creative solutions through their own thinking.

Computer scientists and programmers like to say, "There are two kinds of people: those who know binary numbers and those who don't." Likewise, in the age of technology, there are also two kinds of people: those who think about issues related to technologies and

those who let technologies to think for them. For the former, the development of technologies will stimulate them to think more and their abilities to think will grow over time. As for the latter group, their abilities to think for themselves are likely to decline as the technologies have deprived them of the opportunities to think.

---

## 2. To understand the most important characteristics of a society, one must study its major cities.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

根据主旨句写主题句练习

The most important characteristics of a society include its political system, economic structure and the public school system. To understand each of the aspects of the society, it is important to study its major cities as well as smaller towns and the rural areas because the political, economic and educational institutions differ greatly among major cities, small towns and rural areas.

The political system of a society is often shaped by the economic and cultural dynamics of the local communities as well as the nation as a whole. To the extent that the politics is influenced by the national institutions such as the Constitution, it is sufficient to study how people in the major cities are involved in political activities. To understand the presidential election of the US, for example, one can follow the presidential candidates as they tour the major cities during their campaigns and investigate how the city residents make their decisions regarding the different candidates and how they think about the major issues covered in the debate among the candidates. Nevertheless, an important dimension of the modern society is the diversity of political activities one can observe in the local communities. Voters in a small village in a Southern United State may think very differently about a particular issue compared to voters in New York. Therefore, to fully understand the politics of the society, one has to study the rural areas and small towns as well.

In addition to political system, economic development is another aspect one should not overlook in order to understand the society. Usually the major cities provide the physical space for economic activities that are important for the society. For example, international stock markets are located in major cities such as New York, London and Hong Kong. To understand the economics of a society, one needs to study how the financial industries operate in such major cities. On the other hand, small villages and counties also play vital roles in the national economy with their contribution to different economic sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Therefore, studying the major cities alone is not sufficient to fully understand the economy of the entire society.

Finally, to fully understand the most important characteristics of a society, one should also study how the public school systems work. In many societies, the public school systems differ greatly among rural areas, suburbs and big cities as the public schools often respond to the different needs of the local communities. In the rural areas, given the schoolchildren's extensive experiences with the agriculture, the public schools will include more courses related to agriculture in the curriculum. In the suburbs, with most schoolchildren from the middle class, the public schools may teach more courses that are ideologically oriented towards the middle classes. In the major cities, with schoolchildren more likely coming from lower socioeconomic classes, the public school teachers may emphasize a different set of values and skills in their classrooms. Therefore, to fully understand how the public school works in the society, one has to study the major cities as well as rural and suburban areas.

In conclusion, to understand the political, economic and educational development of a society, it is important to study the major cities as well as the countryside and the suburban areas where people from different socioeconomic classes are engaged in different political, economic and educational activities.

另一篇范文:

To understand the modern society and investigate its most prominent features, we should definitely focus our attention on its major cities because the major cities usually develop models and patterns that would be copied or imitated by other cities, counties and rural areas through institutions such as patent, chain stores and organisational learning. I would illustrate my position through three major aspects of a society: the use of technologies, the retail industry and higher education.

There is no doubt that, to understand a society, we need to look into how technologies are used among the people. To do that, we only need to do research in major cities. For example, if we want to investigate how people use electronic devices to make payments, we should observe people in the major cities and interview them about their preferences and perceptions of the technology. Since the e-payment system usually involves patented technologies that can be transferred to other areas, the patterns of customer behaviors observed in major cities will be found in smaller cities, counties and even rural areas sooner or later. In the area of technology usage, people living in major cities can serve as suitable subjects for case studies.

Another important characteristic of modern society is the development of retail industry, i.e. how consumer products are marketed and sold. Again, we only need to study the major cities to understand how retail industry works. One of the major institutions in retail industry is chain store through which major brand name corporations sell their products in similar ways around the world. To know how Louis Vuitton promotes its products, there is no need to travel to different places all over the world. Just visiting the main shops in a few major cities, we will have a basic idea of the marketing strategies of the company. To save costs in operation, companies like LV would reuse their ideas for promoting products in other areas.

Finally, we can also understand the higher education in a given society through studying the major universities usually located in the major cities. Since universities are usually following a set of standards and guidelines in designing their curriculums and delivering their courses, the practices of major universities in major cities can be studied as representative cases to generate research insights that are usually applicable to similar universities in other areas. Through student exchange programs and visiting professorship, universities also learn from one another at institutional level and become more alike in how they operate. As a result, it is sufficient to study universities in major cities to understand the main features of higher education.

In conclusion, I strongly agree that major cities can serve as representative cases for studying the important characteristics of our society because in other cities and areas people often learn the best practices that have been developed in major cities.

---

### 3. Educational institutions have a responsibility to dissuade students from pursuing fields of study in which they are unlikely to succeed.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

范文:

I strongly agree that students should be discouraged from concentrating on a particular major if they do not have the academic preparation or talents to perform well in that area. Following the advice from the schools, students will focus on areas of studies that are more suitable for them and enjoy their school life better. Intervention of schools can also help address the problem of unemployment at societal level. With regard to the concern over the accuracy of prediction schools could make about students' success, the academic staff could make assessment based on students' past academic records and their results of different psychometric tests.

With the help and advice from the schools, students can choose majors for which they are better prepared to perform well academically and enjoy the college life. For example, a student may want to pursue a major in computer science and get a job in IT industry. But he did not know that computer science involves a significant amount of advanced mathematics, which he did not have learned in high school. If the school managed to dissuade him from doing a degree in computer science, the student may switch to a different major, e.g. political science or psychology, which he is more likely to do well. With better academic performance, the student would find college life more awarding and could also afford more time to get involved in extracurricular activities (ECA). The better GPA and richer experiences in ECA can then boost his chance to land a decent job upon graduation.



In addition, intervention of the schools can also help alleviate the problem of unemployment of college graduates at the societal level. In many countries such as India and China, college graduates may find it difficult to get a job after graduation due to their poor academic performance and the lack of practical skills that employers expect. If students take into consideration the advice from the schools to pursue a major that matches their talent and interest, they will become more successful in achieving good academic performance and develop skills that are useful in their future careers. Consider the student interested in studying computer science again. By doing a psychology major that suited his academic background better, he would be able to learn more from the program and become better prepared for his jobs in this area. At societal level, if more students graduate from universities with stronger academic records and more skills, the employers would more likely find suitable candidates for their job positions.

Some people may argue that schools could not possibly predict accurately if a student would succeed in a particular field or not. Without the ability to make reliable prediction, any attempts of persuasion would be considered unethical and may lead to waste of talents. While this is a valid concern, it is important to remember that there are different ways for schools to assess the potential of students in a given field. For one thing, the schools can always review the students' past academic records and consider their performance in related academic subjects, e.g. the performance in math of students interested in computer science. In addition, a wide range of psychometric instruments have been developed and can be used to assess if students are suitable for pursuing different majors. With the help of such tools, the schools can make prediction about students' future performance with better confidence.

In conclusion, as the providers of educational services that receive money from parents and taxpayers, the schools have the responsibility to ensure students to benefit from the schooling maximally and produce graduates that can contribute to the economy as confident and skillful employees. Therefore, the schools should dissuade students from pursuing a major for which they are not well prepared and unlikely to succeed.

---

4. Scandals are useful because they focus our attention on problems in ways that no speaker or reformer ever could.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

范文:

With the development of modern mass media, scandals are almost ubiquitous. Hardly can a day go by without some news reporting scandals involving high-profile politicians, athletes or movie stars. While it is true that scandals often attract public attention and may expose certain problems, I do not believe that they are useful in solving social problems as they often focus public attention on the wrong issues and can hardly maintain public attention for a sufficiently long time. After elaborating these two points, I will also address the argument that scandals can usefully create pressure for the government to introduce reforms.

To begin with, the attention from the public after a scandal does not necessarily focus on the right issue. Take the Clinton scandal and impeachment for example. With the release of Starr report, the Clinton scandal has attracted the national and even international media attention. But the majority of American people seem to find it more interesting to talk about whether or not President Clinton had sex with Monica Lewinsky. They would even get into the debate over whether oral sex would count as sex. But the real issue that should capture public attention is whether or not the President had lied and still deserved the trust of American people. With the media always interested in reporting sensational news, the Clinton scandal failed to focus public attention on the right issue and therefore was not very useful for the development of American politics.

In addition, when a scandal is involved in powerful corporation, a professional public relations team will very quickly take actions to address the crisis and divert the public attention from the right issues. The oil giant BP, for example, was responsible for the oil rig explosion in 2013 and subsequent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. During the scandal of this ecological disaster, BP hired a sophisticated PR team to launch a massive campaign to paint themselves as victims of tort law suits and shift media attention from the aftermath of the oil spill. The large corporation like BP has the large amount of financial resources at their disposal to manipulate the media and the public opinions when necessary. As the public is often forgetful while overwhelmed by the news and scandals, it is fairly easy for them to get away from such scandals. In other words, one cannot really rely on scandals to solve problems involving big corporations.

Some people may argue that scandals are still useful in creating pressure to push the government to reform. For example, after the scandal of Sun Zhigang, a Chinese university graduate who was tortured and killed in Guangzhou Center for the Homeless, Chinese government has abolished the institution of arresting the homeless in the large cities. While this case leads to some desirable outcome, it is doubtful that we should count on scandals like this to reform a nation's legal and social infrastructure. To fix the numerous problems in a modern society, the best solution is to educate the people about their rights so people can speak up against injustice when their rights are violated. We cannot just overlook the injustice in our daily life and wait for scandals to fix the problems in our society.

In conclusion, while I acknowledge that certain scandals may eventually lead to some progress in our society, most scandals are not very useful in reforming the society as the public often focus their attention on the wrong issues and the powerful corporations can easily divert public attention through their public relations campaigns. To achieve real progress in social development, we need better education to increase people's awareness of their rights and their sense of justice.

---

**5.Claim: Governments must ensure that their major cities receive the financial support they need in order to thrive.**

Reason: It is primarily in cities that a nation's cultural traditions are preserved and generated.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

范文:

Due to the development of modern technology, many people are concerned about how to preserve their nations' cultural traditions and promote their national identities for the new generations who have been exposed to globalised culture with little local flavour. Since government resources are limited, it is argued that major cities should be the top priority for financial support because the cultural traditions are generated and preserved here. While I agree that major cities are important for preserving and generating cultural tradition, other areas are equally important in many countries. Since cultural programs in major cities can receive support from different financial sources such as advertising, donation of city residents and big corporations, government money should be invested to programs in small towns and rural regions where resources from private sectors are not available.

There is no doubt that major cities are important sites for preserving, generating and celebrating cultural traditions. Take the well-known Statue of Liberty in New York City as an example. This giant copper statue was a gift of France to the US and has become a popular icon for freedom and democracy inspiring people all over the world. In late 19th

century and early 20th century, Statue of Liberty had welcomed nearly 14 million immigrants who entered the United States through New York. For these immigrants and their descendants, the Statue of Liberty was a symbol of hope and freedom. For the rest of the United States, the Statue of Liberty celebrates diversity and tolerance, the core values that define the cultural tradition of a young republic.

Despite the importance of major cities for cultural traditions, government funding should not be heavily invested here because there are other funding sources available. The national park service that manages the Statue of Liberty in New York, for example, receive financial support in the form of admission ticket fares from thousands of tourists who come to visit everyday from all over the world. Major corporations and private citizens also donated large amount of money to the private foundation built for the Statue of Liberty. In addition, the cultural heritage site also attracts thousands of volunteers every year to donate their time to the daily operation of national park services for the Statue of Liberty. Therefore, as this example adequately illustrates, cultural traditions in major cities are not the top priorities for government funding given all the alternative sources for funding and support.

On the other hand, other preservation programs for cultural traditions in small towns or rural areas should be supported by taxpayers' money. For example, the use of abacus in mathematical calculation, which has been listed as world intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO, is almost unheard of nowadays in major Chinese cities. With the advent of computers, calculation tasks are performed by sophisticated financial management software in the stores and offices in modern cities. Even schoolchildren are granted access to pocket calculators to do their math homework. To preserve the art of using abacus, one has to visit the small towns and villages in China where people without access to computers still use abacus for calculation. Since abacus has little value for advertising, it is unlikely that any program for promoting abacus would attract sponsorship from large corporations. Therefore, the government should step in and provide necessary support to build programs that preserve the use of abacus as a traditional way of mathematical calculation.

In conclusion, as the two examples aptly demonstrate, government funding should be used to support culture preservation programs in small towns and rural areas and the cultural traditions in major cities will thrive with the funding and support from non-governmental sectors.

6.A nation should require all of its students to study the same national curriculum until they enter college.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

提纲:

useful for college admission  
helpful for students from less developed regions  
but be careful about government intervention

范文:

To improve the quality of pre-college education, it is often proposed that all students should be required to study the same national curriculum. I agree that adopting the same curriculum for schools across the nation would be helpful for students and teachers from less developed regions to get more support and for universities around the nations to evaluate applicants more objectively. Nevertheless, we need to be careful of the danger of the national government to advance its own political agenda through this national curriculum.

Through adopting a standardised national curriculum, it would be more feasible for schools in less developed regions to get support and help for improving their education. Since students from the disadvantaged school districts will be studying the same curriculum as those from schools bestowed with more resources, it is possible for the schools in the less developed regions to re-use lesson plans and other teaching materials developed elsewhere. In addition, it is more convenient for teachers across nations including those volunteers from Teach for America program to serve as temporary teachers in those disadvantaged schools as the same materials can be used under the national curriculum.

In addition, the national curriculum would be useful for universities to assess the applications from all over the nation more objectively. Currently, the college admission system relies on standardised tests such as SAT and ACT to assess students' academic potential objectively. But such instruments are often criticised for creating extra workload and stress among the college bound students. With the same national curriculum, the university admission committees can use the GPAs of the applicants as a more accurate and comparable indicator to make admission decisions.

Despite the above two advantages of the proposed policy, we need to be cautious about the risk of the government imposing certain ideological agenda to the schools through requiring a national curriculum. Quality education should be provided for all students regardless of socioeconomic backgrounds to improve social mobility among the youths. But it should not be used as an institution for propagating the official ideology and values

that serve to legitimise the national government. Therefore, if we are to adopt a national curriculum, we should do everything we can to make sure the curriculum is free from political bias or influence from the national government.

In conclusion, I agree that all students should be required to study the same national curriculum which can help the students from less developed regions to receive better education and the universities around the nation to make admission decisions more effectively. Nevertheless, it is important to remain vigilant against any political intervention of the national government when designing and implementing the national curriculum.

**7. Some people believe that government funding of the arts is necessary to ensure that the arts can flourish and be available to all people. Others believe that government funding of the arts threatens the integrity of the arts.**

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

分析及范文：

这道题提出关于政府资助艺术的两个观点，一个认为政府的资助有必要且必要性体现在繁荣艺术及让所有人都能接触艺术，另一个观点是资助会威胁艺术的完整性，也就是说政府的资助可能会导致某些作品因为不符合主流意识形态而被封杀。这道题用分类讨论的策略来写可能不太合适，主要是因为艺术进行细化可能涉及到一些生僻的词汇，会增加难度。

这里可以考虑的一个思路：

首先同意第一个观点 指出政府资助的必要性 这里可以从两方面考虑 一种是非主流的艺术可能没有商业市场需要政府资助 另一方面有些人很穷 无法负担各种门票 需要政府资助提供免费的艺术

第二段讨论第二个观点 也就是政府资助可能会影响艺术的独立性 这里也可以举一些例子 比如 政府可能会选择性的资助那些歌功颂德的艺术作品

这里讨论的语气要不太肯定 多用 **might could** 之类的情态动词 为第三段做铺垫

第三段提出自己的立场 认为政府应该资助 但是资助的具体分配应该由一个独立的委员会来完成 这样可以避免上一段所担心的问题

这样写有点像所谓的正-反-合的模板，但是并没有出现前后观点不一致的情况。

Despite the industrialization of modern society, the arts and related activities are vital part of our daily life which provide important opportunities for entertainment, education and reflection. While I agree that government funding is necessary for arts to flourish and for ordinary people to enjoy arts, the concern that government funding may compromise the integrity of arts is a valid one. In my opinion, therefore, it is important for the government to sponsor arts indirectly through an independent committee as an antidote to potential threat of government funding to the integrity of arts.

As a threshold matter, government funding and sponsorship are essential to the development of arts. Unlike popular hollywood movies, which are often sponsored by big

corporations through embedded advertising, many artworks could not attract a large number of audience who are willing to pay a large amount of money. If the government does not support the artists and their creative works, the public would not have the opportunities to enjoy high quality artworks. In addition, arts and creative activities related to arts require infrastructure such as art museum and art schools that can offer space and training programs to exhibit the works and cultivate artistic talents. Without the support from large corporations, the government has to allocate funding to build art museums and run art schools so that the public can access the museum and send more children to art schools at an affordable rate. With more members of the public interested and trained in arts, artistic works and activities can then flourish.

On the other hand, it is understandable to worry that the government's funding may threaten the integrity of arts and artists. It is well known these days that arts are socially constructed artifacts that do not exist in political vacuum. Any artworks can and must carry political meanings and messages, which may challenge the authority of the ruling elite. Meanwhile, the government always has the incentives to sponsor arts that may help advance its own political agenda. For example, in Mao's China, almost all the songs and movies were produced with a theme of revolutionary propaganda under the sponsorship of the Communist Party. For Chinese artists at the time, there was virtually no freedom or integrity for arts, which has become a tool for legitimizing the Communist regime. The last thing we want in China or any other countries is a government sponsorship program for arts that would silence the creative and political voices of artists.

Given the tension between the need of government support on the one hand and the threat of government funding to the integrity of arts on the other, I would argue that the best solution is to create an independent commission that distributes government funding in a politically neutral way. The commission should be run by a group of artists elected by their peers and receive government money regularly. But the government would have no power or influence over how the money will be spent to sponsor different arts projects. Sponsorships will be awarded to projects based on their merits, not their political or ideological stances. In fact, Hong Kong Arts Development Council, an organization created by the government to sponsor art projects in Hong Kong, has been operated under this model. As a result, artists in Hong Kong have enjoyed financial support from the government without any threat from the government on their integrity.

In conclusion, given the profound impact that arts may have on the society, it is, on the one hand, necessary for the government to support artistic works financially; on the other hand, it is tempting for the government to influence the artists and their activities politically through such sponsorship. To address this paradox, I have proposed a solution that has worked well in certain regions such as Hong Kong.

---

8.Claim: In any field—business, politics, education, government—those in power should step down after five years.

Reason: The surest path to success for any enterprise is revitalization through new leadership.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

范文：

这道题的题干已经将 profession 分作几个不同的类型，完全符合我所说的分情况讨论。但是要注意写作指引中要 address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position 如果分情况讨论的话 如何回应这个要求是需要提前想清楚的

Leadership is vital for the success of any enterprises, whether it is in the field of business, education or public administration. It is argued that, in order to prevent power abuse and revitalize the organizations, those in the leadership positions should quit their jobs after a certain number of years. I think this proposal will not benefit businesses and educational institutions as leaders in these fields need many years to build their reputation and earn trust from the stakeholders. Nevertheless, it is important for government officials to serve for a limited number of years only.

Consider the leadership in business world first. With the separation of ownership and management in modern corporations, it is important for the stockholders to trust the managers of the businesses. But to earn the trust of the stockholders often takes a relatively long period of time. The managers will need to demonstrate their competence as leaders through years of services and accumulate more experience while working with the staff to develop the best strategic plans for the long-term development of a company. Once the manager reaches the top management, s/he will become a valuable asset that the company cannot afford to lose. If s/he has to leave the position in five years, the company will have to start over the process of cultivating a leader all over again. Therefore, to save money for the investors of the company, this rule should not apply.

With the increasing corporatization of higher education, the same logic also applied to the leadership of universities. As a president of a university, one has to spend years developing intimate knowledge about the industry of higher education and building his/her network with the key people in the circle. S/he will need to promote the university



aggressively at a global scale and raise money for different projects and programs that can help the university to stay competitive. This is a very challenging job and if a university is lucky enough to find someone who can do the job well, it makes little sense to let him/her go in 5 years. This is why the leaders of universities often hold their positions for years.

Nevertheless, the proposed rule should apply to government officials who do need to leave their jobs after certain years. One may argue that just like corporate CEOs and university presidents, it also takes years for a government official to learn to do his/her job well and build his/her reputation. This is true to some extent. But it is important to bear in mind that “government, even in its best form, is a necessary evil” as it takes away certain amount of freedom from the citizens in order to preserve peace and order. As a result, the power of the government officials have to be limited through the institutional arrangement that any officials, no matter how competent or reputable they are, have to step down after a certain number of years. The risk of having a dictator justifies the cost of reducing the tenure of a capable leader.

In conclusion, I believe that the proposed rule should not be applied to the fields of business and higher education. But for the government leaders, they should definitely leave their positions after a certain number of years.

这篇文章值得注意的是全篇都没有具体的事例，可以说全部用的 hypothetical example，对于在考场上想不出具体事例的同学，这种思想实验的写法也是值得学习的。

---

**9. In any field of endeavor, it is impossible to make a significant contribution without first being strongly influenced by past achievements within that field.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.:

范文:

这道题还是分领域来写，主要写我最熟悉的学术研究和论文写作，其中细分为博士导师指导和文献综述两部分来阐述过往贡献的影响。最后谈到了法律的领域，分普通法和大陆法系分别讨论过往成就的重要性。全篇没有具体例子，但有一些概念作为干货来支撑论证。

I agree that in most fields significant contribution is often made by people under the influence of the achievements in the past. I'll first discuss this issue by considering two important aspects in academic researches: PhD supervision and literature review. I'll then

explain why this statement also holds true in the field of laws. It is argued that the principles illustrated through these cases can also be applied to other fields as well.

In academic researches, it has become a common practice for scholars to receive systematic training through a PhD program during which the scholars will work closely under the supervision of a more senior member of the research community. The PhD supervisors are often leading scholars in the fields having published extensively and developed a body of scholarship that is important in the field. The PhD students can then choose a field of study that is somewhat related to the supervisors' expertise and receive their advice and guidance during the research processes. As a result, the students will no doubt be influenced by the particular methodological approaches adopted by the supervisors and the research interests that the supervisors had developed over the years. Sometimes, the PhD students will also co-author journal articles and book chapters with the supervisors and their writing styles will also be somewhat influenced by the supervisors who are usually also accomplished academic writers.

In addition to the influence of PhD supervisors, junior scholars will also receive significant influence from scholars who had published in a particular field. In almost all the academic disciplines, authors often begin their research articles with a section known as literature review. In the literature review section, the authors will discuss the studies that have been done and identify a literature gap they intend to fill. Usually the authors will also explain how the previous studies inspired them to conduct the present study. In the method and result sections, the authors also need to refer to the earlier studies as they may re-use similar methods and confirmed or challenged previous findings. Therefore, the practices of literature review also suggest that scholars almost always contributed to their fields under the influence of previous research works.

In the practice of laws, lawyers and judges also rely on the past achievements of their colleagues. In the common law tradition, judges frequently referred to the earlier rulings made by their colleagues in the past to inform and justify their own decisions. Lawyers also cite the previous cases similar to the present ones to make arguments and counterarguments. In the civil law jurisdictions, the codified laws and rules are the past achievements of the legislators, lawyers, judges and legal scholars which the legal practitioners need to rely on for their daily practices. When designing new laws and rules, the legislators and legal scholars will also need to review the legal principles and doctrines that have been established in the past as well as the research studies on the issues by experts in the fields of law, economics and political science. Therefore, it is clear that contributions to the law in the broadest sense always rely on the past achievements in the field.

As the discussion of academic research and legal practices clearly shows, to make contribution to most fields, one has to work with more senior and experienced members of

the community as shown in the case of PhD supervision, review the previous studies and publication in the field similar to literature review, and rely on the cases and institutions that have been established in the past. Therefore, overall speaking, I agree with the statement.

---

**10. Nations should pass laws to preserve any remaining wilderness areas in their natural state, even if these areas could be developed for economic gain.**

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

提纲:

for nations where people are fighting against poverty, this policy should not be adopted

for nations where people need more land for basic needs such as housing, this policy is not sensible

for nations which are well-developed, a conservation program rather than preservation program should be introduced

范文:

Human activities since Industrial Revolution have brought enormous impact to the natural environment of the earth. The size of wilderness areas worldwide has declined dramatically over the last few centuries. It is understandable that many environmentalists call for legislation to preserve the remaining wilderness areas. I believe that such policies are not suitable for nations where people are still fighting against poverty or struggle to meet the basic demands of their citizens such as housing. On the other hand, for more developed nations, a policy focusing on conservation and sustainable development is more desirable than the proposed preservation legislation.

The preservation program would be neither sensible nor feasible in least developed countries where people suffer from poverty and other related social problems. Consider the opportunity costs of implementing such a policy. The land of the wilderness area could be used to build manufacturing factories that can provide jobs for the local people who lack the opportunities to create value via economic activities. Development economists agree that unemployment is the root problem that causes poverty, lack of education, malnutrition and high fertility rates among women. Any policy that would exacerbate unemployment should not be implemented. In fact, it would be politically impossible for the governments to develop such preservation programs that would deprive the people of

valuable job opportunities. The democratically elected government officials have to consider the consequences of introducing a massively unpopular policy.

The preservation policy is not helpful for nations or regions where the supply of land is particularly limited. Take Hong Kong as an example. Due to the grave shortage of land for housing, the people in Hong Kong have to deal with outrageously high property prices and uncomfortably small living space. The preservation policy for wilderness areas in Hong Kong would take away the land that could have been used for housing and related infrastructure construction projects. Again such a policy would not receive public support and the government officials and the legislators have to consider the public opinions when making decisions on this issue.

Even for nations that do not have problems of poverty or housing shortage, the governments should probably consider a conservation program rather than the proposed preservation program. The difference between preservation and conservation is that the former provides absolutely no opportunities for any human activities in the wilderness areas whereas the latter policy allows development in a sustainable manner. For example, under a conservation program, the wilderness areas could be developed for low-pollution industry such as tourism. Low-density hotels may be built in the areas to attract visitors all over the world. Efforts would be made to minimise the impact on the environment without compromising the opportunities of future generations to benefit from the resources in this area. I think conservation policies are more likely to win support of the public as it can strike a balance between the need for development and the protection of the environment.

In conclusion, for nations where poverty, unemployment or shortage of housing are major problems, the proposed policy should not be adopted for the sake of the livelihood of the citizens. Even for more developed countries, a conservation policy focusing on sustainability is more reasonable and politically sensible for the legislators.

---

## 11. People's behavior is largely determined by forces not of their own making.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

分析+范文:

这道题应该还是比较难写的。首先 behavior 这个概念太大，必须具体化才好处理。另外，这个问题本身很深，涉及到人有没有自由这类哲学问题。我选了两个稍微好写的角度来讨论：一个是人作为工业化生产的一部分，实际上不是控制机器而是被机器控制。其实生产线工人固然如此，即便是都市白领不也得按照既定程序日复一日的工作么？另外，众所周知，消费主义横行的今日，我们很多时候被欲望所操控，广告、信用卡等制度影响我们买了很多本来不需要的东西。当然，我也不想太过悲观，于是在第三段写了一些可能的出路。

其实这个问题还是很值得我们思考的，究竟我们有没有可能获得真正意义的自由。可以探讨的方方面面实在很多，这篇只是在有限的篇幅内初略的谈到两点。

To what extent people could control their own behaviors is an interesting question that concerns many psychologists, economists, philosophers. The question is important because we all desire freedom but at the same time are subject to different constraints. In my opinion, due to the industrialization of modern society, our behaviours have been largely determined by different social institutions such as corporation and marketing. Nevertheless, we may try to regain our freedom by fighting the systems in which we find ourselves.

One of the key features of modern society is industrialization through which the production of goods and provision of services are all standardized and to a large extent automated by machines. The assembly line approach to manufacturing, for example, requires all the workers to perform the same tasks on machines repeatedly. The behaviors of the workers are largely determined by the pace of the machines set by the engineers. Office workers also have to perform tasks following a set of prescribed instructions repeatedly. While doing so can certainly increase the productivity and reduce errors, there is little room for them to make their own decisions about their behaviors.

At the receiving end of the goods and services are customers who seem to enjoy the freedom of making their own choices with their own money. But it is well known that consumer behaviors are actually subject to the manipulation of corporations as well through different marketing strategies. Celebrities are often invited to endorse different products and services so that ordinary people believe that buying such products and services will help them to identify more closely with their idols. Discounts are often

offered and extra credit points can be earned when credit cards are used to make certain purchases because researches have shown that more money can be spent painlessly when credit cards rather than banknotes are used. Numerous strategies like these have been employed by corporations to lure more customers to buy things we do not really need and to spend money we have not yet earned.

Of course, it is not true that our behaviors are completely under the control of large corporations although most of us do have to be part of the labor force and customer base of the large corporations. Nowadays many people have become aware of the intrusive effects of being part of the capitalistic economy largely driven by irrational consumerism. Environmentalists have advocated living a simple life in order to break away from the traps created by large corporations trying to sell things we do not need. Experts in personal finance have offered prudent advice about using credit cards less and spending money within one's budgets. More and more people have come to understand the importance of work-life balance and even plan to retire early to enjoy life. As more efforts are made to fight against the system of capitalism and consumerism, we still have a chance to regain our freedom.

In conclusion, in the modern society dominated by large corporations, ordinary people's behaviors as employees and consumers are indeed largely determined by factors that beyond our control. Nevertheless, we can still try to fight for our freedom as we learn more about how our behaviors have been influenced by external forces.

---

**12. Governments should offer a free university education to any student who has been admitted to a university but who cannot afford the tuition.**

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

范文: The cost of higher education has increased significantly all over the world as people become increasingly aware of the importance of university training for the personal and career development of young people. As a result, students from lower socioeconomic classes may not be able to attend universities, which raises the question of equality and justice. Some people argue that in order to ensure equal access to higher education, the government should provide free tuition to students who are offered a place to study in a university but could not afford the tuition and living expenses. In this essay, I would discuss the consequences of implementing this policy of free higher education for the university, the students and the society in general and argue that the policy is not desirable due to the negative consequences.

To begin with, if the government would foot the bills for all admitted students with limited financial means, the university may have the incentive to admit more students to get more resources from the government and the quality of university education will surely deteriorate. It is reasonable to assume that a university, just like other profit-making corporations, is interested in recruiting as many students as possible to maximize its revenue through charging tuition fees. Of course, the university can only admit certain number of students and the tuition fee is the price of the university education that helps maintain the market equilibrium between the number of students interested in studying in the university and the number of places available. If the government decides to pay the tuition fees for the poor students, more students will be able to study in the university, which would have to accommodate more students. With the limited resources available in the university, e.g. study space and faculty members, the quality of university education will be compromised and both the university and its students will suffer in the long term.

Now let's imagine what would happen to the students if the proposed policy were implemented. An immediate effect would be that more students would be interested in benefiting from the "free lunch" even if they may be able to afford the tuition fees with the support from their families or working on part-time jobs. Students may be tempted to provide misleading or fraudulent information about their financial situation in order to get free university education. In addition, under the current policies, students with limited financial means can usually afford university education through government loans. If the government provides free college education to the students, they may lose the momentum to work hard during their studies as they do not have to worry about paying back their student loan after graduation.

To assess the proposed policy, we also need to consider its effects on the overall government budget. Since the taxpayers' money is limited, if the government has to pay for university education for the poor students, less financial resources will be available for other members of the society who may deserve more attention or care from the government. Careful researches have to be done to compare the potential returns and social benefits of different programs in areas like health care, nursing homes and training for the unemployed to decide the priority of government funding. Since students can usually finance their university education through government loans, the free university education program is unlikely to be an urgent one.

In conclusion, I believe that the government should not pay tuition fees for students who cannot afford university education after considering the consequences of the proposal for the university, the students and the society in general. We should let the students decide whether they want to pursue their further education through student loan so that the university would not admit excessive number of students. Meanwhile, scarce government resources should be invested in areas that can produce more returns and social benefits.

---

13. Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

140. Some people believe that universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study. Others believe that universities should not force students to take any courses other than those that will help prepare them for jobs in their chosen fields.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

范文: 在这里写一篇文章同时满足 13 和 140 的写作要求。也就是同意 140 里的前一种观点, 然后以 140 的后一种观点作为挑战来回应。对于这种有不同写作要求的 issue, 参考不同的的题干也可以帮助我们打开思路。

In today's competitive world, holding a college degree can no longer guarantee good job placement or career success. Some people argue that students should be required to take courses outside their major area to broaden their perspectives and better prepare for future careers. Others believe that such requirement is not necessary as courses outside students' field will not be helpful for future jobs. In my opinion, taking courses outside one's speciality can benefit one's academic study, development of citizenship as well as future career.

To begin with, taking courses from other field can help students to study their own majors more effectively by introducing the students different perspectives and methods from other disciplines. Take the students majoring in English and linguistics as examples. By taking courses in computer science, English majors can learn basic programming skills and latest technologies in natural language processing which can help them to explore interesting issues in English and linguistics based on corpus. Through courses on psychology, English students can also study how learning efficiencies were affected by different factors and better understand the issues in second language acquisition. As the examples clearly illustrate, taking courses from related disciplines can help student to study their own majors more effectively.

Courses in other fields can also help students become more responsible citizens capable of making informed decisions on different social issues. Arts and humanities students can gain more insights into how technologies transformed the society and what ethical and political issues we have to deal with by taking some courses in science and engineering. Science and technology majors can also better understand the current



debates on different political issues by taking courses in history, economics and political science. The effective operation of democratic society depends on the collective wisdom of well-educated citizens. The proposed requirement of courses from different fields can contribute to cultivating better citizens for the society.

Some people may argue that no courses should be required unless such courses are beneficial for students' future jobs. In fact, many courses outside one's discipline can be helpful for students' career development. Taking writing-intensive courses in history and philosophy, for example, can help business students to sharpen their writing skills, which are essential for effective communication in any jobs they may take. Programming skills that math students can develop through computer science courses will also enable the math graduates to apply their math models to big data in their workplace by developing appropriate computer programs. On the other hand, it is rather short-sighted to focus on the direct benefits for jobs that students may gain from courses. After all, universities are not merely vocational training schools. Students should be encouraged to pursue goals that are not career-oriented.

In conclusion, I believe that requiring students to take courses outside their fields is beneficial for their academic studies as well as their development of citizenship. While it is also helpful for their future career development, this concern should not be the only consideration when we make decisions.

46) Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

70) Claim: Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's major field of study.

Reason: Acquiring knowledge of various academic disciplines is the best way to become truly educated.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

102) Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study.

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

112) Requiring university students to take a variety of courses outside their major fields of study is the best way to ensure that students become truly educated.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your

position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

140) Some people believe that universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study. Others believe that universities should not force students to take any courses other than those that will help prepare them for jobs in their chosen fields.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

142) Claim: Colleges and universities should specify all required courses and eliminate elective courses in order to provide clear guidance for students.

Reason: College students—like people in general—prefer to follow directions rather than make their own decisions.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

TS: Universities and colleges should allow students to decide what elective courses to take at different stages of their college education as they need to choose their majors, their focus within the major field and their future careers.

ts1: Taking some elective courses can help them to decide which field of study is the most suitable major for them

- many freshmen are undecided with their majors
- taking some elective courses can help them explore different fields
- if they decided not pursue that major, the courses can still count towards the general degree requirement

ts2: they also need to decide which specific areas they would like to focus on within their major field

- another important decision to make
- within computer science, they may focus on computer architecture, algorithm, operating system or programming languages (elective courses are necessary for them to pursue their interests)
- particularly important if they want to go to graduate schools later

ts3: elective courses are also important for students who decided to pursue certain careers

- some students may be interested in working in a Chinese company
- they will take a few courses to learn Chinese language and Chinese history
- if they want to pursue a law degree later, they may want to take some extra writing-intensive courses to sharpen their writing skills

(note that the three points also focus on some important decisions that students need to make, which also rejects the reason)

---

14.A nation should require all of its students to study the same national curriculum until they enter college.

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

(与 6 类似)

---

15.Educational institutions should actively encourage their students to choose fields of study that will prepare them for lucrative careers.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

范文:

I strongly disagree that students should be encouraged to choose their study areas for future lucrative careers for two reasons. First, no studies in any given fields can guarantee the so-called lucrative careers in the future; moreover, students who choose the fields with the hope of lucrative careers may not enjoy their studies and their future works. While the educational institutions may be interested in cultivating future successful alumni, this policy may lead to dissatisfaction among the graduates.

To begin with, there are no such majors that can ensure that the graduates will necessarily enjoy a lucrative career later in their lives. To get a well-paid job and a successful career requires a combination of many things including a good degree with solid knowledge, a booming industry in which the graduates work, good interpersonal skills and a large amount of luck. Maybe pursuing a major in certain fields such as computer science and finance can increase the chance of getting into a field where more people can have lucrative careers. But the graduates also need many other things mentioned above to become successful. In other words, the notion that certain fields of study can “prepare” students for lucrative careers is nothing but wishful thinking.

Another reason why this policy is not desirable is that students may end up studying something they are not interested in. Without genuine interests in the field but driven by the extrinsic motivation from the promise of future “lucrative” careers, the students may find it difficult to understand the materials or commit themselves to the studies. Their academic performance may not meet the standards expected by the future employers and, as a result, they may not get good jobs in the fields. Even they do manage to start their

careers in the fields, they may not enjoy their work and the lack of job satisfaction would render the "lucrative" careers less meaningful for the graduates. Their chance for long-term success will also be very small.

Some people may argue that by encouraging the students to choose majors that lead to lucrative careers the universities may cultivate future alumni with higher income, who will then donate more money to the institutions. With stronger financial support from the alumni, the schools will have more resources to improve their education and attract better faculty members and students. What is overlooked in the reasoning is the possibility that students who cannot find lucrative careers after studying majors they were encouraged to choose or do not enjoy their careers due to the lack of interests may not be willing to donate any money to the schools.

In conclusion, while it is understandable that educational institutions may want to encourage students to prepare for lucrative careers by choosing certain majors, this policy is not helpful for students as there are no majors that can guarantee lucrative careers in the future and students may end up with careers they do not enjoy if they follow the advice of the institutions rather than their hearts.

---

**16. Some people believe that in order to be effective, political leaders must yield to public opinion and abandon principle for the sake of compromise. Others believe that the most essential quality of an effective leader is the ability to remain consistently committed to particular principles and objectives.**

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

范文:

50) Government officials should rely on their own judgment rather than unquestioningly carry out the will of the people they serve.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

In democratic society, government officials are often held responsible for their decisions related to their office duty. If they failed to perform their duties and satisfy their constituencies, they may lose the next election. Therefore, some people believe that government officials should make their decisions according to the will of the people instead of making their own judgments over different issues. In my opinion, government officials should always consult the public opinions when formulating important policies. Nevertheless, it is not reasonable to carry people's will unquestioningly because over

important issues people are often divided and poorly informed. Therefore, government officials should do their jobs by taking into account various factors and let the people decide if they did a satisfactory job overall in the next election.

To begin with, I strongly believe that government officials should consult the public frequently and systematically before introducing important policies. For one thing, the government officials should always take into account the people's opinions when developing relevant policies in order to better meet the needs of the people. For example, before the Hong Kong government decides to tighten the ban on smoking in public space, it has run a public consultation for over 3 months to collect people's opinions on this issue. A better understanding of what people think about the issue can inform the policy-making process. In addition, hearing people's voices on the proposed policy will further legitimize the policy and make it easy for the government to later enforce the policy. The ban of smoking, for example, would be much easier if the society has reached a consensus about the issue.

Nevertheless, it is unrealistic to expect the government officials to follow people's will blindly because people are often divided over important social issues. For example, gay and lesbian marriage has been a hot issue in the United States in recent years. While more and more Americans have become tolerant of homosexual couples, there are still a significant group of conservatives who oppose fiercely the idea of gay and lesbian marriage. Given the deep disputes over the issue, it is not possible for the government to "carry out people's will" because there is no consensus in the society on this issue. The government will always be against certain people's will no matter what it does. Ultimately, the government officials have to make their own judgments taking into the account the public opinions, the laws as well as the overall public interests.

Another reason why the government officials should not make decisions solely based on people's will is that the members of the public are often notoriously ill-informed on some important issues, especially when it comes to science and technology. For example, despite the advance of genetic engineering in the past decades, the public has harbored a general fear of genetically modified food. If policies are to be made according to people's opinions, no GM food would be allowed in the market in order to please the people who are ignorant of the science behind GM food. But GM food is arguably one of the most important inventions in late 20th century, which has the potential to address many problems such as environmental pollution, food crisis in the developing world and energy crisis. Prohibiting GM food would be a grave mistake of any governments despite the public skepticism and misgivings.

In conclusion, while the government officials should always take into account public opinions when making decisions, they should not carry out people's will unquestioningly because the public is often divided and ill-informed over different issues. The government officials should ultimately rely on their own judgments when developing the policies and let the public to decide if they have done a good overall job in the next election.

类似的还有：

86) Some people believe that government officials must carry out the will of the people they serve. Others believe that officials should base their decisions on their own judgment. Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

114) Any leader who is quickly and easily influenced by shifts in popular opinion will accomplish little.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

115) Government officials should rely on their own judgment rather than unquestioningly carry out the will of the people whom they serve.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

139) Claim: Major policy decisions should always be left to politicians and other government experts.

Reason: Politicians and other government experts are more informed and thus have better judgment and perspective than do members of the general public.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

---

## 17. Formal education tends to restrain our minds and spirits rather than set them free.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

分析+范文:

这道题按下面的思路写可能更容易展开 例子方面可以考虑思想实验 或者个人经历  
可以从 **formal education** 的几个特点来支持原命题

第一正式教育是一种大规模的标准化教育 不同于 **home schooling** 因此面临不同的背景、兴趣、特质的学生接受同样的训练的问题 这不利于个人的发展

第二正式教育尤其是到了大学之后是一种专业的训练 导致分工过细 见树不见森林 将人异化为工具

第三正式教育往往反映主流意识形态 是统治阶级巩固和合法化其政权的工具 对人的独立思考是一种威胁

Two possible approaches

Consider the cases of primary/ secondary school education, college education and professional education.

When students receive formal education at primary and secondary level, most of the subject matters are rather rigid and intend to provide training in basic verbal and quantitative skills and help students accumulate knowledge about the world. Restraining the minds and spirits to some extent is necessary for students to focus on their studies and acquire the basic skills and knowledge they need for further education.

At universities, students are free to choose different courses and explore their own interests. They can think more liberally and do their own original researches to create new knowledge. They can also think critically about the different theories. But these intellectual activities are not possible without the solid foundation laid at earlier stages.

At professional schools such as law schools, medical schools and business schools, students again have to narrow their minds and focus on knowledge and subject matters in specific disciplines. To serve as a medical professional, one has to follow certain protocols and cannot think too creatively when taking care of the patients. ... (same for lawyers and accountants)

So the bottom line is that formal education limits people's minds at some stages in order to accomplish the specific educational goals while at university level students get a chance to think creatively and critically.

To focus on some specific features of formal education

1. professional teachers who can encourage students to think creatively
2. a learning community in which students can learn from one another
3. train basic literacy effectively through well-tested common curriculum

All contribute to the liberation of minds and spirit

Then talk about the danger of government control over formal education

funding of the government may compromise the political neutrality of teachers

so we have to value academic freedom in order to encourage critical and creative thinking

---

### 18. The well-being of a society is enhanced when many of its people question authority.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

范文:

Whether the statement holds true or not depends on which groups of people in the society are challenging the authority and in what ways. For groups of people such as secondary school students and employees in factories and companies, challenging the school teachers and the supervisors will disrupt the normal operations of schools and firms that would harm the well-beings of the society. On the other hand, scientists should be encouraged to question the authority through which new theories can be developed and new technologies can be advanced to improve the productivity of the society.

Adolescents studying in secondary schools should not be allowed to challenge their teachers and parents to ensure their own well-being and the stability of the society. As we all know, adolescents are very likely to have conflicts with their parents and teachers as they struggle to become more independent and get more freedom. They are interested in experimenting with new things such as sex and drugs without proper understanding of the consequences of such experimentation. The supervision and constraints from teachers and parents are often necessary for their own well-beings. Without respecting the authority of parents in regulating young people's sexual behaviors, for example, the teenage girls may get pregnant by accident, which can lead to serious personal and social problems. In terms of academic studies, students at this stage do not have the abilities to challenge the authority of the teachers who often present the relatively well-established facts and theories based on the textbooks. Challenging teachers' authority in academic matters will only harm the productivity of the teachers and students.

Employees in manufacturing and service sectors need to follow a set of rules if the society is to prosper economically. Modern corporations and factories rely on the cooperation of a large team of employees to create economic value efficiently. Workers on the



assembly lines, for example, have to follow the instructions of their supervisors to ensure the smooth manufacturing processes. The supervisors' authority has to be respected when the workers are told to correct some mistakes they make. In addition, the effective governance of corporations rely on the swift execution of instructions made by the managers to their subordinates. The authority of the managers has to be maintained to ensure that the organisation would perform according to the policies made by the top management. Otherwise, the productivity and profitability of the corporations will suffer.

Scientists, on the other hand, can benefit the research community and the society as a whole by questioning the leading experts and their theories in the fields. One of the key features of science that distinguishes itself from pseudoscience is that the scientists and researchers are always open to the possibility that the existing theories and explanations could be wrong. Through publishing peer-reviewed scientific papers, the researchers need to present their findings to the scientific community and be prepared to answer any challenges that may arise from their peers. Other members of the research community may try to replicate the studies and challenge the authority of the authors if they come up with some inconsistent results. The whole process of challenging the authority of one another ensures the rigor of science and the validity of knowledge construction, which are essential for the overall well-being of the modern society.

In conclusion, the well-being of the society is closely related to the success of different sectors such as education, business and research. As I clearly illustrate with the examples above, challenging the authority in the fields of secondary education and business may harm the effective operation of the schools and businesses, thereby damaging the well-being of the society. Nevertheless, it is necessary for the members of the research community to challenge the authority to advance the development of the fields.

**19. Governments should focus on solving the immediate problems of today rather than on trying to solve the anticipated problems of the future.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

范文: Financially supported by the public through taxation and politically legitimized by the citizens through democratic election, the governments have to devote themselves to solving various problems facing the society. Regarding the dichotomy of immediate problems vs. future problems, I believe that local government should focus more on immediate problems whereas federal government should be concerned with more long-term issues. Of course, the local and federal governments have to work together to address both short-term and long-term problems, many of which are closely and intricately related.

Local governments should commit themselves to solving immediate problems such as emergency relief and maintenance of public hygiene because they have more local knowledge and resources. It is fair to say that most immediate problems occur at local levels that require solutions of local problems. For example, when the earthquake hit Sichuan province in China in 2008, it is the local, provincial government who was responsible for providing emergency relief for the victims. Local governments of Sichuan have better knowledge about the people and the places which can enable them to provide services more effectively and efficiently. Likewise, people in Sichuan also have to rely on local governments to take effective measures to disinfect the affected areas and prevent the spread of epidemics after the earthquake. Therefore, local governments should also consider addressing immediate problems as their priorities.


Federal governments, on the other hand, should develop long-term solutions for the nation. The Sichuan earthquake had highlighted a number of problems such as the quality of building, architecture code for earthquake and development of emergency response mechanism. These problems are not just about this earthquake, but relate to the entire nations as more natural disasters will hit China in the future. Local governments would not have the resources or foresights to deal with such problems. Federal governments should take the responsibility to develop solutions that can benefit not just Sichuan province, but any other areas in China, which might be affected by natural disasters. Once the solutions are developed, they can be applied to similar problems all over the nation. Therefore, it is more economically feasible and effective for the federal government to focus on future problems.

Of course, the proposed division of labor between local and federal governments is not as clear-cut as it seems. When facing severe natural disasters like Sichuan earthquake, local governments will definitely need help from federal governments in terms of financial

and human resources. But the local governments should lead the efforts to solve immediate problems because they are more knowledgeable about the situation. Meanwhile, federal governments also need local government's support and participation when developing long-term solutions for future problems. Specifically, local government may help federal government to run pilot study to test if certain solutions will be useful or not.

In conclusion, federal governments should focus more on long-term problems whereas local governments should be concerned more with immediate problems. Governments at both levels should nevertheless work together to address problems of different natures.

---

20. Some people believe that college students should consider only their own talents and interests when choosing a field of study. Others believe that college students should base their choice of a field of study on the availability of jobs in that field. 高频 

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

范文:

In this statement, two assumptions are made implicitly: first, the availability of jobs in any field can be reliably predicted at any point in time; second, students have to major in a specific field to get a job in that field. I disagree with this statement because these two assumptions do not hold. Some people may argue that following the advice in the statement can increase the chance of students getting decent jobs. I will address this argument after discussing the two assumptions.

The first assumption being made is that one can reliably predict the availability of jobs in a given field. This assumption is simply wrong because the world economy is changing in an unprecedented way and the demand for talents and skills are also different from time to time. For example, when I was in college back in late 1990s, computer science was a field with promises of many job offers to the graduates. Yet, by the time I graduated at the turn of the century, the burst of dot-com bubbles dramatically cut the number of computer science jobs available in the market. Nowadays, with the advent of the Internet and the e-commerce, the demand for computer science majors has rebounded. As my personal experiences clearly illustrates, one cannot predict the future demand for any specific types of expertise. Therefore, choosing one's major based on such prediction may not lead to the desired outcome.

The second assumption is that in order to get a job in a field X, one has to concentrate his/her studies on a major Y. The assumption is also inconsistent with the reality of the job market. In fact, many employers do not care about what majors the job candidates

study so long as they are reasonably intelligent and hard-working. The big-four auditing firms, for example, actively recruit non-accounting majors from top universities around the world every year with the belief that their in-house training system can effectively help the fresh graduates pick up the technical knowledge while they work. Likewise, leading investment banks do not expect their job candidates to have a degree in finance so long as they have a strong background in quantitative reasoning.

Some people may insist that by choosing a field of study based on the job prospect can increase the chance of the students finding good jobs. It seems that, other things being equal, students holding a degree in a relevant major should be favored by the prospective employers. One important issue being overlooked here is that students may not be interested in the major relevant to any given profession. As we all know, students are less likely to perform well in their studies without genuine interest in the subject matters. If they cannot get a decent GPA out of the chosen field, their chance of getting good jobs will be reduced. On the other hand, if they choose a major based on their interest, they will more likely to perform better academically and get better jobs after graduation.

In conclusion, I do not believe that students should choose their majors based on the availability of jobs four years later because it is difficult to predict the job market and many jobs do not require background in specific fields. Instead of choosing a major based on the unpredictable job market, one should focus on his/her interest and study a major that can lead to academic success.

---

## 21. Laws should be flexible enough to take account of various circumstances, times, and places.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

分析+范文:

Constitutional law does not need to be very flexible to take account of different kinds of factors because the constitution will vest ultimate authority in one central administration and legislature, and judiciary.宪法为其他普通法律提供法律原则和权威性，因此最抽象，起到法律纲领的作用。由于宪法需要有极高的权威性，不宜根据现实变化时常调整时常调整，因此宪法具有抽象性，不用考虑各种情况的具体细节。举例：美国宪法。

State law, which is the law of each separate U.S. state, should be flexible to take account of characteristics in different places.州法律是各个州独立制定的法律，可以考虑到当地的具体文化、历史、信仰等情况，在不违背宪法的情况下制定，因此需要考虑当地的具体情况。举例：美国部分州同性恋合法化（个人感觉这个例

子不太恰当, 请问有因为某州独特的历史文化或者地理背景导致的独特法律么? )  
其实很多针对某个问题推出的法案都是考虑了具体场景的

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California\\_or\\_Higher\\_Education](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_or_Higher_Education)

这个可以参考一下

Case law should be flexible enough to take account of various circumstances, times, and places. 不同判例可以考虑具体情况, 较为灵活, 能够随时适应新的状况。  
判例法的概念需要解释一下 不是判例法应该灵活 而是判例本身成为法律 就决定了其灵活性 或者说判例法制度的目的就是为了法律更灵活

实际写的时候发现宪法这个大坑还是不要跳了

Before discussing whether laws should be flexible or not, it is important to clarify what the term "laws" means. Different people may interpret the term differently. As far as I am concerned, laws may refer to the statutes enacted by legislatures at different levels, the rulings of the courts that also become part of the law in common law jurisdictions as well as the law enforcement activities of the governments. While the laws enacted through legislation should not be too flexible, the judges and the law enforcement agents should interpret and enforce the laws taking into account different circumstances, times and places.

There are two reasons why laws enacted by legislatures should not be flexible. To begin with, the time and efforts of the Congressmen at federal and state levels are limited. They can only hold meetings for a certain amount of time each year and there are many items in their legislative agendas. In addition, they often represent different interest groups and it takes them a long time to reach any consensus on any issues. If they have to take into account specific circumstances or times or places when debating a statute, they will never be able to finish their jobs on time. The second reason has to do with the function of laws as the general guide for human behaviors. Laws have to be understood by the general public if they are to be used to regulate people's behaviors. Given the limited cognitive abilities of the public, the laws have to be clear and concise. If the laws change according to different situations, the public would find it difficult to use the laws to make decisions about their behaviors.

On the other hand, the case laws created by the judges should take into account the details of the cases. Consider the famous case of Riggs v. Palmer during which a grandson murdered his rich grandfather, but according to the law and the will of his grandfather, was entitled to inherit a large sum of money. Despite the law and the will, the judge invalidated Palmer's claim to his grandfather's estate because, in the case, the defendant should not benefit from his murderous act. While there was no statutory law authorizing the court to punish the defendant further by depriving his rights to the estate, the specific circumstance of the case warrants such a decision.

Finally, the enforcement of laws, which is also an important aspect of laws, should be flexible as the law enforcement agents should always take into account the specific circumstances, times and places. Consider the laws about speeding. Usually when a

driver exceeds the speed limit, by the traffic laws, s/he will receive punishment in the form of a speeding ticket. But one can and should get away from this law if it is under emergency situation. Maybe the driver was sending a pregnant woman to a hospital for delivering a baby. In cases like this, with a letter from the hospital, the driver should get his/her speeding tickets cancelled. As illustrated in this example, the enforcement of law should be flexible by considering the specific situations that may warrant a different treatment.

In conclusion, I would argue that whether laws should be flexible depends on which aspects of the laws we are talking about. For the statutes enacted through legislation, flexibility is not usually affordable given the limited amount of time and effort available for the legislatures. But the interpretation and enforcement of laws should be flexible as the judges and the law enforcement agents should make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

---

**22.Claim: The best way to understand the character of a society is to examine the character of the men and women that the society chooses as its heroes or its role models.**

Reason: Heroes and role models reveal a society's highest ideals.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

范文: Given the complexity of the modern society, scholars and researchers are always looking for some shortcut for better understanding the character of a society. Some propose that one should examine the heroes and role models chosen by the society as these outstanding figures represent the society's highest ideals. I do not agree that heroes and role models always reflect the society's highest ideals as many of the elite figures were selected by the government or big corporations to propagate a given set of values or ideals. As a result, these men and women cannot serve as a realistic sample for us to understand the society. Some people may argue that the proposed approach is the best considering its cost-effectiveness. I would argue that in the age of big data, we can analyze the behaviors of ordinary people quantitatively at reasonable costs.

It is often the case that heroes and role models are chosen by the powerful elite in a society according to the mainstream ideology. Consider the case of LeiFeng who was handpicked by Chairman Mao as an exemplary role model for the people in China to serve the people and the party altruistically. While many people at the time joined the "learn from LeiFeng" campaign enthusiastically, in retrospect, it is clear that expecting people to be selfless is unrealistic and naive. Only after the Chinese government recognized the pursuit of self-interest as basic human nature and reform its economic system, the Chinese economy could then realize its full potential. As the example of LeiFeng clearly illustrates, since the government may be involved in selecting or building role models, we cannot reliably understand the society and its people through studying the heroes.

In western nations, where the power of the government is limited, role models and heroes are often selected or constructed by sophisticated campaigns sponsored by big corporations. Most celebrities in movie and TV industries or competitive sports follow the similar paths. They would first gain recognition through their outstanding performance in their respective fields and celebrated as heroes or role models by the public. In the process, the big corporations often played an important part through its influence on the mass media. The heroes or role models would then appear in different TV commercials and advertising as spokesmen to endorse particular products and services. The public were made to believe that, by purchasing the products or services, they would more closely identify with the heroes or role models. Since the whole process is driven by commercial interests, it is clear that the heroes and models are more likely to reflect the values promoted by big corporations rather than the genuine preferences of the ordinary people.

Some people may argue that, despite its limitation in validity, this proposed method is still superior to other approaches due to the relative ease of collecting data about the heroes and role models. After all, news stories and other written materials about the celebrities are abundant. This argument would be convincing 20 years ago when the Internet was still in its infancy. But nowadays, with the ubiquitousness of social media and the resulting availability of the big data about ordinary people, it is also fairly easy to understand behaviors of ordinary people. For example, using the latest technologies of natural language processing, one can easily analyze millions of tweets and Facebook posts generated by ordinary people on a variety of issues and have a good understanding of their opinions and feelings on these issues. By tracking the credit card transactions of people around the world, marketing companies can also understand the consumer behaviors of the society as a whole.

In conclusion, as I argue cogently above, the proposed approach is not the best way to understand the character of the society as the choice of role models is often heavily influenced by the powerful political or commercial forces. Rather, the more sensible approach is through the analysis of big data that is increasingly available through the social media.

---

### 23. Governments should place few, if any, restrictions on scientific research and development.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

范文: I believe that scientific research and development should not be subject to any restrictions from governments. I will first discuss why the governments should not place restrictions on research activities by considering the nature of the government and its threat to academic freedom. Next, I will explain why such restrictions are not necessary by explaining how research activities are being monitored by funding agencies and ethical review committees.

My first objection to government restriction is based on my skepticism of the power of governments in general and my belief in academic freedom. As Thomas Paine famously put it, "Government, even in its best form, is a necessary evil." We allow the government to take away part of our freedom and property (via taxation) because some form of government is necessary to maintain the social order. But the power of the government should be restricted; otherwise, the power will be abused by the government officials. Since scientific research and development do not usually threaten the social order and national security, I believe that the government should not place any restrictions on them. Meanwhile, the principle of academic freedom, which is the core values of higher education, also dictates that the government should allow maximum freedom for the scientists and researchers to pursue any projects they are interested in.

Another reason why the government should not restrict scientific research is that research projects nowadays often have to go through lengthy processes of funding applications during which experts will evaluate the potential benefits and harms of the research. If a research project carries certain risk or threat to public safety or national security, it is very unlikely that such projects would receive financial support from the funding agencies. In other words, we should trust the scientific community itself to make sound decisions on whether or not a particular project should be supported or not. Through the competitive processes for funding, projects that are potentially harmful will be stopped.

Finally, it is important to recognize the importance of the ethical approval mechanisms that are in place to screen all research projects nowadays. Before the researchers start any projects, they will have to submit a report to the ethical review committee of their institutions to get ethics approval. Any projects that are ethically problematic or may threaten the public interests will not receive endorsement from the ethics committees. As a result, such projects will not continue. Again, the ethical approval mechanism is another example of how the scientific community itself can check the validity and



soundness of the research projects without the need of government intervention.

In conclusion, governments should not restrict research activities in any way because the power of the governments should be limited to the scope where government is necessary. In addition, scientific research and development have already been subject to close scrutiny in funding applications and ethical review through which potentially harmful or dangerous projects will not be approved or supported.

---

#### 24. The best way to teach is to praise positive actions and ignore negative ones.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

示范:

I think this statement is true for teaching children who are emotionally sensitive and can learn more from encouragement and positive reinforcement. For students in high schools and colleges, it is important for them to recognise their weaknesses manifested in their mistakes. For employees in industries such as manufacturing, negative actions should be corrected immediately and punished to ensure the safety and quality. (这篇没有写背景引入, 直接提观点。这种写法适合只需要 4-4.5 分的同学, 可以节省一些时间写后面的内容及修改。)

For young children, offering positive feedback on desirable behaviors will lead to more of such behaviors. On the other hand, since they are not emotionally mature enough to receive criticism or punishment, it is reasonable to ignore their negative behaviors. For example, when a 3 year-old is learning to deal with the problem of bedwetting, parents should praise the child every time when s/he manages to stay dry the whole night. Through such positive feedback, the child will gain more confidence over his/her ability on this issue over time and will eventually overcome the problem. On the other hand, if the child occasionally wets the bed, it is not a good idea for parents to scold him/her for doing that as this may hurt the child and destroy his/her confidence and self-esteem.

(举了一个尿床的例子 前面的观点分两部分 后面的例子解释也是两部分 一一对应 一般不鼓励写太多例子 一个例子讲清楚就很好了)

For older schoolchildren, while it is still important to praise good behaviors, handling negative actions more directly and firmly is also necessary. For example, in a math classroom, children should be praised and perhaps rewarded when they performed arithmetic operations accurately. Doing so, as in the case of the baby with bedwetting problem, will help them build confidence and develop interests in the subject. On the other hand, when they make mistakes, the teacher will have to provide corrective feedback and work with the students to figure out the causes of the problems. Only through such feedback and problem solving can the students learn more effectively.

同样只有一个例子, 但分正反两方面来写

In the context of employee training, more attention should be focused on fixing the

negative behaviors rather than positive ones in order to maximize the training efficiency. As the employees are mature adults who receive compensation for their work, there is no need to praise them for following instructions correctly. They will get awarded in the form of their salary and maybe bonus if they meet the expectations of the boss. Praising them for all the positive actions would be a waste of time and money. On the other hand, it is essential for them to receive feedback and further training if they do not perform well enough in certain aspects of their jobs. After all, helping them to learn how to do the job correctly and efficiently is the main purpose of their training.

(这里有一个干货就是以效率作为价值判断的标准。题目中提到 **best** 其实是需要判断何为好。teach 的好与不好要考虑学生能否接受、信心会不会建立(尿床)，能否有效的学习(算数)以及培训教学的效率(员工培训)。遇到涉及价值判断的题目，立论的基础是价值判断的依据和标准。)

In conclusion, there is no such thing as a universally applicable "best way of teaching". Teachers and trainers have to decide when and how to provide feedback to students according to the ages of students and the learning contexts.

---

**25. Governments should offer college and university education free of charge to all students.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

---

**26. The luxuries and conveniences of contemporary life prevent people from developing into truly strong and independent individuals.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

范文:

The modern society has been blessed and cursed at the same time by a wide range of luxuries and conveniences made possible by advanced technologies. Whether people can remain strong and independent, physically and spiritually, while enjoying the luxurious and convenient goods or services depends on the attitudes we hold towards them. More specifically, it depends on whether we would allow the luxuries and conveniences to take over our lives. I would like to illustrate my point with the example of automobiles.

Automobiles can help us become strong and independent individuals as the technology significantly extend the physical space that we can reach in a small amount of time,

thereby offering us a greater number of opportunities to explore the world and realize our potential. Consider a single mother of three children living in a poor neighborhood in the inner city. Without a car, she can barely find a job within walking distance. In the neighborhood filled with muggers and meth labs, she could not even walk safely on the street, not to mention bring along her children. But with a car, she can commute to a decent-paid job in a town 20 kilometers away and drop her children to a kindergarten along the way. The car not only provides her convenience of travelling around. It also empowers her economically and socially.

On the other hand, the widespread use of automobiles also has the potential to deprive the modern people of the opportunities of regular physical exercises and becoming physically strong and independent. As more people enjoy the convenience of riding cars, we adopt a sedentary lifestyle for travelling and commuting, causing a lack of physical exercises. Researches on people's lifestyle have confirmed that the use of vehicles has significant impact on the amount of exercises, which in turn lead to medical problems such as obesity and high blood pressure. More worrisome is the tendency that, once we get used to travelling by cars, we become so lazy that we drive to places within walking distance. Such laziness, or the lack of willpower to exercise our physical bodies, is a major consequence of modern conveniences and automobiles are merely a tip of the iceberg.

Finally, people from upper-middle classes often rely on luxuries to tell others they are rich, thereby confusing the extrinsic value of material goods from the intrinsic value of their own lives. The entire market of luxurious vehicles, for example, is based on the premise that owning luxurious cars is a symbol of wealth and power. By driving such cars, the car owners can easily tell the world that they can afford such luxuries and attract other people who are interested in such wealth and power to connect with them. But as people devote themselves to their careers in order to earn luxurious cars or other expensive but not always necessary items, they may fail to pursue the things in life that really make them strong and independent such as good friends and quality family relationships. Researchers have found that a proper work-life balance is crucial for healthy family relationships, which in turn are vital for personal development of strength and independence at societal and spiritual levels.

In conclusion, as my extended example of automobiles suggests, luxuries and conveniences can help us become economically strong and independent if we use them to gain more opportunities for empowerment. On the other hand, they may prevent us from developing our physical strength and spiritual independence.

---

27. In any field of inquiry, the beginner is more likely than the expert to make important contributions.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

示范:

In any field of inquiry, the experts always have better chance than the beginners to make important contributions. This is because the experts have developed better skills and techniques, have more thorough knowledge of the field and have access to different resources necessary for making any contribution.

To begin with, the experts, by definition, are well-trained with the skills and techniques that are necessary for making contribution to a field. For example, in the field of computer science, the technique of building sophisticated mathematical models is essential. Usually, experts in computer science have more experience of building math models and revising them when the results are not ideal. Also important is developing the programs to implement the math models. It is true that beginners may be more energetic and can program faster than the experts. But the experts are often better skilled in debugging the programs and optimizing the algorithms. As illustrated in this example, experts who are more skillful in performing essential tasks in a field have a better chance to make contribution.

Another advantage of the experts is their thorough knowledge of the field. In most academic disciplines, it is essential to review the literature before starting one's own research projects. Reviewing the literature can help one identify the gap of knowledge that needs to be filled and choose the most appropriate methods that have been successfully adopted in previous studies. With more time spent in the field, the experts are usually much more familiar with the literature than the beginners. In fact, the real experts are often the authors of some key articles in the literature. With their knowledge of the literature and past accomplishments in the field, they can identify the really important issues for inquiry and pursue the projects with better potential.

Finally, compared to the beginners, the experts have more resources in their disposal. Experts usually get more funding from the governments or other foundations than beginners because the experts had a record of successful projects that can predict their future success of the next project. The funding agencies would more likely accept a grant application from an expert based on the assumption that they are more likely to succeed. In addition, experts are usually the leaders of a team in which beginners work

for them as PhD students or junior researchers. The team leaders usually take most of the credit for the contribution of the teams.

In conclusion, thanks to their better skills and more thorough knowledge as well as more resources available to them, the experts are in a better position to make important contributions than beginners.

---

**28. The surest indicator of a great nation is represented not by the achievements of its rulers, artists, or scientists, but by the general welfare of its people.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

示范:

To address the issue raised in the statement, it is important to clarify what it means to be a great nation. I would consider a nation great if it has made positive impact to the development of the contemporary world. Also, a nation that had contributed a great deal in the history of mankind should also be counted as a historically great nation. Given this understanding of greatness, I would first discuss why the general welfare of citizens is not a good indicator; I will then discuss some examples of great nations in history and in modern society to illustrate that the achievements of the elites are better indicators.

While there is no doubt that a nation where people enjoy high quality of life is admirable, the general welfare of the people cannot serve as a reliable indicator of the greatness of a nation. When the people have access to abundant material goods and quality education, they will enjoy a high standard of living. But it does not follow that the nation would necessarily play an important role in the international community. Maybe the nation is endowed with rich natural resources. As a result, the government could afford generous welfare programs that guarantee the quality of life of its citizens. Nevertheless, these wealthy nations do not deserve the label "great nations" unless they have made some substantial contribution to the world as a whole.

In modern society, great nations are often the nations where exceptional leaders in the fields of politics, art and science had achieved great works that can benefit not just their compatriots but the people all over the world. The theoretical physicists in the US who were responsible for the early development of the Internet had made significant contribution to the progress of Information society through their experiments of new technologies. As a result of their works and the other scientists in the US, the nation has become a great leader in information technologies and a great many people's lives have

been transformed. Meanwhile, the US is also considered a great nation as it has produced a significant number of leading scientists who had been awarded Nobel prizes. These scientists' achievement had great impact on contemporary society as well as future generations.

If we take a historical view, it is also clear that the achievements of the elites are the better indicator of whether a nation was great. In most ancient societies, the ruling elite often possess the majority of the land and the wealth. Consequently, with the huge income and wealth gap, the general welfare of the people was relatively poor. But nations with outstanding rulers, artists and scientists were still considered great as the achievements of the elites were important for the historical development of the world. Without the invention of paper by an anonymous group of Chinese scientists, for example, Europe could not enjoy the abundant supply of cheap materials for writing and exchanging ideas. Given its important contribution to the progress of the global civilization, it is indisputable that ancient China was one of the greatest nations in the world history. As this example clearly illustrates, the achievement of the elites can be used to better indicate the historical greatness of a nation.

Overall speaking, people may disagree on what makes a great nation; as a result, opinions over this issue may vary greatly among people. If the greatness can be defined as a nation's influence to the historical or contemporary development of the global society, then the achievements of the elites can be used as reliable indicators to determine the greatness of a nation. Meanwhile, the general welfare may not be a very useful indicator because certain factors that are not related to the greatness of nations could be crucial in determining the general welfare of people.

	动作分析	内容点评	语言点评
To address the issue raised in the statement, it is important to clarify what it means to be a great nation.	提出要界定的概念		it is ... to ...
I would consider a nation great if it has made positive impact to the development of the contemporary world.	界定概念		
Also, a nation that had contributed a great deal in the history of mankind should also be counted as a historically great nation.	界定概念		
Given this understanding of greatness, I would first discuss why the general welfare of citizens is not a good indicator; I will then discuss some examples of great nations in history and in modern society to illustrate that the achievements of the elites are better indicators.	主旨句	基于这个概念以概括后文的形式提出观点	

While there is no doubt that a nation where people enjoy high quality of life is admirable, the general welfare of the people cannot serve as a reliable indicator of the greatness of a nation.	主题句	先让步再提出分论点	
When the people have access to abundant material goods and quality education, they will enjoy a high standard of living.	描述本段分论点的前提条件		
But it does not follow that the nation would necessarily play an important role in the international community.	否定从这个前提条件得出的某个推论		
Maybe the nation is endowed with rich natural resources. As a result, the government could afford generous welfare programs that guarantee the quality of life of its citizens.	提出某种其他可能性及后果		
Nevertheless, these wealthy nations do not deserve the label "great nations" unless they have made some substantial contribution to the world as a whole.	继续推论并回应题目的主题	注意本段没有具体例子	
In modern society, great nations are often the nations where exceptional leaders in the fields of politics, art and science had achieved great works that can benefit not just their compatriots but the people all over the world.	主题句	以前面的定义的其中一个角度展开	
The theoretical physicists in the US who were responsible for the early development of the Internet had made significant contribution to the progress of Information society through their experiments of new technologies.	提出例子		
As a result of their works and the other scientists in the US, the nation has become a great leader in information technologies and a great many people's lives have been transformed.	将例子和本文主题联系起来		
Meanwhile, the US is also considered a great nation as it has produced a significant number of leading scientists who had been awarded Nobel prizes.	再简单举例 联系主题		
These scientists' achievement had great impact on contemporary society as well as future generations.	展开例子 回应定义		

	动作分析	内容点评	语言点评
If we take a historical view, it is also clear that the achievements of the elites are the better indicator of whether a nation was great.	主题句 回应定义的另一一个方面		
In most ancient societies, the ruling elite often possess the majority of the land and the wealth.	描述本段分论点的前提条件		
Consequently, with the huge income and wealth gap, the general welfare of the people was relatively poor.	由上句推论 回应题目的关键词		
But nations with outstanding rulers, artists and scientists were still considered great as the achievements of the elites were important for the historical development of the world.	结合题目的关键词 论述分论点		
Without the invention of paper by an anonymous group of Chinese scientists, for example, Europe could not enjoy the abundant supply of cheap materials for writing and exchanging ideas.	提出例子 将 impact 具体化		
Given its important contribution to the progress of the global civilization, it is indisputable that ancient China was one of the greatest nations in the world history.	从例子归纳出 general point		
As this example clearly illustrates, the achievement of the elites can be used to better indicate the historical greatness of a nation.	再次回应题目的关键词		

Overall speaking, people may disagree on what makes a great nation; as a result, opinions over this issue may vary greatly among people.	指出对关键概念不同的理解可能导致观点不同		
If the greatness can be defined as a nation's influence to the historical or contemporary development of the global society, then the achievements of the elites can be used as reliable indicators to determine the greatness of a nation.	基于本文的定义 则可以得出这样的结论		
Meanwhile, the general welfare may not be a very useful indicator because certain factors that are not related to the greatness of nations could be crucial in determining the general welfare of people.	同否定另一个结论		



---

29. The best way to teach—whether as an educator, employer, or parent—is to praise positive actions and ignore negative ones.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

30. Teachers' salaries should be based on their students' academic performance.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

示范+提纲

As the modern society becomes increasingly dependent on a skilled and knowledgeable workforce, it is proposed that, to encourage teachers to pursue teaching excellence, their salaries should be determined according to the academic performance of their students. I strongly disagree with this proposal as this policy will lead to serious wash back effects on teaching and prevent the students from developing in a well-rounded manner. In addition, the policy is not unfair to teachers who cannot control all the factors that influence students' academic performance.

开篇先讲背景 指出有人提出这个意见以及背后可能的理念或目的 这是一个很成熟的套路 接下来全面否定 指出两个理由 然后提出第三个理由为驳斥挑战埋下伏笔

If the teachers receive their salaries based on their students' scores in the exams, it is likely that teachers will focus primarily on preparing students for the high-stake exams. It is well-known that test preparation often has negative wash back effects on learning and teaching. For example, language teachers who are under pressure to help students pass certain tests stipulated by governments often focus narrowly on the skills and techniques that are important for doing well in the tests but ignore students' needs to learn the language in a more creative and enjoyable way. Maybe in the short term, such policy can improve students' performance to some extent. But in the long term, students will lose interest in learning due to the exam-oriented pedagogical approaches.

本段主要讲这个政策会带来的一个具体的后果 就是应试教育 举了例子 但没有具体人 算是一个假设性的例子 分 short-term long term 进一步阐述 全部在讲同一个 point (其实我是支持应试教育的, 不过考场上要看怎么写, 而不是个人真实的想法)

Another problem with the proposed policy is that it forces teachers to promote academic excellence among students as the only goal for education. While doing well academically is certainly a worthy objective for students to pursue, education is more than performing well academically. There are other important goals that teachers and students should try to achieve in schools. Among other things, students should try to develop their leadership skills and build a strong sense of citizenship through a wide range of extracurricular activities. If teachers are paid according to students' academic

performance, all learning and teaching activities will inevitably be driven by academic studies, leading to the lack of attention to other important aspects of development of students.

指出另一个问题 教育会过于强调学业

指出教育的其他目标以及全面发展的理念

Some people may argue that this policy will create financial incentives for teachers to work harder to help students do well in school and tests. While this may be true for some teachers and some students, it is important to bear in mind that students' academic performance is often affected by a wide range of factors. For example, studies have shown that students from middle-class families tend to perform better than those from lower socioeconomic classes. The income and education level of parents, while certainly influencing students' academic performance, are not something that teachers can control. Therefore, it is not fair to penalize teachers who may make a lot of efforts teaching the students who cannot do well in schools for other reasons.

看清楚 be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.怎么写啦

先假设性的提出别人可能提出的挑战

然后让步加驳斥一句完成

接下来展开讨论

In conclusion, I do not think students and teachers will benefit from a salary scheme primarily based on academic performance of students as the policy will produce negative wash back effects on teaching and learning and harm the overall, balanced development of students. It is also not clear that this policy will motivate teachers to work harder as there are many factors influencing academic performance are beyond the control of teachers.

最后基本上是将前面的几个点串起来复述一遍

另外写了一个提纲可供参考

TS: I do not believe that teachers' compensation should be based on the performance of their students because the policy would destabilize the income of the teachers and force the teachers to leave the profession. To address these two concerns, the teachers should be paid based on their workload and the market price of their talents and skills. To promote the quality of teaching, teachers may be awarded bonus and promoted to more senior ranks based on the academic performance of their students.

ts1: Teachers should be paid their salaries based on their workload rather than students' performance so that they can expect a relatively stable income which is essential for their morale and dignity.

- students' academic performance is influenced by many factors that are beyond the control of the teachers

(parents, intelligence, attitude, difficulty of the exams)

- as a result, the performance often fluctuates over the semesters

- it is not fair to punish teachers with lower salaries when the performance is poor due to other factors or reward the teachers the other way around

- teachers are professionals who need to raise their families with stable income

- therefore, they should be paid based on their workload

ts2: The compensation schemes for teachers should also take into account what the teachers may get paid if they take jobs in a different industry in order to attract and keep talents in education.

- if their salaries are subject to the performance that they could not fully control, they may consider other careers in other fields

- in fact, the competition for talents from other industries is always real

- language teachers may be hired by newspaper and publishing companies

- math and science teachers may take up jobs in technology companies

- therefore, they should be paid based on the market prices of their talents and skills

- otherwise, the teaching profession may suffer from brain drain

ts3: To motivate the teachers, extra bonus and promotion opportunities should be linked to the academic performance of the students.

- some people may argue that teachers should be provided incentive to improve students' academic performance

- it is true that teachers can somehow influence their students' performance by improving the quality of their teaching

- some other financial rewards such as bonus and promotion opportunities may be offered

- the extra benefits could be useful for teachers to make the extra efforts without hurting the turnover of teachers

---

**31. Society should make efforts to save endangered species only if the potential extinction of those species is the result of human activities.**

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

范文:

Since the industrialisation of human society, a great number of animal and plant species have been threatened by the human activities such as logging, construction of dams and manufacturing. Some efforts have been made to preserve the endangered species around the world but given the limited resources some argue that we should focus on those species that may become extinct as a result of human activities and let it go for species that will not survive due to the changes of natural environment. In my opinion, this proposed criterion cannot be practically used to decide on what species we should focus our preservation efforts. Therefore, we should use advanced genetic technology to build a gene bank for all endangered species and devote more resources to saving those species that carry practical or scientific value.

It is difficult to apply the proposed criterion for selectively saving endangered species in practice. If this criterion were adopted as part of the policy, the government agencies and the scientists would have a hard time to decide whether or not the potential extinction of certain species is due to human activities or not. As we all know, the excessive generation of greenhouse gas such as carbon dioxide has led to global climate changes which has impact the livelihood of all living organisms on earth. So broadly speaking extinction of any species is in one way or another related to human activities. It may take a whole team of biologist, anthropologists, mathematicians, geologists to work out the extent to which the potential extinction of a given species results from human activities. It would be more reasonable to use the resources directly to save the endangered species instead of engaging in some complex factor analyses.

Moreover, another reason against the proposed policy is that new technologies have made it possible for scientists to build a gene bank to preserve all the endangered species in a rather inexpensive way. Specifically, efforts have been made to collect the genes of the endangered species and store the genes in freezing conditions. For endangered plant species, the seeds of the species can be dried and freezed at a temperature typical of winter and may be thawed and regrown when necessary. For animal species, the preservation efforts involve storing sperms and eggs in zoological freezers. With the further development of genetic technologies, it is anticipated that the costs of building gene banks will decline over time. Therefore, there is no need to select some endangered species for preservation and give up others.

Finally, the proposed policy fails to take into account the potential value of the different species for humanity. Some species have great potential to produce substance with important pharmaceutical value and should be preserved with great efforts. Other species may lead to further insights about the biology of certain plant or animal groups and help us solve important problems in biology and other scientific fields. Such species should also be saved. The species with great value may not meet with the criterion set out in the proposed policy and implementing the policy may lead to the extinction of the valuable species.

In conclusion, it is unfortunate that human society has flourished in the expense of the livelihood of many other animal and plant species. Since the impact of human activities on the environment is profound and global, it is not feasible to distinguish species near extinction due to human activities from those near natural extinction. We may build a large and inclusive gene bank to preserve all endangered species. Meanwhile, efforts should be focused on those species with greater practical or scientific value rather than those species whose extinction were caused by human activities.

---

**32. College students should base their choice of a field of study on the availability of jobs in that field.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**33. As we acquire more knowledge, things do not become more comprehensible, but more complex and mysterious.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

109. Some people believe that scientific discoveries have given us a much better understanding of the world around us. Others believe that science has revealed to us that the world is infinitely more complex than we ever realised.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

这道题的两个观点一个认为科学发现使我们对世界的认识加深,另一个认为科学展示了一个比我们想象中更复杂的世界。这道题的关键在于我们是谁,对于不同的人,科学的意义是不同的。一般来说,科学对于普通大众来说就是真理或者各种问题的完美答案;然而科学家们却知道科学充满了不确定性,每一次科学的突破都是对之前理论成果的修正甚至颠覆。由此可见,不同的身份和视角会产生完全不同的观感。

Do advances in scientific researches help us better understand the world we live in? Or are we increasingly perplexed by the new scientific knowledge constructed by the research community? The answers to these questions would depend on which groups of people we are talking about here. For the general public, science has provided solutions and resolved puzzles about the world we live in and enabled us to understand events in the world with confidence. For the scientific researchers, however, science is far less certain and settled, creating more complex puzzles than anyone can possibly solve completely.

开头先用问句的形式复述题目的主要意思 然后明确指出答案取决于哪一类人群

主旨句: 对于大众来说,科学使我们有信心的理解这个世界解决各种疑惑;而对于科学家来说,科学不断的提出新的难题,呈现出一个复杂而神秘的世界

There is no doubt that science has offered plausible explanations to many phenomena and events which used to confuse and intimidated people in the past. Take germ theory for example. Before the advent of germ theory, human beings did not understand why

they got sick and often came up with bizarre theories and treatments which did more harm than good. Germ theory has greatly advanced our understanding of how and why people caught different diseases and more effective therapies had been developed as a result. Likewise, the discovery of relativity theories have enabled human beings to better understand how mass can be converted to nuclear energy. Such insights not only helped us to learn more about how energy was generated in the sun. They also created new opportunities for us to harness nuclear energy.

这一段主要讲自然科学让公众了解更多 具体举例是医学上的细菌理论和相对论与核物理。

In addition to natural science, social sciences also brought the public many new knowledge about how the society worked. Microeconomic theories, for example, have been developed to explain and predict human behaviours in a wide range of contexts. Through the quantitative analysis of a large amount of data about drivers' behaviours before and after the introduction seatbelt laws, economists have learned that while seatbelt laws may provided extra protection for drivers and passengers, more pedestrians had been killed as drivers tended to drive less cautiously with the protection of seat belts. Such insights from social science carry important implications for the relevant social and legal policies and contributed to our understanding of the society.

科学还包括社会科学 还是上面的论点 换成经济学的例子 建议大家读点曼昆吧 很有用的

While theoretical insights from both natural and social sciences have greatly advanced the public understanding of the natural world and the human society, the frontier researchers in sciences are far less certain about the world as they know it. When it comes to the cutting-edge research areas, the well-established theories may not be very useful in explaining the empirical observations. For example, theoretical physicists have long struggled to unify the theory of general relativity that offers elegant explanation for the world at the macro level with the theory of quantum mechanics that is more applicable to the micro world. Economists also find it difficult to explain why free markets could fail soundly to rescue the developed world from periodic financial crisis and why less liberal economies such as China seem to be more robust than its more democratic counterparts like India. To explain the empirical observations that may challenge the existing theories, scientists have to search for new theories constantly and be prepared to be challenged with even more empirical data.

中间第三段讲科学家面临的困惑

一个是相对论与量子力学之间的矛盾 好吧 我是道听途说的 另一个是经济学家面临的市场失灵及中国经济为什么如此强等等

In conclusion, as members of the general public, we are lucky to live in this scientifically and technologically advanced world where most phenomena can be adequately explained by experts in the respective scientific fields. But members of the scientific research community have a long way to go for developing a set of comprehensive theories that can settle most, if not all, puzzles in the world.

34. In any situation, progress requires discussion among people who have contrasting points of view.

高频



Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

示范:

这道题可以按照不同的领域来讨论

在外交领域, 这种来自不同角度和观点的讨论是必不可少, 只有通过不同国家代表不同利益的讨论, 才有可能使多国之间的关系得到和平发展

可以以中、日、美、越在南海的冲突为例, 大国的视角、小国的视角、美国对中国威胁的担忧, 中国对资源的需求等等。

在科学研究领域, 尤其是社会科学领域, 定性研究和定量研究的学者需要取长补短

在政策制定的过程中, 民主党和共和党需要在国会里就不同的问题展开讨论。民主党通常从平民利益出发, 共和党更代表商家和中产阶级, 需要通过妥协来找到最合适的政策。

49) Claim: We can usually learn much more from people whose views we share than from those whose views contradict our own.

Reason: Disagreement can cause stress and inhibit learning.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

76) We can usually learn much more from people whose views we share than from people whose views contradict our own.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

118) We can learn much more from people whose views we share than from people whose views contradict our own.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**reason** 和 **claim** 是否成立取决于双方能否在科学、理性的框架下讨论。

在科学研究领域, 和不同观点的同行讨论可以更好的检验自己的理论以及从对方那里学习新的研究视角。具体例子可以是定性研究和定量研究学者的交流。

在商业投资领域, 听一下不看好某个项目的人的意见能帮助我们更全面的考虑这个项目的优缺点, 避免不理性的投资。

但是，对于迷信伪科学的人，就没什么好说的。比如相信星座的人总可以从星座描述中找到符合事实的地方，但是其实这是一个模棱两可的封闭系统。比如那些相信圣经的每句话都是真理的狭隘的基督徒，见到他们最好呵呵一下算了，跟他们讲进化论、讲宇宙学就是浪费时间。

貌似这道题难倒不少同学，于是写了这篇范文，供大家参考。

49) Claim: We can usually learn much more from people whose views we share than from those whose views contradict our own.

Reason: Disagreement can cause stress and inhibit learning.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

示范: Whether the claim and the reason hold true or not depends on the specific contexts of the discussion. When it comes to issues in science and research, talking with people from different POVs (points of view) can promote learning as we can more critically examine our methods and data with their input. It is also important to discuss political issues with people holding contrasting opinions as we may learn how other stakeholders think about the problems. Nevertheless, discussing religious matters with people from different backgrounds often leads to more disagreement, confrontation and embarrassment as people seldom change their religious beliefs that are at the core of their identities.

In the context of science and research, we can learn more from people holding different views as discussing with them forces us to examine more critically our own methods and data. Consider a researcher in applied linguistics who concludes that learning vocabulary by memorizing word lists is an effective method based on a single case study of a Chinese student preparing for GRE tests. He may benefit from presenting his study in a conference and answering questions from his colleagues who may challenge the validity of the single case study approach. By exploring the advantages and disadvantages of the method, the researcher can learn a great deal from his colleagues about different methods that can be used to study this issue. He can also learn from people who may question the reliability of the data he collected and improve his future studies regarding data collection. Such learning opportunities are not possible if the researcher only presents his/her study to people who agree with him/her.

When it comes to political debate, holding a conversation with people from different backgrounds may also help us to learn how other stakeholders view the issues and reach consensus as a society. An advocate for gay and lesbian marriage, for example, can be enlightened through a dialogue with more conservative people who believe that rights to marriage should be reserved for heterosexual couples. The advocate will learn that people who oppose gay and lesbian marriage may have been motivated by some beliefs that are deeply rooted in their lack of interaction with people with different sexual orientations. Through such communication, people from both sides will realize that disagreement can be better understood and handled by promoting mutual respect. Again, people from both sides would miss valuable learning opportunities if they only discuss such matters with friends sharing their views.



As the above two examples clearly illustrate, the claim and the reason do not hold true so long as people can have a rational and peaceful discussion despite their different points of view. Nevertheless, such discussion should be avoided on more sensitive topics where people may become more emotionally charged. Consider a conversation between an atheist and a devout Christian. The Christian may maintain that the Bible is the main source of truth and wisdom as it was written with inspiration from God. On the other hand, the atheist may ask for concrete evidence about certain claims made in the Bible about Jesus. Such conversation may easily turn into an emotional and irrational conflict as both sides could not hold a rational and peaceful discussion on such a sensitive topic. In cases like this, little can be learned through such discussion as disagreement will likely to cause stress and rule out any possibility of learning.

In conclusion, I believe that people can learn more from communicating with people holding different viewpoints in various contexts so long as they can remain calm and reasonable throughout the conversations. Nevertheless, for certain sensitive topics, it is better to avoid such discussion which can often lead to stress and inhibit learning.

79) Claim: The best test of an argument is its ability to convince someone with an opposing viewpoint.

Reason: Only by being forced to defend an idea against the doubts and contrasting views of others does one really discover the value of that idea.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

146) The best test of an argument is the argument's ability to convince someone with an opposing viewpoint.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

这里的 **reason** 未必是对的，可以分两种情况来讨论

在投资领域，不断的回应质疑和挑战，可以更多的发现这个想法的价值。比如，开发微信的团队需要说服高层这个产品比 QQ 好。

在科研领域，有时候不是想法的价值需要强化，关键是论证中的证据是否充分，而通过和不同意见的人讨论，可以不断检查论据是否充分。可以讲一下论文 **peer review** 的过程。

但是上述讨论的前提是持不同意见的人具有理性思考和讨论的能力，如果遇到伪科学或宗教狂热分子就呵呵了

换了一个思路来写这道题 通过 **argument** 的结构来构建文章的框架 可能模仿有难度

Whether or not the proposed test of an argument is the most useful depends on which aspects of the argument that the opponents challenge. As we know, an opponent may challenge the premise, the evidence and the reasoning process of an argument. I think an argument can be best tested through convincing the opponents who cast doubts on the evidence and the reasoning process. Nevertheless, if the opponents do not agree with the basic premise of an argument, it would be fruitless to try to convince them. I'll explain

my position with more concrete examples as follows.

Let's first consider the argument that gays and lesbians should have the right to get married. The argument may consist of the following premise, evidence and reasoning process. It may be first assumed that people with different sexual orientations should enjoy equal rights including rights of marriage so long as giving them such rights would not harm other people. Next, evidence about gay and lesbian couples getting married does not hurt anyone but may bring benefits to the society can then be presented. Finally, the conclusion that gay and lesbians couples should be allowed to marry can be reached by considering the evidence and the premise.

Suppose someone challenges the evidence that homosexual marriage do not harm the society. To try to convince such opponents, one has to provide all the evidence suggesting that few people suffer from the marriages of homosexual couples. One can even provide evidence to suggest that homosexual weddings will boost the economy by stimulating consumption. Such evidence will be scrutinized critically in the process of trying to persuade the opponents. Weaker evidence will be identified and replaced by stronger evidence, thereby strengthening the argument. In other words, the statement holds true for opponents who question the evidence of an argument.

What if the opponents question the reasoning process of an argument? The process of walking through the reasoning of an argument with the opponents may also help both the proponents and opponents of an argument to better understand how the evidence can be used to support the conclusion. The opponents of homosexual marriages may, for example, ask why the couples should be allowed to marry as long as doing so does not hurt others. The advocate may respond by pointing out that the basic assumption has been made that anyone should have the right to do anything if such behavior does not bring any harm to other members of the society. The strength of such a test can be seen from the fact that convincing the opponents often forces the proponents to make certain implicitly made assumptions explicit.

Nevertheless, the proposed test of arguments would be useless if the opponents question the basic assumptions made in the arguments. Suppose the opponents of homosexual marriages do not agree that people with different sexual orientations should enjoy the same legal rights. Or they find the idea of homosexual marriages intrinsically wrong regardless of whether the marriages may bring damage to the society. In cases like these, it would be pointless to try to convince them about the argument as they do not even accept the premise of the argument.

In conclusion, through examining some hypothetical scenarios about the argument for homosexual marriages, it is demonstrated that the proposed test for arguments can be very helpful when the opponents challenge the evidence and the reasoning process of the arguments but may be of limited value when the opponents simply reject the basic premises of the arguments.

---

**35. Educational institutions should dissuade students from pursuing fields of study in which they are unlikely to succeed.**

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

---

**36. Governments should not fund any scientific research whose consequences are unclear.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

范文: Government funding is a major source of financial support that scientific researchers around the world rely on for doing their research projects. For projects that do not have clearly anticipated consequences, whether the governments should provide the funding depends on the specific nature of the research. For those projects that may lead to commercial applications or ethical crisis, the government should not spend taxpayers' money on them. But for those theoretical research projects with no clear practical value, government support is essential.

The government should refrain from supporting the projects that may lead to commercially valuable technologies or findings. Such projects should be funded by the corporations which have better knowledge about the potential markets of the research results and can do better jobs to manage the risk. For example, the research projects on driverless vehicles have great potential to revolutionize the automobile industry. But the consequences of such projects in terms of financial success are far from clear. The government should stay away from such projects because private corporations such as Google have more experiences and resources to manage such projects. And it is not fair for the taxpayers to bear the potential loss of the projects which can be very costly. Projects like this should be left to the private sector to invest in while guided by the invisible hand of the market.

On the other hand, taxpayers' money should not be spent on the research projects that may lead to ethically controversial results. Take the human cloning project for example. With the successful cloning of sheep, the technology for cloning human beings is on the horizon. While such technology may have huge potential for applications in different contexts such as biology and health care, the government should not support the research

projects involving cloning human beings because of the ethical controversies related to such research. In a short essay like this, there is no space for me to discuss the ethical issues in great details. But it is clear that the government should not provide financial support for such projects before the ethical issues are resolved.

Nevertheless, for theoretically oriented research project whose consequences are difficult to predict, the government should provided financial support to ensure efforts and money are devoted to such projects. Take the research projects on pure mathematics for example. For more than a century, a great many mathematicians have been working on Riemann hypothesis regarding the patterns of prime numbers. Until the recent development of online e-commerce and the growing demand for online security, however, the importance of such research was not fully understood. Without the full appreciation of the consequences of the research on Riemann hypothesis in terms of practical applications, the private sector may have little incentive to support the researchers in this area. In research areas like this, government support is essential.

In conclusion, given the scarcity of government funding, the research projects that can attract support from the private sector or those that may be ethically problematic should not receive support from the government. Nevertheless, the government should be generous in supporting the theoretically important research projects whose consequences cannot be predicted.

---

**37. Society should identify those children who have special talents and provide training for them at an early age to develop their talents.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

范文: Society should identify those children who have special talents and provide training for them at an early age to develop their talents in mathematics and science as well as artistic, but not in linguistics.

In mathematics and science, society can identify those children who have special talents by competitions and should provide them with special training because the children may contribute to the fields greatly. 数学和科学能够通过竞赛的方式选拔出有天分的孩子, 专门培养以及训练有助于他们在自己的领域出成果, 带来社会价值。举例: 数学领域的 Terrance Tao, 科学领域的 Eva Vertes 和 Jessica Su

In artistic, society can also identify the gifted children by artistic competitions or programs, and should provide them with special training because the child stars have social value. 艺

术领域有天赋的孩子可以通过比赛或者节目选出,以让童星在艺术圈发展的方式对其进行特殊培养,可以创造出更多的艺术作品,即社会价值。举例: Shirley Temple, Natalie Portman.

In linguistics, however, there is no need to train the gifted children because languages are used to communicate with others so that the gifted children can learn the languages in their daily life.语言属于社会层面,作用在于与他人交流,专门对儿童的语言进行培养难以创造社会价值。

From time to time, exceptional children with special gifts were born and the society has to think about what to do with these children who have the potential to become very useful members of the society. I believe that resources should be devoted to identifying talented children in math and science and provide tailor-made training for them to fully realize their potential. Despite the popularity of such practices, however, identifying and training children with athletic talents for competition are ethically problematic.

For children with special talents in mathematics, it is often quite easy to identify and special training should be provided. Take Terrence Tao, a Fields Medal winning mathematician, for example. Tao was recognized as a genius when he taught his 5-year-old buddies to spell and add numbers as a 2-year-old. Given his talents in math, the regular school curriculum could not meet his educational needs. His parents made the special arrangements for him to skip grades and started taking college-level math courses as 11-year-old. For gifted children like Terry, although very rare, it is important for the society to recognize them and train them in the ways they need to fully develop their talents.

Likewise, for children with talents in science, special training and opportunities for doing research are essential for their growth. Consider the story of Eva Vertes, who became interested in research on cancer as a 10-year-old when reading a book on the topic. As a high school student, she wrote to a professor in a local university and had the opportunities to do some researches on cancer in his lab. The kinds of training provided in the form of working with more senior researchers in a lab turned out to be critical for the development of Vertes as a biomedical scientist. The example clearly illustrates the importance of identification and training for children and teenagers talented in sciences.

Nevertheless, for children talented in sports, it is ethically problematic to identify and train them at an early age. Nowadays, in certain fields such as gymnastic and diving, children as young as 3 years old in China were sent to training schools to practice basic skills and techniques with the hope that they may win a gold medal in Olympics Games ten years later. Such systematic training of a large number of children for the competitive sports raises some serious ethical issues. For one thing, the children may be forced to receive rigorous training against their wills. In addition, among the many children receiving the training, only very few eventually won medals in national and international sports events.

For many, despite their talents and hard work, the benefits from the training are not obvious.

In conclusion, I believe that this statement holds true for children with talents in math and science. As for children gifted in sports, identifying and training them at early stages are not always ethically acceptable or beneficial for their long-term development.

I was reading a book "Gifted Lives" talking about the experiences of gifted people. One point the author made is that gifted children are often good at many different things. One example was Jeremy who had to decide whether to pursue a career in music or in medicine. I think this insight is relevant to this issue here. We may argue that it is a bad idea to provide early training because it narrows down the children's future careers too early. One could have become a very successful scientist if he were not trained to become a pianist, for example. Of course, one can also argue that such specialized training can help solve the problem of too many choices that gifted children often have to face.

The larger point I want to make is that to tackle issues in GRE writing, it is often helpful, if not necessary, to do a bit research on a given topic. After all, the test is about how well educated one is at college level. Presumably the more widely read you are, the more educated you look like.

---

### 38. It is primarily through our identification with social groups that we define ourselves.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

范文: For all human beings, identity is a complex and perplexing issue. Some argues that, to answer the question "Who am I?", we have to identify with different social groups. While I agree that we need to participate in different social communities in order to construct our identities, interacting with our parents, partners and children in private relationships is also an essential aspect of our identities.

One important identity marker is our nationality or citizenship. Although our nationality was determined at the time we were born, we have to participate in a number of specific social activities in order to express our identities as a citizen of a particular nation. One obvious thing is to speak the national language shared by all the people from that nation. Through speaking the language fluently and write in that language competently we immediately identify ourselves with all the other fellow citizens of the nation. In addition, we also support the Constitution of our nation and participate in the democratic processes such as electing the president and the Congressmen. Such political acts we engaged in with other fellow citizens also define us as a member of the nation.

At institutional level, we also define ourselves through getting involved in activities as part of different communities. As university students, for example, we have to take courses at university level and complete assignments given by university professors. The educational experiences at college level help us develop skills that only university students would have the opportunities to learn, e.g. conducting original researches based on library materials and field works. Furthermore, we also specialize in specific disciplines, e.g. economics or electrical engineering. The methodologies and theories unique to a particular discipline also enable us to look at the world from a particular perspective and our training in our major fields defines who we are as a researcher.

Nevertheless, our identities are more complex than our memberships of different social groups. We also define ourselves through intimate and private relationships with our family members. When interacting with our parents, our partners and our children, we do not always follow any rules prescribed by any social groups and we do not need to perform in a way to meet the expectations of the larger community. In the private domains of family, we have more space to express ourselves liberally without worrying about being stigmatised by any social groups. The good time we spent with our families, the good food we shared and the emotional joy and pain we brought to one another all define who we are as private individuals. It is fortunate that despite the different roles we have to play in society, we can still enjoy and celebrate our true selves with our family members who are willing to accept who we are regardless of any social rules.

Overall speaking, it is reasonable to claim that we define ourselves primarily through participating in different communities or social groups while playing different roles following the prescribed rules. Nevertheless, we still have the opportunities to define ourselves through building satisfying relationships with our family members for whom we may enjoy the freedom to be whoever we want to be.

---

**39. College students should be encouraged to pursue subjects that interest them rather than the courses that seem most likely to lead to jobs.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

---

40. Claim: When planning courses, educators should take into account the interests and suggestions of their students.

Reason: Students are more motivated to learn when they are interested in what they are studying.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

47) Educators should find out what students want included in the curriculum and then offer it to them.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

90) Educators should take students' interests into account when planning the content of the courses they teach.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

分析+范文:

required courses

why not

- certain materials are important
- certain materials may become more interesting after some exposure to it

elective courses

attract more students to different field

Students' interests in different topics and contents are an important issue that course planners need to consider. Whether this factor should be taken into account to determine the content of the courses depends on whether the course is a requirement for students pursuing their majors or an elective course designed to broaden students' horizon. I will first explain two reasons why required courses should be designed without



regard to students' interests. Afterwards, I would discuss why the statement holds true for elective courses.

The first reason why required courses often include materials students are not interested in is that such materials are essential for students' current and future academic studies. Take the introductory Calculus course I took as a freshman for example. In the course, the professor introduced Matlab as a programming tool for performing advanced math calculations. Without prior background in programming, most students found the materials boring and difficult. Following the logic of the statement, the professor should not have included Matlab programming in the course because students would not be interested in the topic. Nevertheless, learning how to use Matlab as a tool to solve advanced math problems is an essential technique not just for this course on Calculus but for many other courses in science and engineering that students need to take in the near future. Therefore, the topic has to be treated at a considerable length despite the lack of interests of the students.

In addition, the interests of students on a certain topic may change dramatically after some exposure to it. This is the second reason why course planners should not exclude certain topics simply because students are not interested at the beginning. In the Calculus course I took, after spending some time learning how to program in Matlab, my classmates and I had gradually realized the power of Matlab in solving math problems numerically. We were particularly impressed with the visualization of an abstract math problem made possible by some programs written in Matlab. Towards the end of course, most of us became increasingly interested in Matlab as a useful tool for solving math and engineering problems. As this example clearly illustrates, it often takes some time for students to develop their interests on certain topics that seemed to be boring at the beginning. Therefore, course planners should not give up such topics too early.

On the other hand, when designing elective courses, students' interests should be a decisive factor. As we know, unlike required courses for students' major field of study, elective courses are offered with the belief that students should take different courses outside their major fields to receive a more well-rounded education. Such courses are often standalone without close links to more advanced courses on the same topics. Therefore, the course planners can be more flexible in choosing what topics to cover in such introductory courses. For example, in the course "Physics and Society", an elective course I took in my sophomore year, the professor covered a wide range of topics from global warming to nuclear energy that most students found appealing and relevant. Due to its interesting topics, this course had become one of the most popular courses among non-physics majors when I was in college. Indeed, this is another reason why elective courses have to present materials that are interesting—they have to attract students who have many options when choosing elective courses.

In conclusion, student's interests should be taken into account when determining the content of elective courses that are offered to broaden students' horizons. But for required courses that prepare students for more advanced training in a given field, the course contents should be designed based on students' needs rather than interests. Nevertheless, students may develop their interests on certain topics after some exposure to the topics despite their initial lack of interests.

---

**41. The greatness of individuals can be decided only by those who live after them, not by their contemporaries.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

范文: In human history great figures have been celebrated for their extraordinary achievements in various fields such as politics, sports, science and literature. Some people argue that it is difficult to assess the greatness of contemporary individuals due to the bias and near-sightedness that often cloud our judgment. In other words, greatness can only be determined from a historical perspective. I agree with this position as far as political leaders and writers are concerned. Nevertheless, in the fields of science and sports, greatness of scientists and athletes can be clearly recognized by their contemporaries.

In the field of politics, it is often difficult to assess the greatness of a leader until the individual has passed away for at least 50 years. For one thing, people who are contemporaries of the political leaders often make their judgment under the heavy influence of their own political positions. Neither republicans or democrats, for example, could evaluate the accomplishments of a contemporary US president without their partisan bias. In addition, we have to wait for a number of decades to see the long-term effects of some of the decisions or policies a political leader made and then assess his/her greatness accordingly. Richard Nixon was often remembered for his watergate scandal and subsequent disgraceful resignation. Yet, with the benefits of hindsight, we may better understand the significance of his 1972 visit to the Communist China in maintaining world peace in late 20th century.

In the field of literature, despite the annual selection of outstanding authors for Nobel prize award, the greatness of authors can only be properly understood by people living after them. One reason is that modern literature is often closely related to politics in such a way that contemporary critics cannot often review literary works without any ideological bias. The 2000 Nobel prize-winning author Gao Xingjian, for example, was criticised by

Chinese government for writing politically offensive novels and plays. Is Gao a truly great writer? To answer this question we may have to wait for 100 years and see if future generations still find his work interesting and relevant. Indeed, the best way to tell whether a literary work is great or not is to see if it can survive the test of time. Consequently, the greatness of authors has to be probed from a historical perspective.

While great political leaders and authors may be difficult to be recognized by their contemporaries, scientists and athletes can accomplish something that is truly extraordinary. Since scientific theories can often be applied to develop useful engineering solutions, its impact on contemporary human society can often be properly assessed. For example, the theory of relativity developed by Albert Einstein has been used to harness nuclear energy which has become a crucial power source for many countries around the world. The atomic bombs developed based on his theory have also been used to end the bloody World War II. Meanwhile, the greatness of elite athletes is also indisputable. Michael Phelps who won over 8 gold medals in Beijing Olympics is clearly a genius in swimming. Even if his accomplishment may be surpassed by another genius athlete someday in future, no one can deny he is still one of the greatest athletes in human history.

Overall speaking, whether this statement is true or not depends on which fields we are talking about. In areas such as political leadership and literature, the test of time is probably the most accurate assessment for greatness of individuals. In fields such as science and sports, accomplishments of great figures can be easily determined by their contemporaries.

---

42. Students should always question what they are taught instead of accepting it passively.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

提纲:

TS: Whether the statement holds true depends on the nature of what is being taught. When students are taught the facts and methods that have been generally accepted, they should not question them until they master the knowledge. They should, however, challenge the legitimacy of the values taught in schools in order to avoid being brainwashed.

ts1: facts presented in the classrooms should be accepted passively in order to study efficiently

- facts are usually verified by researchers scientifically
- for example- the fact that the numbers that are divisible by 3 always have the sum of their digits divisible by 3
- this fact can be proved mathematically
- the fact should be memorized and used in doing math (questioning it is pointless)

ts2: methods taught to solve problems should not be questioned either

- for example, Riemann hypothesis has not been proved
- but the hypothesis has been used to solve many problems before
- efforts should be made to understand the methods and practice using them
- no need to question them as students
- may question it later as researchers

ts3: values and ideologies taught in schools should be questioned to avoid being brainwashed

- some US schools taught abstinence as the best method to prevent pregnancy
- such biased messages should be questioned
- <http://thinkprogress.org/health/> ... [ancy-sex-education/](#)

---

### 43. The increasingly rapid pace of life today causes more problems than it solves.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

提纲:

I strongly agree that the increasing pace of life creates more problems than it solves in our technology-driven society. I will illustrate my position with examples about transportation, communication, and diet .

With the advent of private cars, people in modern society have live their lives in the fast track

- commute and travel by cars - faster, more convenient and comfortable
- problems: car accidents, road rage, sendentary lifestyles (obesity, high blood pressure)
- more problems: income gap; isolated from others on the road; inequality

With the advent of digital computers and the Internet, people can communicate more rapidly but the new technology often causes more problems.

- email saves time and improves efficiency (solve some problems)
- but people write faster without thinking carefully
- email becomes a burden for many people
- security is a big issue as well

Fast food is another consequence of the rapid pace of life

- it solves the problem of time shortage (grab a hamburger to go)
- but fast food is junk food (too greasy; too much calorie)
- no time to spend with family (dinner time used to family time)

之前的提纲

In modern society that is heavily industrialized and globalized, the rapid pace of life has solved many problems in areas such as public transportation and emergency response. While some people may argue that the rapid pace of life has stressed out people and led to public health issues, many people have learned to manage the problems by taking vacations and planning early retirements.

ts1: The rapid pace of life has enabled people to enjoy efficient public transportation that is essential for everyday activities. 这里指出生活节奏快使我们可以享受高效的生活 包括高效的交公共交通

这里如果觉得仅仅说公共交通不够的话,也可以提一下各种生产和服务业都是高效的运作 比如 iPhone 手机的批量生产 银行的便捷服务等等

ts2: With the fast lifestyles, the society can also respond to emergencies promptly through the fire services, the police and the hospitals. 这里以火警、匪警和医疗救护为例指出快节奏可以使社会快速应对紧急情况 保障公众生命安全

ts3: Despite the great pressure caused by the rapid pace of life threatening public health, many people have learned to deal with the problems through vacations and early

retirements. 承认快节奏生活会带来公共健康问题，比如抑郁、焦虑、自杀等等，但是现在很多人都会利用度假和计划提早退休等方式来处理这些问题，而能够度假和提早退休也有赖于快节奏的生活和工作。

---

44.Claim: It is no longer possible for a society to regard any living man or woman as a hero.

Reason: The reputation of anyone who is subjected to media scrutiny will eventually be diminished.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

44 可以将 celebrity 分作 athletes politicians scientists 三类人来讨论 指出第一类人年轻 多金 诱惑多 容易出丑闻 第二类人政敌多 做的决策有争议 第三类人做的成就容易转化为技术 讲的话有权威 对于前两类人 claim 和 reason 都成立 对于第三类人则不成立

84) It is no longer possible for a society to regard any living man or woman as a hero.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

With the development of the Internet and the social media, the private lives of celebrities are being scrutinized and talked about by ordinary people all the time. Therefore, it is argued that people can no longer regard the living celebrities as heroes given so much information about their not so honorable private lives. I would agree that this is indeed the case in the field of entertainment, sports and politics. Some people may argue that celebrities with lifelong achievements in entertainments and sports may still be regarded as heroes. But with the social media more interested in celebrities in their prime time, the older celebrities would only receive much attention when they pass away.

I agree that it is no longer possible to consider celebrities in the fields of entertainment and sports as heroes because they are often young and rich facing temptations in their private lives. Consider the case of Tiger Woods, the heroic figure in professional golf. While Woods was often regarded as the greatest contemporary golf player and a hero in the field, his reputation was severely undermined after his scandal of extramarital affair. Stories of fallen heroes who were young, talented and well-regarded are commonplace because it was more difficult for them to discipline themselves when they could do anything they like with the money and fame.

It is equally difficult, if not impossible, for people to idolize political leaders these days. President Clinton was widely regarded as a competent leader of the US bringing great economic prosperity to nation plagued by economic aftermath left by President Bush. Yet, he was not a perfect man and made mistakes that gave opportunities to his political

enemies to exploit leading to the infamous scandal of Monica Lewinsky. Even if a majority of Americans are willing to forgive Mr. Clinton's misconduct, it is nearly impossible to count him among the great US presidents such as Abraham Lincoln and John Kennedy.

Some people may challenge my argument by pointing out that older celebrities in these fields may be regarded as heroes considering their lifelong achievements. Figures like Robin Williams and Woody Allen, for example, may be considered heroes in the movie industry in the light of their numerous accomplishments throughout their lives. This may indeed be the case. But we need to bear in mind that, in today's social media as well as traditional media, attention is often given disproportionately to the celebrities in their prime time. People are more interested in news and gossips about Jennifer Lawrence and Ellen Page than the biographies of Mike Douglas or Steve Martin.

Given the limited space, I only address this issue with regard to the celebrities in fields of entertainment, sports and politics. But the points I try to make may be applicable to other fields as well: celebrities in their prime time often could neither resist the temptations that arise from their fame and wealth nor avoid the attacks from their enemies; as a result, it is difficult for them to be regarded as heroes; for the older celebrities with lifelong accomplishments, they were often forgotten by the general public until the day they pass away.

---

45. Competition for high grades seriously limits the quality of learning at all levels of education.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

competition would not motivate students in primary school students to excel because they do not understand the idea of competition and motivating them this way would create unnecessary pressure for them

competing for high grades is essential for high school students who are inspired to get into top universities

competition for high grades is detrimental to learning at college level as students should learn to collaborate with their peers and solve problems creatively

Whether my own position aligns more closely to the advocates of competition or not depends on the educational levels of the students

Tests and examinations are important instruments for assessment widely adopted in most educational contexts. The debate remains unresolved as to whether or not competition for good grades from the exams promotes or harms quality of learning. In my opinion, while such competition is not helpful for children in elementary schools and students in universities, it does provide important motivation for high school students inspired to going to colleges.

In elementary schools, students are too young to fully understand the concept of competition and too much emphasis on academic studies would stifle the development of their creativity. The elementary schoolchildren just begin to learn the basic rules about interacting with their schoolmates and teachers in the schools and their abilities to understand more complex human relationships are rather limited. If they are taught to compete for better grades, they may not be able to fully understand what competition means and get confused about the whole process of learning in schools. In addition, educational researchers believe that in elementary schools, children should spend more time playing and experimenting with different ideas and objects in order to cultivate creativity rather than memorizing and practicing for exams. Therefore, competition for good grades is not helpful for improving learning quality.

Very different from young children in elementary schools, adult students in colleges and universities do not benefit from competition for high grades for different reasons. At college level, students need to develop skills and techniques that are important in the real world, where people often collaborate in teams rather than work individually. To facilitate collaboration and teamwork, students should be encouraged to help one another in their courseworks and group projects instead of competing for high grades. The overall trend in universities nowadays is that group projects are replacing exams as assessment instruments because college professors have realized that cooperation in team rather than competition for high grades is more important for improving learning.

While competition for grades is detrimental to students in elementary schools and colleges, it is quite useful for motivating high school students to study hard and improve their learning outcome. With the development of knowledge economy, it has been now widely acknowledged that college education does make a difference in boosting people's income and quality of life. With more young people interested in going to colleges but limited number of places and limited amount of financial aid available in the universities, students have to demonstrate their academic potential through strong performance in their high schools and standardized tests such as SAT and ACT. Competition for grades within high schools and in national standardized tests can provide the motivation for the students to work harder on their academic studies and increase their chances to get into their dream schools for college education. This is particularly useful for high school adolescents who have to deal with temptations such as party, sex and drug.

In conclusion, whether competition for grades harms or promotes quality of learning depends on which groups of students we are talking about. For elementary schoolchildren and college students, competition for grades is not very helpful; but for high school students, they need the extra push from the competition to get into the universities.



---

**46. Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

---

**47. Educators should find out what students want included in the curriculum and then offer it to them.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

---

**48. Educators should teach facts only after their students have studied the ideas, trends, and concepts that help explain those facts.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

92) Educators should base their assessment of students' learning not on students' grasp of facts but on the ability to explain the ideas, trends, and concepts that those facts illustrate.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

范文: Teaching involves presenting facts and discussing the ideas, trends and concepts that may help students better understand the facts. Whether teachers should teach facts after discussing the explanations depends on the reasons why the facts have to be taught in the particular educational contexts as well as the learning abilities of the students. I'll explain my position with some specific examples.

If the purpose of learning a fact is to use it as a tool to solve problems, there would be no need to talk about the ideas or concepts behind such fact. Consider the well-known fact

that any numbers that are divisible by 3 would have the sum of their digits divisible by 3 as well. This piece of fact is very useful for primary school children to do arithmetic operations with numbers as they can very quickly decide if a number is divisible by 3 or not by adding up the digits of the numbers. But few math teachers in elementary schools would discuss why this fact holds true simply because students do not need to know this in order to use the fact.

Teachers should not talk about the concepts or ideas behind a fact if the students are not mature or well-prepared to understand the issues. Returning to the example in the previous paragraph, in order to understand why trick about numbers divisible by 3 works, one has to use a bit of elementary algebra that involves equation. Obviously, primary school students would not be able to understand it even if the teachers try to teach the ideas behind the facts. Therefore, the abilities of the students have to be taken into account when making decisions on what to teach.

Of course, in other contexts, students do need to learn the ideas and trends behind certain facts. For example, in a political science course on contemporary Chinese society, the professors may discuss the fact that Chinese people have to apply for permits before they have babies under the one-child policy. Without some knowledge of the historical background of the one-child policy and how the Chinese government developed and implemented the policy, it would be very tempting to conclude that such policy is an outrageous and barbaric violation of basic human rights. Only after learning the social conditions of China in early 1980s and the concerns of the Chinese government at the time could the students develop a more balanced view on this controversial issue. In other words, for more sophisticated and contentious social and political problems, facts should be taught after discussing the related context and trends.

In conclusion, how facts and related issues should be taught and in what orders should be decided by the teachers based on the purpose of learning the fact, the students' learning abilities and the nature of the problems or issues related to the facts.

---

**49.Claim: We can usually learn much more from people whose views we share than from those whose views contradict our own.**

Reason: Disagreement can cause stress and inhibit learning.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

---

**50.Government officials should rely on their own judgment rather than unquestioningly carry out the will of the people they serve.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

---

51. Young people should be encouraged to pursue long-term, realistic goals rather than seek immediate fame and recognition.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

提纲:

TS: Whether young people should pursue long-term goals or seek immediate fame and recognition depends on the careers they plan to pursue. In the field of sports, young people should try to achieve success as soon as possible in order to get more resources to support their career development. In other fields such as academic research and politics, it takes more time to earn experience and build networks to reach long-term goals.

ts 1: In the field of sports, young people should try to become famous as soon as possible because their careers will not last long and they need to be successful in order to succeed further.

- most athletes would have to retire by the time they reach early 30s
- to succeed in a sport career, it takes a lot of resources such as excellent coaches and other advisors
- to have access to such resources, the athlete has to show promise as early as possible
- the best way to show promise is to become famous in the international sports event
- may use the example of Li Na to illustrate the points above

ts 2: in the field of academic research, young people need to learn the basic knowledge and skills as undergraduates first and then pursue a PhD under the supervision of more senior researchers

- at undergraduate level- goal: get to know the field; basic knowledge and skills
- at PhD level - focus on some specific problems and make some breakthrough
- tenure track - become more experienced and publish more papers

ts 3: in the field of politics, young people also need to meet more people and learn from more senior members of the community

- Barack Obama

law school lecturer - civil right attorney- state senator- US senator – POTUS

---

**52. The best way to teach is to praise positive actions and ignore negative ones.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

---

**53. If a goal is worthy, then any means taken to attain it are justifiable.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Outline:**

When we pursue worthy goals, we have to consider whether the means conforms to the relevant rules, costs less than the value of the goal and any unintended long-term consequences of using the means.

If we do not follow certain rules when trying to achieve a goal, we may defeat the purposes of the activities. e.g. cheating and plagiarism in education

If we devote too many resources to achieve a goal with limited value, the decisions would make little economic sense.

**Save Private Ryan**

At societal level, we need to consider the possible long-term consequences of using certain means to achieve short-term goals.

economic development and environmental protection

今天有同学说这道题很难写 于是我写了一篇示范 思路和上面的提纲不太一样

I do not agree to the statement that a worthy goal can justify any means that is necessary to achieve it. If the means used is too costly, unjust in procedures or ethically problematic, the worthiness of the goal cannot be the ground for justifying the means. I'll explain my position with some examples including the movie Save the Private Ryan, the latest Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage and the (in)famous Milgram experiment.

As a start, the means cannot be justified if it involves too great a cost. Consider the story in the movie Saving Private Ryan. After the death of three brothers of Private Ryan, the

US military decided that Private Ryan had to be rescued at all cost. It is understandable that such decision was made at both emotional and political levels. Emotionally, it is extremely difficult for Ryan's families to deal with losing one more son, which would be devastating to the family. Politically, having a family losing four sons in the war, the government and the military would be challenged in terms of their leadership. Yet, the cost of saving one soldier turned out to be the lives of seven soldiers. If each and every life should be equally valued, saving one Private Ryan at the expense of 7 can hardly be justified. As this example clearly illustrates, the means can only be justified if the cost is not too high.

In addition, the means used to attain a worthy goal has to be just in terms of its procedures. Consider the latest landmark ruling of the US Supreme Court on same-sex marriage. There is no doubt that pursuing the marriage rights for homosexual couples is a worthy goal in itself. Yet, allowing 4 mortal individuals (the Supreme Court justices) to redefine marriage, one of the oldest institutions in human history, cannot be justified simply because of the worthy goal. Such decision has been criticized by many as judicial activism. Some people also question the legitimacy of the justices given the fact that they are not elected officials. Indeed, it would be more desirable if the decisions are made by a democratically elected state or federal legislature. As shown in this example, the procedures taken to achieve the goal have to be just in order to justify the means.

Finally, any worthy goals should be achieved in an ethical manner. Consider the (in)famous Milgram experiment. The goal of the experiment, like that of most scientific research projects, is to advance human knowledge. This is certainly a worthy goal. But the experiments involve some procedures that are clearly unethical. The subjects were asked to perform certain actions that caused a great amount of emotional and moral distress. Therefore, even the goal was worthy and the experiments were successful in achieving the goal, i.e. advance human knowledge in psychology, the means used to achieve the goals cannot be justified. In fact, such projects would not pass the ethical review had they been proposed nowadays. In other words, any means used to achieve a goal has to be ethically acceptable.

In conclusion, I believe that this statement is wrong because a means cannot be justified if the means is too costly, procedurally unjust or ethically controversial.

54. In order to become well-rounded individuals, all college students should be required to take courses in which they read poetry, novels, mythology, and other types of imaginative literature.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

### Outline & Model Essay

首先对于这种题目的结构可以进行某种归纳，就是提出来某个目标 become well-rounded individuals 以及实现这个目标的手段 all college students should be required to take courses in which they read poetry, novels, mythology, and other types of imaginative literature. 这道题未必要用分类讨论

对于这种目标-手段的题目，首先要将目标具体化，然后再讨论这个手段对于实现目标的意义 这是一种全面支持的思路

It is widely acknowledged that college education is not just about developing professional skills in specific disciplines; receiving college education also means to become well-rounded, which involves a genuine understanding of human nature and the world around us. For this reason, I believe that reading imaginative literature is necessary for all college students. In addition, only through course requirement can the students be given enough incentives to read the imaginative works systematically and provided the theoretical training for benefiting from reading the works.

To begin with, reading imaginative literature is critically important for college students to develop a well-rounded perspective on human beings and the world. One of the fundamental features of all imaginative works is that the authors, despite the time and space that constrain their physical beings, had the imaginative and creative talents to address the issues that concern humanity as a whole. The novel “seven”, which was later adapted into a Hollywood blockbuster, for example, explored the human sins that were first depicted in the Bible. Only through critically reading imaginative works like “seven” could the students have a more profound understanding of the struggle of human beings against human nature. In other words, reading imaginative works provides the opportunities for students to learn about the world and themselves that are not available in other disciplinary studies such as math and economics.

People may argue that students can be encouraged to read such imaginative works on their own rather than taking mandatory courses. In response to this argument, I would like to offer two counterarguments.

First of all, course requirement is necessary for providing the incentives for students to read the imaginative works. In the Age of Internet, many different entertainment activities are out there competing for students' attention. Without the course requirement, students are more likely to find themselves watching TV, movies or surfing the Internet mindlessly. Few students could derive pleasure from reading literary works when more relaxing activities like chatting with friends on Facebook are just a few clicks away. They need the discipline and motivation that come with a well-structured course to read the works.

In addition, we should not overlook the importance of professors in guiding the students to understand the imaginative works. Professors who teach such courses are experts in literature who have been well-trained in reading the imaginative works critically and creatively. In such courses, students will be provided theoretical tools to understand the texts that are not available when they read the texts independently. For example, the concept of "intertextuality" can be used to explore the connection between the novel "seven" and the biblical theme of original sins. Through such formal training in a college-level course, students will develop skills to read literary works more deeply in future and develop better and more comprehensive understanding of humanity.

In conclusion, I agree that all college students should be expected to take courses that involve reading imaginative literature as part of their graduation requirement. Such policy can provide the incentive for students to study imaginative works systematically and critically, helping them to develop a more profound and comprehensive understanding of themselves and the world.

---

55. In order for any work of art—for example, a film, a novel, a poem, or a song—to have merit, it must be understandable to most people.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Outline:**

TS: The merit of artistic work should not be judged based on its comprehensibility to the majority of the people because many valuable works of art may not be understandable to a large group of people due to intertextuality, cultural barriers and generation gap.

The first reason why many people could not appreciate meritable works of art is that the works often involves intertextuality which requires the audience to have knowledge of other works.

- The movie Green Mile refers to the biblical story of Jesus Christ

- for people who are not familiar with the Bible it would be difficult to understand the metaphors and messages

- [http://study.com/academy/lesson/ ... tion-examples.html](http://study.com/academy/lesson/...-tion-examples.html)

Another reason why valuable works of art may not be understandable to many people is the cultural barrier that prevents the readers from other cultures to appreciate certain works

- Louis Cha's Kung fu novels are difficult to understand for people not familiar with Chinese culture

- many of the Kung Fu techniques involves the Taoism philosophy and the principles of Yin and Yang

the stories of the Kung Fu masters are also driven by Chinese themes such as defending the homeland against foreigners and the being loyal to the monarch

generation gap

- novels about puppy love may not be appreciated by older people

- movies on mid-life crisis will be difficult for teenagers

---

56. Many important discoveries or creations are accidental: it is usually while seeking the answer to one question that we come across the answer to another.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Outline:**

While we can find a number of well-known examples to support this statement, generally speaking, discoveries and creations in science and engineering are made possible by a great many experts working together with clear goals in mind and the support of great amount of resources.

P2 cite a few well known examples such X-ray, antibiotics and GPS (they are well-known not because they are typical but because they are exceptional attracting disproportionately more media attention)

P3 most discoveries and creation require collaborative works by many experts one step at a time

literature review; peer-reviewed journals; replicable experiments

P4 projects for these discoveries and creation often require commitments of great amount of resources that are by no means accidental

based on the story of GPS, one can also argue that the initial idea or concept may be accidental but the subsequent development and refinement of the idea into sophisticated technology are by no means accidental

the outline is for you to write up



## **A more detailed outline**

TS: While it is true that some important discoveries or creation were not anticipated by the explorers or researchers in advance, in most cases, knowledge and new products are constructed in a systematic way through which accidents are anomalous.

ts1: Some dramatic events in the history of mankind created the illusion that many discoveries or creation were accidental when in fact such serendipity is rather unusual.

- the discovery of the New World by Columbus
- the explorer aimed to find a new route to Asia
- he stumbled upon America due to the incomplete knowledge about the world geography at the time
- the discovery of X-ray by William Roentgen while experimenting with a cathode radiation
- but these cases are dramatic but rare

ts 2: the reason why most discoveries or creations in science are not accidental

- modern scientists usually work on problems under the sponsorship of some organizations
- to make sure the money is well spent, they will have to write proposals for their research
- in the proposal they will need to review the literature to justify the need of the research
- the questions they seek to answer are grounded in the literature and well-defined in advance
- they will also set out very clearly the methodology for achieving the goals
- there is very little room for accidental discoveries

ts 3: the reason why researchers and designers in engineering seldom discover or make anything by accident

- many researchers work for R&D in corporations
- they make detailed plan in advance in order to get the money they need (budget has to be approved by the management)
- they make prototypes first and then get feedback from colleagues from other departments
- the questions they seek to answer have to be clearly stated in advance
- the design of the products may also be revised according to the response of the customers

---

57. The main benefit of the study of history is to dispel the illusion that people living now are significantly different from people who lived in earlier times.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Model Essay:**

I do not agree to this statement about how we can benefit from studying history because people nowadays are indeed very different from those in earlier times in terms of physiology and belief system. In addition, the educational value of studying history should not be ignored.

Due to the fundamental changes in lifestyles, modern people are significantly different from our ancestors in terms of the shape of our bodies and other aspects of our physiology. For one thing, in our industrialized society, with the access to abundant food, we do not need to spend most of our time hunting and gathering for food to survive. With more calorie intake and other nutritious food, we are in general healthier and taller than our ancestors and enjoy longer lifespan as well. On the other hand, the sedentary lifestyle has also led to more health concerns such as high blood pressure and obesity that were unknown in earlier times.

Our belief systems have also been modernized since Industrial Revolution. In the pre-modern world, the social positions of our ancestors were often defined and fixed at the time they were born. Noblemen were born as noblemen and peasants's children were also peasants. Our ancestors considered such social order as natural and acceptable. Nowadays, with the introduction of public education, modern society has become increasingly meritocratic. As monarchies were often replaced by democracies, people from humble socioeconomic classes may move upwards socially if they demonstrate their talents that the society need.

As I illustrate clearly above, the difference between us and our ancestors is not an illusion. Therefore, one of the benefits of studying history is to recognize and understand that difference and feel lucky and grateful for the more desirable human conditions. Nevertheless, the statement is also wrong in assuming that the study of history is only a matter of learning facts.

As far as I am concerned, a more important benefit of studying history is to better understand the modern world. As we know, history is not reconstruction of what happened in the past. In fact, it is nearly impossible to do that given the incomplete records of the past and our limited understanding of the world. Instead, history is a story we invented about the past that can help us better understand who we are and what we can do in

modern society. The study of Industrial Revolution, for example, would not give us a complete picture of how people in 18th and 19th century developed new technologies. But a better understanding of how steam engines changed the manufacturing industries will help us predict the impact of the Internet on modern industries. Likewise, the study of WWII would warn political leaders nowadays about the dire consequences of industrialized warfares.

To reiterate my position, the statement is misleading in that we are indeed physiologically and ideologically different from our ancestors; in addition, the statement unnecessarily narrows the potential benefits of studying history.

---

58. Learning is primarily a matter of personal discipline; students cannot be motivated by school or college alone.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

Outline:

For primary school students, learning is a matter of personal interest as the young students have not yet developed personal discipline

- students are still learning how to discipline themselves
- they should be driven to learn by interest
- schools should offer opportunities to explore different subjects through a balanced curriculum
- such a curriculum should motivate students to learn

For secondary school students, learning is indeed a matter of personal discipline but schools should help the students to improve their personal discipline through motivation

- more stuff to learn and competition is fierce
- schools should be responsible to help students to develop their discipline because their performance will determine their future path (high school dropouts v. college graduates)

For college students, college should respect students' personal choice over how much effort they want to make for learning

- college students are adults who should be responsible for their own decisions
- learning may not be the priority for many college students (no need for colleges to motivate them)
- some may drop out from colleges to do other interesting things (e.g. start a new company)

59. Scientists and other researchers should focus their research on areas that are likely to benefit the greatest number of people.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

快速写作练习示范:

7:10am

basic research unpredictable

satisfy curiosity and have fun

natural science

engineering

social science

7:14am

Scientists and researchers are a small group of elites with the best education and the abundant resources available to support their projects. Some people argue that with such privileges come great responsibilities in that scientists and researchers should focus their efforts on research projects that may bring the benefits to as many people as possible. I think this argument is reasonable for researchers in engineering. But when it comes to researchers in natural sciences and social sciences, such a utilitarian approach violates the basic principles of researches in these fields.

To begin with, researchers in engineering should work on projects that may improve the productivity of workers in different fields and ultimately benefit workers and consumers in a large scale.

- 提出例子: 谷歌工程师通过对算法的优化更有效的处理互联网上的大量网页信息
- 解释: 通过对网页信息的储存、索引, 人们可以更加迅速的找到自己想要的资料来做决定
- 提出例子: 谷歌推出热气球互联网计划, 让更多的人有机会接入互联网
- 解释: 工程师尤其应该关注弱势群体 处理数码鸿沟问题

Nevertheless, it is unrealistic to expect natural scientists to choose their research projects based on whether their research outcomes can help a great many people.

- 提出第一个原因: 自然科学的研究首要目的是满足人类的好奇心

- 比如对宇宙起源的研究 大爆炸理论乃至弦理论 都是一群数学家和理论物理学家的游戏
- 这种研究对大众没什么帮助 但是却很重要 关系到人类在宇宙中的位置和命运
- 提出第二个原因：由于理论研究的结果不可预测
- 爱因斯坦提出相对论时并没有预见到可以用来开发核能
- 核能对人类的贡献与威胁需要另一群人来决定（工程师、政客、公民？）

**Social scientists concerned with practical problems at local level should not burden themselves with the impossible job of helping people around the world.**

- 解释观点：社会科学研究者需要关注本土问题 甚至弱势群体
- 提出例子： 比如中国同性恋问题研究者
- 解释例子： 同性恋问题只涉及少数人 不代表不重要 不需要研究
- 提出例子： 我研究的中国学生 GRE 写作问题
- 解释例子： 只是少数精英可以受益
- 总结：社会科学家不要不切实际想拯救世界，要做一些具体的小问题

7:36am

想不到写这个详细的提纲也花了这么多时间，可能是英汉夹杂反而不如直接写英语那么流畅。这个示范里，我运用了分类讨论，将科研分作社会科学、自然科学和工程研究三类。另外，我的汉语提纲具体到了句子的层面，以列点形式展开，而不是写一大段汉语。希望大家在写提纲时也考虑这样做。

---

**60. Politicians should pursue common ground and reasonable consensus rather than elusive ideals.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

**Model Essay:**

Any politicians who care about the interest of the people they serve should try to pursue the goals that are shared by the majority of the society rather than ideals that are hard to realize. I will illustrate my position with the stories of three political figures: Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Barack Obama.

Despite his considerable contribution to building a new China, Mao Zedong had caused a great deal of suffering to the Chinese people and led to many tragic events in modern Chinese history due to his unrealistic political ideals. In late 1950s, he launched the so-called Great Leap Forward movement with the romantic thinking that China can surpass the economic powers such as the US and UK in a few years. As a result of his grave mistakes, the Chinese economy suffered and millions of people died from starvation during the three-year famine from 1960 to 1962. Also thanks to his poetic vision that young people in the city should be re-educated by the rural people, millions of teenagers

who can barely take care of themselves were forced to separate from their parents and spend years in the countryside. An entire generation of Chinese people lost their opportunities to receive formal education and the nation also suffered from a lack of human resources vital for its economy. Mao made all these unforgivable mistakes because he did not consult his colleagues at all when making decisions.

Fortunately, Deng Xiaoping, the successor of Mao, was a more pragmatic leader. With less power and charisma, Deng focused on building consensus and finding common ground within the Communist Party after he took the power. The most important consensus at the time was that the country needed to recover from the mess created by Mao and focus on the economic development. Through the introduction of open door policy and the privatization of the rural economy of China, Deng successfully rejuvenated the Chinese economy and lifted millions of Chinese people out of poverty. By taking a more practical approach to politics and focusing on the common ground of the Chinese society, Deng gained more support and respect from both Chinese people and the international community.

A more recent example to support my thesis is the incumbent President of the United States, Barack Obama. One of the key accomplishments of Obama administrations is the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. Through Obamacare, millions of Americans, who are previously uninsured, are now covered by health insurance through the federal financial incentives provided by the legislation. If we look more closely at the legislative history of Obamacare, we can see that during the process of pushing for Obamacare, President Obama was always seeking common ground in a Congress that was dominated by GOP politicians. For example, in order to win support from the Senate controlled by the Republicans, Obamacare does not provide health insurance for abortions. Ideally, of course, the rights to abortions should be recognized in Obamacare. But to pass the law, compromise had to be made.

As illustrated through the stories of three political figures, politicians should always pursue the goals that reflect the common ground and the consensus of the majority. Deng and Obama are exemplary figures of such pragmatic approaches. The tragedies caused by Mao, on the other hand, underscore the danger and folly of pursuing elusive political ideals.

---

61. People should undertake risky action only after they have carefully considered its consequences.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

**Outline:**

the statement is true when the risk is well known and fairly easy to manage

the importance of safe sex

unprotected sex may lead to pregnancy and STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease)

the risk can be greatly reduced by wearing condoms

considering the consequences, people should take measures to manage the risk

the statement is also true when the risk can be assessed quantitatively

financial management and investment

invest in a stock only after reviewing its financial statements and use sophisticated models to calculate the risk

the statement may not be true under emergency situation when people take risky action out of instinct

being in danger-risky action can help the human body to release endorphins and adrenaline that can help the person to perform physical acts that are not possible under normal circumstances

as a result, the person may have a better chance to survive

<http://www.faqs.org/health/topics/15/Risk-taking-behaviors.html>

---

## 62. Leaders are created by the demands that are placed on them.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

### **Model Essay:**

Are leaders created by demands placed on them? In most institutional settings, leaders are not created by the demands because a person can become a leader before meeting any demands if s/he masters strong communication skills, holds suitable qualifications and has extensive experiences. Nevertheless, in certain exceptional circumstances, usually in emergencies, ordinary people may become leaders in response to the demands.

Without being tested by demands for leadership, people often assume leadership positions by demonstrating strong communication skills that are important for dealing with situations in which they have to lead others to solve problems. In the field of academic researches, for example, senior researchers have to communicate their research findings and the vision about how the discipline would advance clearly and persuasively to the fellow researchers in order to take up leadership positions such as editors of top journals and chairpersons of the academic societies. They also need to demonstrate their willingness to listen to other members of the research community and understand their ideas and concerns about the field. Such strong communication skills would enable them to become leaders in the field and help others to meet the challenges.

In addition to communication skills, leaders also have to receive relevant training to acquire the professional qualifications and expertise that are necessary for the leadership positions. Referring to the examples of leaders in academic research field again, it is clear that anyone interested in joining an editorial board of a top journal or becoming the chairperson of an academic association must, in addition to holding a PhD in relevant fields, have published influential papers in the field and accumulated extensive administrative experiences. Usually with such publication records and relevant experiences, the person will be able to get the jobs as the leaders. In other words, taking the leadership roles in an institution does not necessarily relate to the demands for leadership.

On the other hand, there are exceptional circumstances in which ordinary people may become leaders while trying to address the demands at the moment. On September 11, 2001, after three planes were hijacked and crashed to WTO twin towers and the Pentagon, the passengers of United Airline Flight 93 revolted against the hijackers and successfully diverted the airplane from the route to Washington D.C. where the hijackers planned to crash the airplane to the White House. We do not have details about the passengers'



heroic acts but it is safe to believe that some courageous passengers and crew members had responded to the emergency demands for leadership after knowing the terrorist attacks that had happened earlier that day. These ordinary men and women became leaders of a historical anti-terrorist mission without any prior training and experiences. Their leadership was created by the demands placed on them and will be remembered in history.

In conclusion, in most institutional settings, leaders are not created by demands but selected based on the candidates' communication skills, qualifications and experiences. Nevertheless, under exceptional circumstances, ordinary people may become leaders in response to the demands for leadership.

---

63. There is little justification for society to make extraordinary efforts—especially at a great cost in money and jobs—to save endangered animal or plant species.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

### **Model Essay**

Since the industrialization of human society, a great number of animal and plant species have been threatened by the human activities such as logging, construction of dams and manufacturing. Some efforts have been made to preserve the endangered species around the world but given the limited resources some argue that we should focus on those species that may become extinct as a result of human activities and let it go for species that will not survive due to the changes of natural environment. In my opinion, this proposed criterion cannot be practically used to decide on what species we should focus our preservation efforts. Therefore, we should use advanced genetic technology to build a gene bank for all endangered species and devote more resources to saving those species that carry practical or scientific value.

It is difficult to apply the proposed criterion for selectively saving endangered species in practice. If this criterion were adopted as part of the policy, the government agencies and the scientists would have a hard time to decide whether or not the potential extinction of certain species is due to human activities or not. As we all know, the excessive generation of greenhouse gas such as carbon dioxide has led to global climate changes which have impact the livelihood of all living organisms on earth. So broadly speaking extinction of any species is in one way or another related to human activities. It may take a whole team of biologist, anthropologists, mathematicians, geologists to work out the extent to which the potential extinction of a given species results from human activities. It would be more reasonable to use the resources directly to save the endangered species instead of engaging in some complex factor analyses.

Moreover, another reason against the proposed policy is that new technologies have made it possible for scientists to build a gene bank to preserve all the endangered species in a rather inexpensive way. Specifically, efforts have been made to collect the genes of the endangered species and store the genes in freezing conditions. For endangered plant species, the seeds of the species can be dried and freezed at a temperature typical of winter and may be thawed and regrown when necessary. For animal species, the preservation efforts involve storing sperms and eggs in zoological freezers. With the further development of genetic technologies, it is anticipated that the costs of building gene banks will decline over time. Therefore, there is no need to select some endangered species for preservation and give up others.

Finally, the proposed policy fails to take into account the potential value of the different species for humanity. Some species have great potential to produce substance with important pharmaceutical value and should be preserved with great efforts. Other species may lead to further insights about the biology of certain plant or animal groups and help us solve important problems in biology and other scientific fields. Such species should also be saved. The species with great value may not meet with the criterion set out in the proposed policy and implementing the policy may lead to the extinction of the valuable species.

In conclusion, it is unfortunate that human society has flourished in the expense of the livelihood of many other animal and plant species. Since the impact of human activities on the environment is profound and global, it is not feasible to distinguish species near extinction due to human activities from those near natural extinction. We may build a large and inclusive gene bank to preserve all endangered species. Meanwhile, efforts should be focused on those species with greater practical or scientific value rather than those species whose extinction were caused by human activities.

---

64. The human mind will always be superior to machines because machines are only tools of human minds.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

### **Model Essay**

value judgment - search engine

emotion - robot nurse

creativity - corpus linguistics

With the advancement in electronic engineering and artificial intelligence, machines embedded with microprocessors have become increasingly intelligent with the abilities to perform a wide variety of tasks that only humans could perform in previous decades. Some people predict that in the foreseeable future machines will become smarter than humans as the speed of CPU increases exponentially. I believe that human mind will always be superior to machines because of our abilities of making value judgment, processing information emotionally and creating new ideas.

To begin with, human minds will always surpass machines in making decisions because we can make judgment based on our experiences and value systems. When we read a book, for example, we can not only process the information presented in the book through reading comprehension. We can also decide how valuable the information is relative to the books or other materials we have read before. This ability of making value judgment is almost impossible for machines to learn because developing a value system of human minds is a cumulative and mysterious process that we do not understand very well. Therefore, it is very difficult to build a machine to emulate this ability. In fact, the search engines such as Google rely on the human judgement on the value of webpages to find the most relevant information for each search. In other words, machines can always be used to keep track of the value judgments made by human minds; but they cannot make the judgements themselves.

Another important function of human minds that machines can hardly develop is the ability to process information emotionally. Digital computers are built based on sophisticated mathematical models that are efficient in processing information logically and rationally. But when it comes to information that involves human emotion, the logical approach to information processing cannot go very far. For example, with built-in high-resolution camera and microphone, a machine can be used to monitor a baby and alert the parents

when the baby cries. Maybe with more advanced technologies in natural language processing, one can even build a robot to interact with a baby, understanding its rudimentary language and talking back a bit. But it would be impossible for a machine to interact with the baby at emotional level, e.g. to understand the body language of the baby that carry infinite amount of emotional information that only the parents can possibly comprehend. Again, machines such as baby monitors can help human minds to collect certain information but can never replace human care providers.

Finally, human minds have the ultimate ability of creating new ideas that machines cannot develop even with the most advanced algorithms. Take the process of writing academic papers as an example. With the Internet and the database technologies, scholars nowadays can access numerous journal articles that form the basis for writing new articles. But scholars also need to identify the gap in the literature and develop research ideas to pursue through rigorous research projects before they can write up a report as a journal article. Some people have invented tools like SCIGen to create journal articles automatically. But this tool can only generate articles based on published works that are not original and do not contribute to the process of knowledge construction.

In conclusion, it is clear that in the foreseeable future machines can never overtake human minds in making decisions and creating new knowledge because we humans have the unique capabilities of making value judgments, processing information emotionally and thinking creatively.

---

65. Every individual in a society has a responsibility to obey just laws and to disobey and resist unjust laws.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

这里有一个我之前写的提纲

All citizens should obey both just laws and laws that may not be just to protect their own interests and ensure the stability and prosperity of the society. Yet, for the laws that may not be reasonable, the citizens may resist them within the democratic and legal framework of legislation.

P2: When the laws are considered just by the entire society, the individuals should obey the laws for the sake of their own interests and the benefits of the entire society. 这个很好说 正义的法律保护生命与财产 尽量写简单地例子 比如醉酒驾驶 公众场所禁止吸烟等等

P3: When the the justice of some laws is questionable, the individuals should still obey the laws to ensure the normal operation of the government and the stability of the society. 这个比较麻烦 例子不好想 或许可以写 2003 年美国国会通过法案授权布什总统侵略伊拉克 尽管法案正当性存疑 但是美国士兵还是要守法上前线 老百姓还得纳税支持战争 但是后来通过选举反战的参议员奥巴马来改变了有问题的方案 即使在面临有问题的法律时 还是要尊重立法者和执法者的权威 才能保障社会的稳定 或许目前香港的政改问题也是合适的例子

P4: Some people may ask what can be done about the unjust laws if all citizens obey the laws. I think the citizens should try to revise the unjust laws through legislation by voicing their concerns and placing pressure on the democratically elected Congressmen. 回应反对意见 如果遵守恶法 如何彰显公义? 回应时遵守的同时, 可以通过和平的方式表达意见 比如在报纸上写文章辩论、写信向议员施压, 最终通过立法的方式废除恶法

The rule of law is an important pillar of modern society. It is argued that while people should always obey just laws, laws that are perceived as unjust should be disobeyed and resisted. While I agree that just laws should always be followed to maintain social order, even the laws that are controversial should also be respected to avoid any conflicts between civilians and the government. As to the concern over the harm of unjust laws, people should try to reform them within the legal framework.

Let's first consider why everyone should be responsible for obeying just laws. Take the simple examples of the traffic law about driving under the influence of alcohol. In most countries, it is illegal to drive if one is drunk. Few people would challenge the justice behind this law. When a driver is drunk, s/he would not be able to operate a vehicle safely and driving would threaten the safety of the driver, the passengers and others sharing the road. To protect the interests of everyone involved, the laws prohibit such behaviors and punish those breaking the laws. For just laws like this, everyone should obey them and there is no doubt about it.

Consider next the laws that some people may consider as unjust. For example, prior to the recent landmark decision on gay and lesbian marriage by the US Supreme Court, in some states, the laws do not recognize the homosexual couples' rights to get married. Some people may believe that these laws are unjust as no one should be denied to right to marry because of their sexual orientation. But that does not follow that people who believe in homosexual marriage should have the responsibility to openly challenge the state laws against the practice. If they demonstrate outside the marriage registration office violently or demand for rights to marry using forces, for example, they will most likely be arrested by the police. In other words, disobeying and resisting the so-called unjust laws will lead to conflict between the civilians and the government, which will not help solve the problems.

Some people may challenge my position by asking about what to do with the injustice of certain laws such as the laws denying rights to marry for homosexual couples. It turns out that there are at least two ways to challenge a law within the legal framework. First, the people unhappy with certain laws can always campaign for abolishing the laws through new legislation. The members of the legislature are elected by the people and should respect the opinions of their constituencies when making decisions regarding different laws. Second, the laws can also be challenged in the federal courts and may be struck down for being unconstitutional. Therefore, people can always try to reform the laws that are not just without disobeying or resisting them illegally.

In conclusion, given the importance of the rule of law to the social order, everyone should have the responsibility to obey all the laws whether or not they are considered as just or unjust. As for the laws that the majority of the society believe are unjust, there are ways within the legal system through which the problems can be solved peacefully.

下面这篇是我之前写的，感觉不太适合做范文，大家有兴趣随便看看吧。

今天在在备课的时候，看到关于 Creative Commons 的讨论，重新写了一篇，从恶法非法的角度，讨论如何面对不公义的版权法。这也是我个人的信念和对版权问题的立场，希望通过 GRE 写作教学介绍给大家。

The rule of law is an important principle that enables members of the modern society to solve a wide range of problems without degenerating into a violent state. While it is obvious that all individuals should obey laws that are not controversial in terms of its justice, in order to abolish unjust laws that are incompatible with the development of modern society, individuals should challenge such laws through legal means and civil disobedience. The laws related to creative culture and copyrights can aptly illustrate my thesis.

To begin with, we should obey the laws on property rights that are relevant to books and culture. For example, if we want to own a book found in a bookstore, we should pay for it instead of stealing it which is a violation of the property rights of the bookstore. If we check out a book from the library, we need to return it on time or pay the late fees according to the laws and rules related to the use of library materials. This is important because books are tangible assets protected by property rights. If we do not obey the laws and get the books illegally, we will infringe other people's rights to access the same books. This is why we need to obey just laws.

What about the copyright laws? In my opinion, copyright laws are unjust because they restrict people's access to creative works in an unnecessary way. We need to make a clear distinction between the books protected by property rights and the books protected by copyrights. The former is tangible and owning it would prevent others from accessing it. The latter is intangible in the sense that the book can be reproduced and remixed with

other books without compromising other people's rights to access it. With the advent of digital technology and the Internet, books can be copied and distributed around the world with minimal costs and may create enormous opportunities for learning. Yet, the publishers have lobbied the legislatures to extend the copyright duration from the initial 20 years (Statute of Anne, 1710) to the author's lifetime plus 70 years. The expansion of copyright regime has effectively blocked the access to a great many learning materials of people around the world, especially those from the underprivileged groups.

Some people have tried to resist copyright laws within the legal framework of copyright. A notable example is the Creative Commons Licensing System developed and advocated by cyberlawyer Prof. Lawrence Lessig. Through a set of Creative Commons licenses, the authors and creators of cultural works can choose to authorize the public to use their works freely, essentially giving up some of their rights protected by copyright laws. Such efforts are legal and effective to help restore the balance of interest between copyright holders and the general public that has been distorted by copyrights. This example illustrates how private individuals can and should resist unjust laws within the legal frameworks.

Nevertheless, I do not believe that the legal means is sufficient for challenging the unjust copyright laws. Creative Commons may help some authors to release their works from the bondage of copyright. But a great many important creative works and books are still under the control of greedy publishers and corporations that would use copyrights to deprive ordinary citizens of their rights to learning and entertainment. As a result, it is also important for ordinary people to practice civil disobedience against the copyright regime. For example, instead of buying expensive books from the bookstores, we should try to obtain the e-copies of the books from websites such as Library Genesis and Sina Information Sharing. These acts of civil disobedience will create pressure on the publishers to change their business models from charging the readers to sponsoring the authors through advertising or government funding. In other words, if we want to change the unjust laws, we cannot merely rely on efforts within legal frameworks but have to break the laws in a large scale.

People may worry about the legal consequences of practicing civil disobedience against unjust laws. In the case of copyright, this should not be a major concern as unauthorized copying of books and other creative works is so widespread online that the authorities simply cannot afford the resources to enforce the copyright laws. So long as increasing number of people practice the so-called "piracy", we are protected by the sheer number of illegal acts. In fact, when a law can be so easily broken by so many people around the world, there is obviously something wrong with the law rather than with the people breaking the law.

In conclusion, the examples I discuss above about books and copyrights clearly illustrate the importance of obeying just laws on the one hand and resisting and challenging the unjust laws on the other, both within the legal framework and outside it through civil disobedience.

---

66. People who are the most deeply committed to an idea or policy are also the most critical of it.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

### **Outline**

thesis: whether people are critical of the ideas or policy they hold depends on the nature and domains of the ideas and policy. In the field of science and technology, scientists and engineers are often critical of the theories and designs they are committed to in order to make further progress. In the field of religion, the belief in supernatural being is based on faith rather than reasoning; as a result, criticality is not part of the equation.

ts1: scientists are often critical of their own theories and research ideas in order to continuously improve the ideas

- being critical means two things

1) remain open-minded to the possibility that they could be wrong in light of new empirical evidence;

support: researchers always describe how they conducted their studies in details so other researchers could replicate the studies (no specific example is needed here)

2) willing to accept new paradigms in methodology and theoretical framework to replace the existing ones

support: if the new approach can generate better results the researchers are willing to give up their own ones

ts 2: engineers are also critical of their designs of the manufacturing process or the prototype

being critical means they continuously modify the design based on the data from the field data from the manufacturing side

- in order to minimize the cost (the lightning charger of iPhone)

feedback from the end users

- in order to stay competitive (the resizing of iPhone screen)

ts 3: religious community relies on faith rather than rationality for spiritual well-being

- faith is the source of their spiritual strength and well-being

(prayer- if it is answered, be grateful; if it is not answered, God has better plan)

- criticality is a sign of doubt and temptation



---

67. Some people believe that society should try to save every plant and animal species,

despite the expense to humans in effort, time, and financial well-being. Others believe that society need not make extraordinary efforts, especially at a great cost in money and jobs, to save endangered species.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

---

68. Some people believe that the purpose of education is to free the mind and the spirit.

Others believe that formal education tends to restrain our minds and spirits rather than set them free.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

更新:

这道题按下面的思路写可能更容易展开 例子方面可以考虑思想实验 或者个人经历

可以从 **formal education** 的几个特点来支持原命题

第一正式教育是一种大规模的标准化教育 不同于 **home schooling** 因此面临不同的背景、兴趣、特质的学生接受同样的训练的问题 这不利于个人的发展

第二正式教育尤其是到了大学之后是一种专业的训练 导致分工过细 见树不见森林 将人异化为工具

第三正式教育往往反映主流意识形态 是统治阶级巩固和合法化其政权的工具 对人的独立思考是一种威胁

Two possible approaches

Consider the cases of primary/ secondary school education, college education and professional education.

When students receive formal education at primary and secondary level, most of the subject matters are rather rigid and intend to provide training in basic verbal and quantitative skills and help students accumulate knowledge about the world. Restraining the minds and spirits to some extent is necessary for students to focus on their studies and acquire the basic skills and knowledge they need for further education.

At universities, students are free to choose different courses and explore their own interests. They can think more liberally and do their own original researches to create new knowledge. They can also think critically about the different theories. But these intellectual activities are not possible without the solid foundation laid at earlier stages.

At professional schools such as law schools, medical schools and business schools, students again have to narrow their minds and focus on knowledge and subject matters in specific disciplines. To serve as a medical professional, one has to follow certain protocols and cannot think too creatively when taking care of the patients. ... (same for lawyers and accountants)

So the bottom line is that formal education limits people's minds at some stages in order to accomplish the specific educational goals while at university level students get a chance to think creatively and critically.

To focus on some specific features of formal education

1. professional teachers who can encourage students to think creatively
2. a learning community in which students can learn from one another
3. train basic literacies (literacy) effectively through well-tested common curriculum

All contribute to the liberation of minds and spirit

Then talk about the danger of government control over formal education  
funding of the government may compromise the political neutrality of teachers  
so we have to value academic freedom in order to encourage critical and creative thinking

---

69. Some people believe it is often necessary, even desirable, for political leaders to withhold information from the public. Others believe that the public has a right to be fully informed.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

**Outline:**

The public should have the rights to be fully informed because of the nature of the relationship between the public and the government in terms of taxation and representation. As for the information that is sensitive for security reasons, it should be declassified within a limited period of time.

The nature of taxation is the first reason why information about government policy making should be made public.

- The political leaders are essentially the officials hired by the public with tax money; the contractual relationship means that the tax payers have the rights to monitor how the government officials do their jobs.
- the public also have the right to know how the government spends the tax money and whether the funded projects made a difference

the nature of representation is the second reason why information about legislative processes should be made public

- the power of the legislature comes from the voters
- they are supposed to represent the interests of their constituency
- their voting records should be publicly available so the voters can see if the public officials deliver their promises
- the public can then decide if they want to support the politicians again in the next election
- this is the mechanism to ensure that the legislators can be trustworthy

certain information may be withheld temporarily for the sake of national security but eventually should be subject to the public scrutiny

- for security reasons certain information may be classified
- how the leaders negotiate a peace treaty with other states
- how the military actions were planned and executed

But such information should be released in 20 or 50 years so that the politicians may take into account the long-term reputation and legitimacy of their parties when making decisions

---

**70.Claim: Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's major field of study.**

Reason: Acquiring knowledge of various academic disciplines is the best way to become truly educated.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

---

**71.Young people should be encouraged to pursue long-term, realistic goals rather than seek immediate fame and recognition.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

**72.Governments should not fund any scientific research whose consequences are unclear.**

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

---

73. Colleges and universities should require all faculty to spend time working outside the academic world in professions relevant to the courses they teach.

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

**Model Essay:**

It seems to me that to require all faculty members in colleges and universities to take non-academic jobs off campus is a very bad policy for three reasons. First, many faculty members may not find suitable jobs outside the universities. In addition, such policy may increase the attrition rates of faculty members in certain fields. Finally, the policy is not necessary for certain fields where close contact with the professional world is essential.

To begin with, not all faculty members can easily find jobs in the professional world, especially when they are only available for a relatively short period of time. Consider the professors in philosophy and literature for example. While experts in these fields are important for teaching the relevant courses and conducting original research, their skills are not always immediately useful in corporate environment. If faculty members could not find suitable jobs off campus, the policy would be very difficult to be effectively implemented.

Another negative consequence of this policy is that certain departments such as computer science and electrical engineering may lose some talented professors. Technology companies such as Google and Facebook are constantly hunting for employees with expertise in high-performance computing, data mining and machine learning. Even without such policy, universities have to compete against such companies for talents in these fields. The policy would provide professors in fields more opportunities to work in such companies without losing their academic jobs. Once they find suitable jobs in these companies who usually offer much better compensation packages, it is likely that they might leave their university positions. In other words, the policy may increase the attrition rate of faculty members in certain fields.

Some people may argue that in certain fields such as law and medicine it is important for the academic researchers to stay in touch with the professional world. Working experience outside the universities would help them gain more insights into the fields and become better teachers and researchers. In cases like these, the policy of requiring the faculty members to work outside universities would become unnecessary. Professors interested in professional development will seek job opportunities without such requirements. Those who do not may not perform as well as those who do as researchers and teachers.

In conclusion, the policy may not be feasible for faculty members in certain fields who could not find suitable jobs outside universities. It may also increase the attrition rate of certain departments such as computer science for which there is intense competition for talents. As for those fields where professional working experience is highly valued, the policy is also unnecessary.

---

#### 74. Knowing about the past cannot help people to make important decisions today.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

承诺在这里提一个自认为很巧妙的思路

所谓巧妙是指避开讨论复杂艰深的历史问题，从生活中找到了合适的例子

Thesis: I strongly disagree with the statement that information about the past cannot help people make decisions today. In fact, we rely on information about past to make decisions all the time in different fields such as graduate school admission, bank loan application and employment.

TS1 In graduate school admission, GPA and past research experiences are the two most important factors because such information about the applicants' past can help admission officers to predict the applicants' future success.

TS2 When banks evaluate the application for loans, the bank officers will examine the credit history of the individuals to make decisions

TS3 The choosing job candidates for certain positions, the employers will check and see if the candidates have criminal records suggesting that they had committed crimes in the past.

如果有时间还可以加一段

TS4 Some people may argue that predictions based on the past may not be accurate. I agree that this is the case. This is why other information such as GRE scores and personal statements are used to supplement the GPA and research experiences as part of application.

---

75. In this age of intensive media coverage, it is no longer possible for a society to regard any living man or woman as a hero.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

76. We can usually learn much more from people whose views we share than from people whose views contradict our own.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

77. The most effective way to understand contemporary culture is to analyze the trends of its youth.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

Thesis: I strongly agree that analyzing the trends of the youth is the most effective way to understand the contemporary society for two reasons. First, the behaviors of the youth often reflect the values of not just themselves but that of their parents and teachers. Second, it is fairly straight-forward to analyze their behaviors through data from the social media and the credit card transaction.

ts1: The trends of the youth can reflect the values and attitudes of the young people as well as their parents, the two groups of people that form the dominant forces shaping the contemporary culture.

One way to understand the contemporary culture is to look at what the young people buy for clothes, books and entertainment. (follow the money)

it will also somehow reflect the parents' attitudes as they ultimately foot the bills

another approach is to consider what they have to say about what they bought when interacting with others (the talk about the products makes the stories that can reflect the culture)

ts2: the consumption trend could be studied by analyzing the credit card transaction records of the parents and the young people

- big data is now available electronically and shared among the financial institutions and the corporations

- maybe studied through data mining

ts3: the talk about the consumption could be studied through analyzing the social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

- natural language processing

- hashtag

- image recognition

---

78. People's attitudes are determined more by their immediate situation or surroundings than by society as a whole.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Model Essay:**

The society as a whole, the attitudes of individuals towards different issues and the immediate situation or environment interact with one another to create the complex human experience as we know it. In my opinion, our attitudes are fundamentally shaped by the society through education, media and government policies which also, to a large extent, determine the situation and surroundings in which we find ourselves.

Education is an important social institution that determines our attitudes as well as our social environment. Take the simple example of priority seating in public transportations. As schoolchildren, we learned the social etiquette of offering our seats to those in need, e.g. pregnant or sick passengers. Such practices are encouraged in our education based on the golden rule: "Treat people the way you want to be treated." Our attitudes towards our fellow passengers are shaped by this belief developed through education. Meanwhile,

the society would also make sure the environment reflects the same principle that is consistent with our attitudes. Priority seats are clearly marked in buses and subway trains to remind us this social etiquette. In other words, the society would first shape our attitudes and then design our environment that would facilitate the related practices.

Our attitudes are also determined by the society via the mass media and the corporations. This is particular true in today's consumer-oriented society. Through extensive advertising campaigns, we are brainwashed into the belief that we need all the luxurious products and services to be happy. We come to believe that our value as human beings is determined by the material goods we buy as advertised in the media. Meanwhile, the society would shape our environment in such a way that shopping and buying these items are effortless. The Amazon's 1-click ordering, for example, enables the online shoppers to place their orders with just one click without even confirmation. Such arrangement in our surrounding, along with the advertising and promotion in the media, reinforces the attitudes we hold towards consumption.

Finally, the society may also influence our attitudes through government policies. In recent years, gay marriages have become increasingly acceptable in American and European societies as the governments have adopted more lenient policies towards the civil unions or marriages of homosexual couples. Despite the fierce opposition from certain social groups, the public attitudes towards gay marriages have gradually changed from hatred or reluctance to acceptance. On the other hand, the changes in government policies also stimulate the industries for gay romance and wedding. New products and services become increasingly available for homosexual couples to celebrate their relationships and bondings. Again the social environment would respond to the shift in government policies and public attitudes.

In conclusion, I do not believe that our attitudes towards different issues are determined by our immediate surroundings. Rather, our attitudes are shaped by the larger society through institutions such as education, media and government, which, at the same time, would shape our social environment and make sure that it is in harmony with our attitudes and behaviors.

---

79.Claim: The best test of an argument is its ability to convince someone with an opposing viewpoint.

Reason: Only by being forced to defend an idea against the doubts and contrasting views of others does one really discover the value of that idea.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.



---

80. Nations should suspend government funding for the arts when significant numbers of their citizens are hungry or unemployed.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

**Model Essay :**

The argument that funding for arts is not justifiable given the problems of hunger and unemployment is not reasonable when we consider the contribution of the funding to job creation, the little difference the funding could make to solve the problems and the long-term social benefits of arts.

To begin with, the government funding for the arts can help create jobs that may alleviate the problems of unemployment and hunger. For example, when the government finances the construction of an art museum, it will create numerous jobs in buildings industry and help stimulate the local economy. With a stronger economy, the government can then receive more tax money to provide benefits for the society, including those suffering from poverty and hunger. Once the museum is built, it will further create more jobs, including those that require low-level skills, e.g. security guards. The low-income people will then benefit from the project and these people are more likely to help those who suffer from poverty as they often come from the same socioeconomic class.

In addition, this recommendation is not helpful when the problems of unemployment and hunger are so severe and widespread that the amount of funding for arts is insignificant, if not trivial, relative to the efforts required to address the problems. I do not have any quantitative data to present a more precise analysis. But intuitively it is safe to believe that we need far more resources to help those suffering from hunger and unemployment for which the funding for arts would not make much difference. In addition, we need to recognize that the problems of unemployment and hunger are not simple matters that can be solved with money alone. There are a host of institutional and economic problems causing unemployment and hunger that suspending funding for arts can barely help address.

Finally, we should not overlook the long-term, unobtrusive benefits of arts for solving social problems such as unemployment and hunger. For one thing, people who are unemployed may find it helpful to spend some time in an art museum and find some emotional comfort in the art works. Government funding for such art projects would benefit unemployed people who may find hope and strength to move on in their lives. Meanwhile, art projects may address fundamental issues in human nature such as greed and anxiety

that are the ultimate causes of unemployment and poverty. While funding for such projects may not help the unemployed or hungry people immediately, the art works may direct more public attention to the related issues and contribute to the development of long-term solutions.

In conclusion, it is naive to assume that suspending the funding for arts can solve the problems of unemployment and poverty. In fact, government-funded arts have important short-term and long-term benefits for addressing both problems.

---

### 81. All parents should be required to volunteer time to their children's schools.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

TS: I strongly agree that all parents should spend some time volunteering for their children's schools because doing so may help the parents to participate in the school affairs and better understand their children's academic and personal development. While parents may not have time to come to the schools in person, they might volunteer their time through online teleworking.

ts1 : the first benefit of this policy is that parents may become more actively involved in the school affairs

- volunteering in PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) enables parents to participate in the decision-making of the schools (with the support of the parents, the decisions can be executed more effectively)
- volunteering in extracurricular activities may provide students with extra learning opportunities (some parents may have special talents or hobbies)
- volunteering in career counseling and mentoring (better network; insights from the industry)

ts2: the second benefit of this policy is that parents can better understand the development of their own children

- know more about the school affairs and how they may affect the learning and development of the children
- provide support for the children according to the school policies
- get more information about children while interacting with the teachers

ts3: some parents may not have time to come to the schools as volunteers

- they can always volunteer their time through online collaboration with teachers and other parents
- Facebook groups and Google docs can be used
- help review the proposals and contribute ideas online
- participate in the discussion through video conference or make decisions by email

**82. Colleges and universities should require their students to spend at least one semester studying in a foreign country.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

分析: I agree that this recommendation would be beneficial for students specializing in certain disciplines such as foreign languages, international trade and comparative politics. Yet, students in other fields such as national language and literature, history and archeology would find the requirement unnecessary. Moreover, students with limited financial resources or abilities to adapt to the new environment may not benefit from the recommendation.

I agree that this recommendation would be beneficial for students specializing in certain disciplines such as foreign languages, international trade and comparative politics.

句子的功能: 针对题目的建议提出立场, 指出这个建议对某个群体的学生是有益的。

同意转换: this recommendation would be beneficial for 如果改成 benefit 怎么写 如果改成 students 做主语又怎么写

语法结构:

students specializing 动名词后置对前面的名词进行限定

disciplines 作为一个概括性的名词后面跟 such as 及并列结构引出具体的例子

注意下面的两个句子也是表面立场, 但是针对不同的学生群体, 这个建议就可能不好

Yet, students in other fields such as national language and literature, history and archeology would find the requirement unnecessary. Moreover, students with limited financial resources or abilities to adapt to the new environment may not benefit from the recommendation.

这个句子里是如何表达不好的? 这里为了避免词汇重复用了什么词? 还可能用什么词?

练习

129) College students should base their choice of a field of study on the availability of jobs in that field.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

尝试用上面的句型写出这道题的第一段

基本思路为

对于家境富裕的学生, 这个建议没有好处, 他们可以根据自己的兴趣来选专业

对于特别有才华的学生，这个建议也不好，因为他们应该根据自己的才华来选专业，将来总会有工作

对于经济压力较大的学生，这个建议很合适，因为对他们来说找到工作最重要

There is no doubt that students studying certain subjects will benefit tremendously from the overseas experiences. One obvious example is students majoring in a foreign language. To further improve their proficiency in that language, there is no better way than spending a semester in that country and using the language with native speakers. They can also get more exposure to the local culture which is essential for mastering the language. In addition, the study-abroad program may also provide students the opportunities to access top faculty members and state-of-the-art research facilities in certain fields that are not available in their own universities. Students majoring in computer science may benefit if they could study in some American universities which feature top experts and host internationally-renowned laboratories in the field.

On the other hand, for students majoring in other subjects such as national history, literature and archeology, the requirement would add little extra value to their college education. For one thing, students in these fields can find the best professors in their home countries and studying in a foreign university would unlikely provide them the opportunities to learn from top experts in the fields. In addition, their home universities or other universities in their home countries would provide the library materials and archives they need to conduct their researches. Again there is no need to study abroad. Finally, they can collect more useful original data by doing field work domestically rather than going abroad.

It is also important to take into account students' financial situation and abilities to adapt to new environment before adopting the proposed policy.

上面这篇没写完

今天重新写了一篇完整的范文

There are two reasons why I believe that the requirement of studying abroad for one semester is important for the development of students. First, it is particularly helpful for students to sharpen their foreign language skills that can benefit their future careers. In addition, the experiences of studying in a foreign country can help the students better understand their own country and culture through intercultural communication. As for the concern about the cost of studying abroad, exchange programs and scholarships should be offered to make the opportunities of studying abroad more affordable.

To begin with, students should be required to study abroad so that they can improve their proficiency levels of a foreign language. This policy is particularly important for university students from non-English speaking countries. With English becoming the dominant lingua franca for academic and business communication, students who use English as a foreign language can benefit tremendously from spending some time in an

English-speaking country. Not only can they get more chance to use the language on a daily basis and practice the language skills with native speakers. They will also become much more confident users of the language after studying abroad. With English skills becoming increasingly important for one's future career, this requirement can help the students become more marketable and employable.

The second reason why I believe this requirement is helpful is that students can also better understand one's own culture after spending some time in a foreign country. This may seem a bit counter-intuitive at the first glimpse. But the truth is students studying abroad will often have more opportunities to introduce their home cultures to local students with limited knowledge about their countries but strong interest to learn more. They also need to answer questions about their home cultures raised by foreign friends who do not take things for granted. By serving as a cultural ambassador of one's home country, one can deepen one's own understanding of the home culture. The new perspective that is very valuable may not be possible if students stay in their home countries for college studies.

People may be concerned with the cost of studying abroad and argue that this requirement may impose extra financial burden on students and their families. Here are two ways this concern can be addressed. First, the study-abroad program usually takes the form of exchange program through which the local university exchange students with a partner university abroad. Under such arrangement, students only need to pay tuition at the local universities and their tuition fees in the foreign university will be paid by the foreign exchange students paying their local tuition. Therefore the tuition will not be more expensive. Meanwhile, scholarship and financial aid should be provided to cover the transportation and living expenses for studying abroad. Through the financial support of the government and/or the universities, students with limited financial resources can also have the opportunities to study abroad.

In conclusion, the policy of requiring students to study abroad can provide valuable opportunities to practice their foreign language skills and reflect on their own cultures from new perspectives. Meanwhile, exchange programs and financial aid programs should be introduced to help students with financial difficulties.

---

### **83. Teachers' salaries should be based on the academic performance of their students.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

---

**84. It is no longer possible for a society to regard any living man or woman as a hero.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**85. Some people believe that in order to thrive, a society must put its own overall success before the well-being of its individual citizens. Others believe that the well-being of a society can only be measured by the general welfare of all its people.**

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

将 **overall success** 定义为 **economic development**, 论述 **overall** 和 **individual** 两者之间的关系。1, 总结出 **overall success** 跟 **general welfare** 是统一的, 跟 **specific group of citizens** 是不统一的, 某些政策的提出与一部分人的利益相搏, 但通过整体计算, **general welfare** 可以保证; 2, 举例三峡工程 **Three Gorges Project** 使得大批库区居民家园被毁坏, 牺牲了一部分的利益, 但换来了经济利益和长远的整体的成果; 3, 举例计划生育政策 **one-child policy** 限制了人生育的权利, 但政策的目的是为了保证国家经济的阶段性发展。(类似的例子还有 **international trade/free trade** 与 **trade protection** 之间的矛盾; 数码化、机器人使一部分人失业但很大程度上提高了整个社会的运作效率)

TS1: I believe that a society should focus on its overall success which is often measured in long term rather than the well-being of the individual citizens which is often short-term in nature. I would illustrate my position with examples about family planning, transportation infrastructure and sustainable development.

ts1 : the one child policy in China hurt certain families such as those who lost their only children and those who are forced to abort their babies but may be justified considering the long-term development of the national economy

- the suffering of the parents who lost their only children
- the suffering of the women who are forced to abort their babies
- the importance of one child policy for population control and the improvement of population quality

ts2 : the development of transportation infrastructure in cities often means the worsening of the traffic jam and the inflation in the short term but upgrading of the economy that is beneficial for the long term

- the building the subway usually means less road available for the traffic for a few years
- the large construction projects may also lead to labor shortage and inflation
- but the transportation infrastructure upgrades could lead to long-term economic growth as the cities can increase its overall productivity and attract more investment

ts3: The idea of sustainable development further illustrates why society should focus on its long-term overall success.

- the idea of sustainable development: the development of the current generations should not compromise the opportunities of development of future generations
- environmental protection
- the replacement of fossil fuel with renewable energy sources
- to practice such principles may lead to the decline of certain industries and unemployment for many
- but it is essential for the overall success in the long term

---

86. Some people believe that government officials must carry out the will of the people they serve. Others believe that officials should base their decisions on their own judgment.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

**87.Claim: Any piece of information referred to as a fact should be mistrusted, since it may well be proven false in the future.**

Reason: Much of the information that people assume is factual actually turns out to be inaccurate.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

Any piece of information referred to as a fact should be trust in engineering fields and science fields, but not in social science fields.

In engineering fields, information should be trusted as long as it can be applied into practice.工程领域以后推翻或者证伪不会影响现在的应用价值。举例：爱迪生发明电灯使用了钨丝，即使后来人们发现了更好的灯丝材料，钨丝电灯在那个年代任然适用。

In science fields, information now should also be trusted because it can be used to explain many phenomena. 举例：相对论与牛顿万有引力定律。

In social science, however, any piece of information referred to as a fact should be mistrusted and more proof is needed because the information may be biased.搜集数据者先入为主，使得观察结果带有偏误；根据 Hawthorne effects，观察者知道自己在被观察时表现会受到影响。举例：社会学中的社会调研。

TS: We should not mistrust facts that have been proved logically especially those in mathematics. For facts presented in science, while it is true that they may be proven false later, they can still be trusted in the domain where they are used to solve problems. Nevertheless, facts in politics should be treated with a grain of salt as the information is always colored by the bias of the observers.

ts 1: Facts that have been proved logically should not be mistrusted.

example: the fact that there are infinite prime number

it can be easily proved by contradiction. Given a finite set of prime number, one can always get another prime number by adding one to the product of all the set of prime numbers.

Facts like this should not be mistrusted because it has been proved rigorously in math. And it is guaranteed to be timeless truth.

ts 2: Facts found in science may be proved wrong later but the facts should be trusted so long as they are still useful in certain domain.



- Newtonian physics are later proved wrong by Einstein's theory of relativity
- the Newton's law, for example, may not apply when an object travels at a speed near the speed of light
- but facts in Newtonian physics are still useful in many fields such as civil engineering and mechanical engineering
- we still rely on such facts to drive the automobiles, fly the airplanes and send the satellites to the space

ts 3: Information presented as facts in politics should be mistrusted for two reasons.

- it is not possible to see the whole picture and the information is always collected based on the interest of the observers

example: US criticizes China's human right records and China also criticizes US's human rights records

- US focuses on the human rights violation in China such as censorship and arresting dissidents but ignores the facts that national security is the prerequisite of protecting human rights
- China focuses on the overuse of police force and gun violence but overlook the fact that such problems are complex and deeply rooted in US history
- facts are presented with political motivation should always be mistrusted as they may be challenged later with more information or hindsight

---

**88.Claim: Nations should suspend government funding for the arts when significant numbers of their citizens are hungry or unemployed.**

Reason: It is inappropriate—and, perhaps, even cruel—to use public resources to fund the arts when people's basic needs are not being met.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

---

89.Claim: Many problems of modern society cannot be solved by laws and the legal system.

Reason: Laws cannot change what is in people's hearts or minds.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

在考场上我的基本思路是这样的

基本观点：完全不同意 claim 同意 reason

第二段 从个人层面讨论法律可以通过提供 incentive 和 disincentive 来调整人的行为 举例包括冲红灯 酒驾 指出即使法律无法改变人的想法 只要能改变人的行为就能解决很多问题

第三段 从企业的层面讨论 法律可以通过提供 incentive 和 disincentive 改变企业经理人的行为 举例是逃税问题 通过罚款来减少逃税 即使经理不愿意交税 也得交

第四段 从政府的角度讨论 法律赋予政府权力 调配资源解决各种社会问题 举例是小布什的 No Child Left Behind Act 其实对于那个 Act 我只知道这个名字 具体是什么完全不记得了 不过这些法案都离不开拨款 所以说这个 Act 给联邦政府资金去帮助那些穷人读的学校

以上三段都在最后部分提到 reason 指出虽然法律无法改变思想 但可以改变行为 从而解决问题

写到这里本来可以结束的 但还有 10 分钟时间为了保险起见 加了第五段

第五段 既然法律这么牛 为什么还有这么多问题没有解决呢 问题不在于法律不能改变人的思想 而在于我们未能充分发挥法律的潜能 unleash the potential of the legal system

第六段 结束 同意 reason 但不同意 claim 强调一下法律制度还有潜力可挖

以下这篇是我之前的练习。

According to the prompt, laws and the legal system cannot solve many social problems in today's world because it is impossible for the system to change how people feel or think. While we need to acknowledge the usefulness and importance of the legal system in solving a great many problems for individual members of the society on a daily basis, it is true that the current legal system is less effective when it comes to solving social problems at large scale. Nevertheless, as I will illustrate with my examples, the inefficiency of laws mainly results from the complexity of the social problems rather than the reason stated in the prompt.

To begin with, it is important for us to recognize the essential roles played by laws in our daily life as we rely on the laws to solve many problems confronting the individual citizens. Take the simple example of traffic laws. The only reason why we can safely cross the streets is that the drivers of all vehicles usually obey the traffic laws, i.e. (e.g.) stop when the light is red or at a stop sign. The traffic laws also make sure that drivers who are engaged in dangerous behaviors, e.g. drink and drive or hit the red light, will be punished. The prospect of getting punished serves as an effective deterrent for the drivers (usage about deterrent) to follow the laws most of the time. As a result, we enjoy a safe environment as pedestrians and passengers most of the time.

On the other hand, we have to admit that laws are far from effective in addressing a number of widespread social problems in our world today. One of the most poignant examples is the seemingly widening income gap and the resulting poverty many people have to suffer. The government has introduced different legislative measures to address the problems of poverty and income gap such as the compulsory education for children and the progressive income tax system. Through compulsory education, it is hoped that children from the lower socioeconomic classes can also benefit from education and move upward in the social ladder with more employable skills. Likewise, the tax money from the middle and upper class is used to provide basic services and welfare for the poor.

Unfortunately, however, the laws that intend to solve one social problem may lead to another social problem, which may further complicate the original one. For example, the law of compulsory education has kept many adolescents in schools who have neither interests nor talents to pursue their academic studies. By the time they leave the schools, they do not have the skills that the schools should help them develop and become unemployed right away. Meanwhile, the progressive income tax system may discourage the middle and upper class from working hard or make more purchases, thereby harming the overall economic development.

Based on my analysis of the laws that may help us as individuals but may not solve social problems, it is clear that laws may create incentives or disincentives to change people's behaviors and solve problems at individual level. Nevertheless, for more complicated social problems such as poverty, laws may be less useful because there are too many factors involved in the problems and the laws intended to solve one problem may lead to another even more severe one. The effectiveness of laws depends on the extent to which they can change people's behaviors as well as the complexity of the social problem. It has nothing to do with people's thoughts or feelings.

---

90. Educators should take students' interests into account when planning the content of the courses they teach.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and

supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

---

**91. The primary goal of technological advancement should be to increase people's efficiency so that they have more leisure time.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Model Essay:**

In today's world, the economic development has been constantly driven by the advances of new technologies and the ways we live our lives are regularly transformed by new shifts in technological paradigms. It is important for us to reflect on the goal of technological development and its consequences. I agree that the primary goal of technological advancement should be to increase people's efficiency in a variety of activities. But whether or not people will have and enjoy more leisure time depends on the roles different people play in the society and the goals they have in their life.

When developing technologies used by students and researchers in higher education, the goal should be to help them work on their academic studies and research projects more efficiently. One of the major challenges of students and scholars is to keep pace with the increasing amount of scholarships that are now available in digital forms. Search engines such as Google Scholar and Citation management software such as Zotero have enabled the students and researchers to access and manage a large number of research articles efficiently. Yet, with the blessings of such advanced technologies, students and scholars will not enjoy more leisure time. With the increasing competition among students and scholars worldwide for places of further education and research funding, expectations are high for better academic performance and research output. Therefore, it is likely that students and researchers have to work long hours to meet such expectations.

Likewise, the primary concern of advancing technologies for white-collar workers and business managers should also be efficiency, especially when it comes to team work. For example, through teleconferencing enabled by the Internet, people can now work from home by staying in touch with colleagues through microphone and camera, thereby saving the commuting time and increasing the overall work efficiency. This is, in fact, the primary goal of developing new telecommunication technologies. But this new development, instead of offering more time for people to enjoy their leisure activities, threatens to take away the time they should spend with their families. After all, the

boundary between workplace and home has been blurred, with the demand of more work eating away our family time.

The only group of people that actually can enjoy more leisure time as a result of technological innovation is the retired elderly people. The technological solutions designed for them should have efficiency as the top priority so that more time can be saved for leisure. By shopping online via stores such as Amazon.com and eBay, the elderly can stay at home and get everything they need by delivery. Smart refrigerators can help them keep track of the grocery items they need automatically and facilitate the ordering in a much more efficient way. In addition, latest mobile technologies also make it possible for them to do certain body checkup via smart wristwatches, making it unnecessary to even visit the doctor under certain circumstances. The time they saved will go to their favorite leisure activities as they have retired and do not have any commitment to jobs.

In conclusion, it is reasonable to argue that the main goal of technological development is to increase people's efficiency in doing different things and save our precious time. But for most people who have to work and make a living, they would not be able to enjoy more leisure time but often find themselves working long hours to keep up with the pace of modern life. Yet, for the retired elderly, to live in today's world full of technological innovation is a true blessing as they can enjoy a great amount of leisure time.

---

**92. Educators should base their assessment of students' learning not on students' grasp of facts but on the ability to explain the ideas, trends, and concepts that those facts illustrate.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.

---

93. Unfortunately, in contemporary society, creating an appealing image has become more important than the reality or truth behind that image.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Outline:**

按 image 和 reality 是否可以区分开来分别论述。1, image 和 reality 可区分时, 如除去花哨, 只留核心内容的 no frills 生活方式; 2, image 和 reality 为统一整体, 不可区分时, 举例 conspicuous consumption, 如买 luxury goods 就是给别人看的; 3, image 和 reality 为统一整体, 不可区分时, 再举例在 interpersonal relation 中, 人的外表和内在不能区分开, 如很多时候可以判断肥胖的人 obesity 是因为生活方式有问题, 化妆的人 make up 在意别人对自己的评价; smiling 代表态度亲切等。

TS: This statement does not hold true when image is part of the reality or image can accurately reflect the reality. it may be true when image masks the reality or the truth.

ts1: it is impossible to compare the importance of image and the reality when the image is an integral part of the reality.

Example: luxury cars

The external appearance of luxury cars is one of the main reasons why the buyers want the car

they do not buy the cars to drive around

they buy the cars to tell people they can afford the beautiful cars

to get the attention and to pass the message that they are rich

image is the part of the reality

ts2: efforts made to create an image is also legitimate when the image can be used to tell the reality or the truth accurately

example: job interview

a confident and energetic image may convince the interviewer that the candidate is competent and enthusiastic about the job

it is often the case, competent candidates are more likely to look confident

enthusiastic candidates usually appear more energetic

candidates who wear make-up, dress nicely usually take the job opportunity more seriously

ts3: Government officials may do certain things to impress the public and divert public attention to the larger issues

- Obama's attendance and speech at Clementa Pinckney funeral
- POTUS delivered a passionate eulogy
- reinforces his image as the first AA president who cares about the AA community
- but the reality is that racial inequality is deeply rooted in institutional practices such as racial profiling and affirmative actions
- Obama administration have failed when it comes to race relation (Michael Brown case- the tip of iceberg)

---

94. The effectiveness of a country's leaders is best measured by examining the well-being of that country's citizens.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

147) The effectiveness of a country's leaders is best measured by examining the well-being of that country's citizens.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Outline:**

TS: The effectiveness of the national leaders should be best measured by examining how successful the nations achieved their most important goals. During the second world war, the leaders' effectiveness was ultimately judged by the outcomes of the war. During the cold war, the leaders' effectiveness could be measured by progress of the space programs. While it is true that leaders are responsible for improving the citizens' welfare, sometimes they need to work on projects or tasks that may have long-term rather than short-term positive impact on citizens' well-being.

ts1: in wartime, leaders are considered effective if they could lead the nations to win the war despite the great casualty and loss

- Churchill was effective in resisting the threat of Nazi Germany
- Roosevelt was effective in ending the war in Pacific with atomic bombs
- British and American citizens suffered during the war
- but they were effective leaders nevertheless

ts 2: when nations are competing in certain areas, the effectiveness of leaders could be measured by examining the national achievement in those areas

- after the successful launch of Sputnik by USSR, the US was threatened in the area of space exploration
- the US decided to send men to the moon

- the lunar landing is a great achievement indicating the effectiveness of the US leaders
- although there is no direct positive effects to the citizens' well-being

ts3: some people may argue that the statement holds true because the leaders are responsible for maintaining the well-being of the citizens

- sometimes the well-being of the citizens are not the top priority
- during the wartime, to end the war is the main goal which is also important for the long-term prosperity of the nation
- during the cold war, to outperform the Soviet in the space is important

---

**95. All parents should be required to volunteer time to their children's schools.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**96. A nation should require all of its students to study the same national curriculum until they enter college.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**97. Colleges and universities should require their students to spend at least one semester studying in a foreign country.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**98. Educational institutions should actively encourage their students to choose fields of study in which jobs are plentiful.**

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.



---

99. People's behavior is largely determined by forces not of their own making.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

100. Colleges and universities should require their students to spend at least one semester studying in a foreign country.

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

---

101. Although innovations such as video, computers, and the Internet seem to offer schools improved methods for instructing students, these technologies all too often distract from real learning.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Model Essay:**

Technological innovations have inevitably changed the ways students learn in schools and teachers present their materials. Whether or not such innovations may distract students from real learning depends on the specific technology and how they are used for learning. I'll first illustrate how video and computers can be very useful for students to learn certain subjects with some specific examples. Afterwards, I'll discuss the problem of online distraction given the ubiquity of the Internet.

Materials in video form can serve as useful supplement to the written texts for courses in history and literature. In a history course on World War II, for example, students can have better understanding of the issues after watching a documentary film on the topic. Different from the textual account of the historical events, the films treat the topic with multimedia materials, some of which may come from primary sources. The video can offer a fresh perspective on the subject matters and stimulate the students to ask more questions. Since the teachers usually operate the equipment (e.g. DVD players) and have control over what to present, students will not be distracted by materials irrelevant to the topics. Therefore, the use of video should not cause any problems of distraction.

As the use of computers has revolutionized many scientific disciplines, the computing tools have become essential components in learning such disciplines. The study of Calculus nowadays, for example, often involves programming in Matlab, a powerful software and programming language for sophisticated calculation. When using computers to learn programming in Matlab, the students will focus on how to implement the math models by writing codes and learn to debug the codes when errors occur. It is very unlikely that they would be distracted by other activities as Matlab will keep them busy and concentrated. As this example clearly illustrates, digital distraction is not an issue when the students are fully engaged in learning how to use an advanced computer software to solve problems.

The use of certain Internet technologies, however, could lead to the concerns of digital distraction. In many courses, students are often asked to conduct research online and collect materials that can be incorporated in their reports on certain topics. As a result, students often have full access to the Internet with their own computers during the course. As teachers can only supervise one or two students at a time, there is no way to ensure that students are working on their research projects while online. They might find themselves checking their friends's facebook updates or browsing the web mindlessly. After all, doing so requires less effort than doing researches. Digital distraction can be a serious problem in cases like these when teachers do not have full control over how the students use the technology and the students may lack the self-discipline to do what they are supposed to do online.

In conclusion, whether we should be concerned with digital distraction depends on the specific technological innovations used in the teaching and learning processes. When teachers have control over how the tools are used or students are fully engaged with the technology, there is no need to worry about this issue. Nevertheless, more attention has to be paid to digital distraction when students are left on their own on the Internet.

---

**102. Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study.**

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

---

### 103. The best ideas arise from a passionate interest in commonplace things.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

Outline:

TS: Best ideas in math and technology are usually unrelated to commonplace things as the ideas often involve theoretical concepts that are not accessible to people without specialized training. The statement may be valid for certain social sciences such as economics.

ts1: in math, good ideas often arise from collaboration among well-trained mathematicians

- Consider Green-Tao theorem
- as a result of the collaboration of Ben Green and Terrance Tao
- it has nothing to do with commonplace things
- its development involves sophisticated concepts and theories in number theory and other branches of pure math

ts 2: in technology, good ideas often come from hybridization of different existing technologies that are not necessarily commonplace

- consider the design of iPhone
- the idea of smartphone has been around (not very common at the time)
- touchscreen technology also not popular at the time
- the hybrid of smartphone and touchscreen leads to iPhone

ts 3: in social science, strong interest in how commonplace things affect human behaviors may lead to insightful ideas

- consider the study of how seatbelt laws affect drivers' behaviors
- economists with passionate interests in seatbelt (a commonplace thing) dedicate a great amount of efforts to research
- found the unintended consequence of seatbelt laws (reduction of risk leads to more reckless driving and more pedestrians injuries)

**104. To be an effective leader, a public official must maintain the highest ethical and moral standards.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

这道题可以考虑分不同情况来写，可将政府官员的行为分为履行职务时的行为和私生活。指出在履行职务时应该以最高伦理和道德标准要求自己，而在私生活方面则可以按照自己的生活方式来选择。有人可能认为官员私生活不检点会导致民众对他不信任，我认为民众根本不应该知道官员私生活的任何信息。

政府官员在履行职责时应该保持最高的伦理道德标准。

- 防止腐败与滥用权力
- 给下属做榜样、取得下属信任、团队效率
- 制订符合伦理道德的政策

政府官员的私生活可以有更多元化的道德标准

- 消防员在非执行任务时看到火警也不必去救
- 官员驾驶私家车超速应该和普通人受到同样的处罚
- 官员通过某些手段合理避税也不应受到谴责

有人认为私生活不检点会导致民众不信任官员

不信任会导致官员无法正常履行职务

但是官员的隐私应该受到保护

与公职无关的私生活信息不应该被媒体传播

如果民众不了解官员的私生活自然无从质疑

但前提是官员不会因为私生活的问题而影响公职

---

105.Claim: Imagination is a more valuable asset than experience.

Reason: People who lack experience are free to imagine what is possible without the constraints of established habits and attitudes.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

106) In most professions and academic fields, imagination is more important than knowledge.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

126) In most professions and academic fields, imagination is more important than knowledge.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

分析:

1, 就是由于对 commonplace thing 的 passionate interest 才衍生出人们对 knowledge 的渴求; 2, 衍生出人们对探索 research 的 commitment; 3, 也正是因为这个好主意适用于 commonplace thing, 所以 idea 才 influential。

TS: Both imagination and experience are important ingredients for success in different undertakings or projects. I believe that imagination is more valuable at the early stages of the projects when the novelty of the ideas is crucial. At later stages, however, the implementation of the ideas and the management of the projects would require the team members to have experience in different areas. I would illustrate my point with the stories of Google, Wikipedia and Alibaba.

ts1: imagination is more important and valuable for a company or an organization at the early stage of its development

all successful companies began with an imaginative idea

- Google's idea of ranking web pages based on the number of back links (an example of crowdsourcing)

- Taobao's idea of serving as a middleman for online transaction (a model that help maintain trust among strangers)

- Wikipedia's idea to allow everyone to edit an online encyclopedia (blur the line between users and producers of knowledge)

ts2: as the projects grew big, the experience of effective management becomes more valuable

- financial management
- human resources management
- operation management

ts3: equally important is the experience of understanding and meeting the needs of the customers and the society

- deal with the need of the customers
- negotiate with the government

---

106. In most professions and academic fields, imagination is more important than knowledge.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

107. To be an effective leader, a public official must maintain the highest ethical and moral standards.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

108. Critical judgment of work in any given field has little value unless it comes from someone who is an expert in that field.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

110) Critical judgment of work in any given field has little value unless it comes from someone who is an expert in that field.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

批判性的判断在任何领域当中都是没什么用处的,除非判断来自于该领域专家。

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.【第一类写作指导】

这道题没有对领域进行限定,认为只有专家对作品的批判性判断才有价值。显然我们需要考虑分不同的领域来讨论。而在考虑选择不同领域的时候,我们还要搞清楚一个问题,即专家和非专家的区别在哪里。另外还可以考虑的一点是,在某个领域的专家和这个领域以外的专家的区别。题目认为只有前者的评判有价值,而我们似乎可以指出后者的评价也很有价值。

开头段

在提出观点之前,最好简单介绍背景。这里的背景可以指出在各个领域我们都需要评价作品的价值从而认可那些优秀的作品和创作者。于是有人提出这个题目中的观点。而我认为在某些领域如纯粹数学,作品的价值只能由领域内专家评价;而有些领域例如经济学、工程学,除了领域内专家评价外,还需要领域外专家的评价;而在一些应用领域如广告设计、电视剧本编写,作为非专家的观众的评价显然是十分重要的。

第二段 纯粹数学的论文、成果只能由领域内专家评判

涉及的理论概念只有领域内专家能够理解

对于这个工作对本领域的贡献也只有本领域专家对领域的发展比较熟悉

领域内专家可以提出批判意见指出下一步的改进方向

学科本身并无应用、相对其他领域比较超前,因此领域外的专家无法给出意见

第三段 经济学、工程学等领域的研究需要领域外的专家评判

经济学理论已经被应用到法学、政治学、人类学等多领域

经济学家在这些领域所做的工作需要得到来自这些领域专家的评判 他们具有相关的知识背景

相关领域的专家可以提出他们的角度和数据来验证相关工作

工程学的研究成果往往涉及多学科 如计算机工程涉及复杂的数学模型 因此数学家的评价也很有价值

第四段 广告设计、电视剧本等作品需要非专家的观众点评

广告设计需要广告受众来批评以修改那些观众不喜欢的元素

麦当劳需要聘请市场调查公司了解家长和孩子对儿童乐园餐广告的看法

电视剧本作家会根据观众对人物的喜好决定下一步人物的命运

这些作品的最终价值取决于观众的喜恶

TS: In some fields such as pure mathematics, only experts in the field could offer valuable critical comments on the works; in other fields such as cosmology, experts from other fields, for example, mathematics and computer scientists may also offer some interesting insights; in more practical fields such as industrial design and movie production, the general public as end users may also contribute to the judgment.

ts1: in certain fields where outsiders can hardly understand the materials, this statement probably holds true.

- example: pure mathematics (Green-Tao theorem)
- difficult for outsiders without proper training to understand
- outsiders not able to make judgment

ts2: in some fields experts from related fields may judge the works with regard to the methodology.

- example: cosmology (involves mathematical modeling and high-performance computing for analyzing big data)
- mathematicians may judge the validity of the math model
- computer scientists may judge the efficiency of the algorithms for dealing with the data

ts 3: the general public without any specialized training may also judge work in certain fields such as industrial design and movie

- Apple ran numerous focus group discussions to collect comments from layperson end users on their design
- one of the key principle of user interface design is user-friendliness (users should find it easy to use)
- Hollywood movie studios also run workshops for layperson to read stories before the screenplays are finalized



### 109. Some people believe that scientific discoveries have given us a much better

understanding of the world around us. Others believe that science has revealed to us that the world is infinitely more complex than we ever realized.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

示范:

这道题的两个观点一个认为科学发现使我们对世界的认识加深,另一个认为科学展示了一个比我们想象中更复杂的世界。这道题的关键在于我们是谁,对于不同的人,科学的意义是不同的。一般来说,科学对于普通大众来说就是真理或者各种问题的完美答案;然而科学家们却知道科学充满了不确定性,每一次科学的突破都是对之前理论成果的修正甚至颠覆。由此可见,不同的身份和视角会产生完全不同的观感。

Do advances in scientific researches help us better understand the world we live in? Or are we increasingly perplexed by the new scientific knowledge constructed by the research community? The answers to these questions would depend on which groups of people we are talking about here. For the general public, science has provided solutions and resolved puzzles about the world we live in and enabled us to understand events in the world with confidence. For the scientific researchers, however, science is far less certain and settled, creating more complex puzzles than anyone can possibly solve completely.

开头先用问句的形式复述题目的主要意思 然后明确指出答案取决于哪一类人群

主旨句: 对于大众来说,科学使我们有信心的理解这个世界解决各种疑惑;而对于科学家来说,科学不断的提出新的难题,呈现出一个复杂而神秘的世界

There is no doubt that science has offered plausible explanations to many phenomena and events which used to confuse and intimidated people in the past. Take germ theory for example. Before the advent of germ theory, human beings did not understand why they got sick and often came up with bizarre theories and treatments which did more harm than good. Germ theory has greatly advanced our understanding of how and why people caught different diseases and more effective therapies had been developed as a result. Likewise, the discovery of relativity theories have enabled human beings to better understand how mass can be converted to nuclear energy. Such insights not only helped us to learn more about how energy was generated in the sun. They also created new opportunities for us to harness nuclear energy.

这一段主要讲自然科学让公众了解更多 具体举例是医学上的细菌理论和相对论与核物理。

In addition to natural science, social sciences also brought the public many new knowledge about how the society worked. Microeconomic theories, for example, have been developed to explain and predict human behaviours in a wide range of contexts. Through the quantitative analysis of a large amount of data about drivers' behaviours before and after the introduction seatbelt laws, economists have learned that while

seatbelt laws may provided extra protection for drivers and passengers, more pedestrians had been killed as drivers tended to drive less cautiously with the protection of seat belts. Such insights from social science carry important implications for the relevant social and legal policies and contributed to our understanding of the society.

科学还包括社会科学 还是上面的论点 换成经济学的例子 建议大家读点曼昆吧 很有用的

While theoretical insights from both natural and social sciences have greatly advanced the public understanding of the natural world and the human society, the frontier researchers in sciences are far less certain about the world as they know it. When it comes to the cutting-edge research areas, the well-established theories may not be very useful in explaining the empirical observations. For example, theoretical physicists have long struggled to unify the theory of general relativity that offers elegant explanation for the world at the macro level with the theory of quantum mechanics that is more applicable to the micro world. Economists also find it difficult to explain why free markets could fail soundly to rescue the developed world from periodic financial crisis and why less liberal economies such as China seem to be more robust than its more democratic counterparts like India. To explain the empirical observations that may challenge the existing theories, scientists have to search for new theories constantly and be prepared to be challenged with even more empirical data.

中间第三段讲科学家面临的困惑

一个是相对论与量子力学之间的矛盾 好吧 我是道听途说的 另一个是经济学家面临的市场失灵及中国经济为什么如此强等等

In conclusion, as members of the general public, we are lucky to live in this scientifically and technologically advanced world where most phenomena can be adequately explained by experts in the respective scientific fields. But members of the scientific research community have a long way to go for developing a set of comprehensive theories that can settle most, if not all, puzzles in the world.

---

**110. Critical judgment of work in any given field has little value unless it comes from someone who is an expert in that field.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**111. In any profession—business, politics, education, government—those in power should step down after five years. (8,111,149)**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**112. Requiring university students to take a variety of courses outside their major fields of study is the best way to ensure that students become truly educated.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

**113. Claim: The surest indicator of a great nation is not the achievements of its rulers, artists, or scientists. (113/28/120/121/127/145)**

Reason: The surest indicator of a great nation is actually the welfare of all its people.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

---

**114. Any leader who is quickly and easily influenced by shifts in popular opinion will accomplish little. (16/86/114/115/139)**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

**115. Government officials should rely on their own judgment rather than unquestioningly carry out the will of the people whom they serve. (16/86/114/115/139)**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

**116. A nation should require all of its students to study the same national curriculum until they enter college. (116/6/14/96)**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

117. It is primarily in cities that a nation's cultural traditions are generated and preserved.

(117/5 funding for big city culture 示范 是 issue 5 的一部分)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

118. We can learn much more from people whose views we share than from people whose views contradict our own. (49/76/79/146)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

119. When old buildings stand on ground that modern planners feel could be better used for modern purposes, modern development should be given precedence over the preservation of historic buildings.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

分析:

1, 做决定之前, 先了解利益相关者 stakeholder 的意见及不同 old building 的 value 具体如何; 2, 城市有效规划和保留 old building 可以两全其美时, 重新装修内部用于 modern purpose 如博物馆等, 在风格上保持一致; 3, 城市有效规划和保留 old building 不可两全其美时, 只好 demolish 房子, 但可留下电子扫描版本 scanning technology 以备之后有需要可以重建或做研究所用。

TS: I strongly disagree that historic buildings should be sacrificed for the sake of modern development. In fact, preservation of historic buildings is important for education and tourism of the cities. For the purpose of modern development, the urban planners should try to build satellite cities around the old cities to balance the need for preserving historic buildings and the demand of space for economic development.

ts1: preservation of historic buildings can create educational value for young people, researchers and the city residents

- for young people, the buildings can help them to learn more about the history of the city and the nation
- for researchers, they can collect more first-hand historical data
- for city residents, the buildings help cultivate their sense of identity as part of the city

ts2: well-preserved historic buildings can also boost the tourism of the city as well as the nation

- the historic buildings may attract more tourists
- the booming tourism can create more jobs
- it can help attract more foreign investment

ts3: some people may argue that the city needs more space and land for economic development

- more land is needed for housing, transportation and office building
- urban planners should consider building satellite cities around the old city
- it is easier to build a new city from scratch than to renovate the old city
- such policy can also help lift the people in the suburban and the rural area from poverty

---

**120.Claim: The surest indicator of a great nation must be the achievements of its rulers, artists, or scientists.**( 120/121/127/145/28/113/)

Reason: Great achievements by a nation's rulers, artists, or scientists will ensure a good life for the majority of that nation's people.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

---

**121.Some people claim that you can tell whether a nation is great by looking at the achievements of its rulers, artists, or scientists. Others argue that the surest indicator of a great nation is, in fact, the general welfare of all its people.**(121/120/127/145/28/113/)

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

---

122. The best way to understand the character of a society is to examine the character of the men and women that the society chooses as its heroes or its role models. (122/22)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

123. The best way for a society to prepare its young people for leadership in government, industry, or other fields is by instilling in them a sense of cooperation, not competition.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

128) Some people argue that successful leaders in government, industry, or other fields must be highly competitive. Other people claim that in order to be successful, a leader must be willing and able to cooperate with others.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

分析:

The best way for a society to prepare its young people for leadership in different fields is by instilling in them a sense of cooperation, not competition, because cooperation can teach young people how to communicate with others and how to work together with others, which are of great significance for leadership.

First of all, cooperation can teach young people how to communicate with others. 合作促进交流, 竞争阻碍交流, 交流能力对于领导能力很重要。举例: 对交流方式的选择: email, telephone, message.

What is more, young people can practice how to work with others in cooperation while only rely on themselves in competition. 合作能够锻炼年轻人对不同的人 and 不同资源 coordination 的能力, coordination 的能力对于领导力很重要, 能够让合适的人在合适的位置, 效率最大化。

People may argue that a sense of competition will make students more hardworking and industrious. I, however, insist cooperation is more important than competition because young people have already learned competition during their growth. 生活中已经有太多竞争, 竞争意识不需要灌输。

TS: I agree with the statement that future leaders need to appreciate the importance of cooperation for the success of governments and corporations. In fact, cooperation is essential within an organization and among different organizations. While competition is also important for leaders, most young people learn enough about it as they grow up.

ts1: Future leaders have to understand the importance of cooperation within an organization in which people with different expertise can work together productively.

- the idea of comparative advantage
- leaders need to understand how team members with different skills and expertise can work together to create more value together
- leaders also need to design a work flow that can facilitate the cooperation
- to do that young people have to develop a sense of cooperation through extracurricular activities

ts2: It is also important for young people to learn what an organization needs to cooperate with other stakeholders in the society.

- the importance of negotiation among different stakeholders
- the example of Google who failed to cooperate with Chinese government
- not only Google is not accessible in China; now gmail is also blocked
- cooperating with other organizations is also important
- young people need to learn that

ts3: While there is no doubt that competition is also essential for any organization, most young people learn how to compete through formal schooling.

- competition is important for creating incentives to make progress
- but most students learn that in schools when they work hard to compete for places in college
- they will also learn that when they compete for jobs and leadership positions

---

**124.All college and university students would benefit from spending at least one semester studying in a foreign country.( 124/82/97/100)**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

**125. Some people claim that a nation's government should preserve its wilderness areas in their natural state. Others argue that these areas should be developed for potential economic gain.** ( 125/10/148)

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

---

**126. In most professions and academic fields, imagination is more important than knowledge.** ( 126/105/)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**127. The surest indicator of a great nation is not the achievements of its rulers, artists, or scientists, but the general well-being of all its people.** ( 127/121/120/145/28/113/)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**128. Some people argue that successful leaders in government, industry, or other fields must be highly competitive. Other people claim that in order to be successful, a leader must be willing and able to cooperate with others.** ( 128/123)

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

---

**129. College students should base their choice of a field of study on the availability of jobs in that field.** ( 129/20/32/39/98/136)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.



130. Some people believe that corporations have a responsibility to promote the well-being of the societies and environments in which they operate. Others believe that the only responsibility of corporations, provided they operate within the law, is to make as much money as possible.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

这道题好像 ETS 出过范文

1, 要求企业担当所谓的社会责任从公司制的本质来说是不切实际的, 因为公司制要求公司管理层(专业)management 需要对股东 ownership 负责, 即要实现公司利益的最大化 profit maximization; 2, 可以完善法律, 通过立法来限制, 如不保护环境会受到惩罚。这样一来, 企业责任和经济利益就可以统一了; 3, 也可以通过公众支持来促进。如在环境保护、雇员福利方面做得比较好的企业会更加收到社会支持, 企业就会去提升自己的公众形象, 这样一来, 企业责任和经济利益就可以统一了。

ts1: the nature of corporation as an organization that maximizes its profits means that the managers have the responsibility to make decisions based on whether or not the shareholders' interests could be promoted

- the corporation as an institution separates the ownership and the management
- the managers should be responsible for maximizing the profits for the stockholders
- they should avoid doing anything illegal to reduce the costs
- the market mechanism would ensure that profit-maximizing corps also create value for the society in an efficient way

ts2: Nevertheless, the government may offer some incentives for the corporations to care more about the well-being of the society and environment through tax credit or subsidy.

- tax credit for investment in renewable energy
- subsidy for hiring physically challenged employees or recently unemployed people

ts3: Meanwhile, if the public makes it clear that certain issues do matter, the corporations will also take the public interest into account as their reputation and long-term interests are at stake.

- Google's "do no evil" motto
- people support Google by using it
- Wong Lo kat herbal tea donated a large amount of money to the relief efforts of SiChuan earthquake
- the sales of the herbal tea skyrocketed

---

131.Claim: Researchers should not limit their investigations to only those areas in which they expect to discover something that has an immediate, practical application.

Reason: It is impossible to predict the outcome of a line of research with any certainty.

(参考 36/72)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

TS: I agree that researchers should not limit their studies to areas where immediate and practical application could be expected not because of the difficulty to predict the research outcome. In fact, I would first argue that most researchers can somehow anticipate the research results with some measure of certainty. There are two reasons why researchers should not be practically oriented: first, certain research in pure math and theoretical physics may never have any practical application but are intrinsically and historically valuable; second, some research may lead to more practical applications a few decades later.

ts1: most researchers can predict the outcome of their research; otherwise, they may not be able to get financial support (reject the reason)

- researchers have to convince the reviewers that their research proposals are feasible and promising
- they need to justify the research goals by reviewing the literature
- they have to design the methodology and discuss the anticipated results in their proposals
- most research projects with financial support will lead to some expected outcome (but the outcome may be purely theoretical; nothing practical)

ts2: researchers should devote themselves to projects with no immediate and practical applications as the research may be intrinsically and historically valuable

- Tao's work on prime numbers
- no practical application
- but prime numbers have been studied for thousands of years
- fascinating in its own right

ts3: researchers should also work on research projects that may lead to useful applications in future

- Einstein's theory of relativity was developed without any expectations for practical applications
- the insights from his theory were later used to harness nuclear power

---

132. Some people believe that our ever-increasing use of technology significantly reduces our opportunities for human interaction. Other people believe that technology provides us with new and better ways to communicate and connect with one another.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

跟 issue 1 有关 但是受关注程度低好多

TS: The use of technology enables us to interact with a great number of people by exchanging thoughts and ideas more efficiently and creatively; some people may point out that the use of technology takes away the time that should have been spent with family members and friends, an issue that I would address later in this essay.

ts1: the new technology has enabled people to communicate with one another more efficiently

- email
- facebook
- Skype

ts2: the use of technology also makes it possible for people to interact more creatively

- Wikipedia as a major platform for people to collaborate
- people edit the entries together
- discuss the entries through the talk pages

ts3: some people are concerned that people spent less time with their families and friends

- in fact, technology also facilitates the interaction with families and friends (cell phones help them stay connected; make appointments)
- people who really care about the relationship with families and friends can always find time for them
- they may even use other technology to increase such time

---

133. Claim: Knowing about the past cannot help people to make important decisions today. (74/134)

Reason: The world today is significantly more complex than it was even in the relatively recent past.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

---

**134.Claim: Knowing about the past cannot help people to make important decisions today.**(74/133)

Reason: We are not able to make connections between current events and past events until we have some distance from both.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

---

**135.Educational institutions should actively encourage their students to choose fields of study that will prepare them for lucrative careers.**( /15)

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

---

**136.Educational institutions should actively encourage their students to choose fields of study in which jobs are plentiful.** (136/20/32/39/98/129)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**137.Educational institutions have a responsibility to dissuade students from pursuing fields of study in which they are unlikely to succeed.**( 137 /3/35)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

**138. Some people believe that competition for high grades motivates students to excel in the classroom. Others believe that such competition seriously limits the quality of real learning.**(138/45)

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

---

**139. Claim: Major policy decisions should always be left to politicians and other government experts.**

Reason: Politicians and other government experts are more informed and thus have better judgment and perspective than do members of the general public.  
(16/86/114/115/139)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

---

**140. Some people believe that universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study. Others believe that universities should not force students to take any courses other than those that will help prepare them for jobs in their chosen fields.** (13/46/70/102/112)

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

---

141. It is more harmful to compromise one's own beliefs than to adhere to them.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

Whether this statement holds true or not depends on the social roles of the people who hold the beliefs and the foundation of the beliefs. In the field of politics, legislators and government officials have to compromise their beliefs about specific issues in order to reach consensus in the process of policy making. For the judges in the courts, they need to adhere their beliefs in the rule of laws. For scientists and researchers, they should examine their own beliefs critically using empirical evidence.

TS: Whether the statement holds true depends on the fields in which the belief is challenged. For religious people, it is more desirable to adhere to their beliefs in order to remain spiritually healthy. For scientists and politicians, however, it makes more sense to compromise one's beliefs that are challenged by empirical data or political reality.

ts1: Religious people should stay faithful to their beliefs in God or other doctrines which form the essence of their spiritual identities.

- many religious people grew up with their religious beliefs
- they draw strength and energy from the beliefs
- the religious beliefs are also the foundation of the religious community
- things will fall apart for them if they compromise their own beliefs

ts 2: scientists should test their beliefs against the empirical evidence

- science is an open system in which all theories are refutable
- scientists are ready to abandon their own theories in light of new evidence
- they believe their theories are justified with the existing evidence
- but they are open to the possibility that they might be wrong

ts3: politicians may also change their beliefs in face of political reality

- some conservatives may believe that homosexual relationships are immoral
- but the reality is that increasing number of nations now recognize it as an acceptable form of relationship
- gay and lesbian marriages
- politicians who want to serve the nations need to rethink their beliefs

---

142.Claim: Colleges and universities should specify all required courses and eliminate elective courses in order to provide clear guidance for students.

Reason: College students—like people in general—prefer to follow directions rather than make their own decisions.

(命题和后面几道相反 13 46/70/102/112/140 选修其他课程)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

TS: Universities and colleges should allow students to decide what elective courses to take at different stages of their college education as they need to choose their majors, their focus within the major field and their future careers.

ts1: Taking some elective courses can help them to decide which field of study is the most suitable major for them

- many freshmen are undecided with their majors
- taking some elective courses can help them explore different fields
- if they decided not pursue that major, the courses can still count towards the general degree requirement

ts2: they also need to decide which specific areas they would like to focus on within their major field

- another important decision to make
- within computer science, they may focus on computer architecture, algorithm, operating system or programming languages (elective courses are necessary for them to pursue their interests)
- particularly important if they want to go to graduate schools later

ts3: elective courses are also important for students who decided to pursue certain careers

- some students may be interested in working in a Chinese company
- they will take a few courses to learn Chinese language and Chinese history
- if they want to pursue a law degree later, they may want to take some extra writing-intensive courses to sharpen their writing skills

(note that the three points also focus on some important decisions that students need to make, which also rejects the reason)

---

143.No field of study can advance significantly unless it incorporates knowledge and experience from outside that field.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**Model Essay:**

In modern society, academic scholars constantly learn from researchers outside their fields to make new progress in their own fields. I would like to illustrate the importance of incorporating knowledge and experience from outside the fields in terms of methodological tools, theoretical perspectives and new practices of research.

It is well known that many disciplines rely on some more fundamental fields for methodological tools. Most natural science and engineering fields cannot advance without the help of different mathematical models. The development of cryptography, for example, is not possible without the insights from number theory in general and specific theorems about prime numbers in particular. On the other hand, the advancement of pure mathematics is also aided tremendously by the use of computers which free the mathematicians from tedious calculation. This is why nowadays most introductory Calculus courses at college level would include some components of programming in Matlab.

Scholars in applied social sciences also need theoretical insights and inspiration from more basic social sciences. For example, the legal scholars on traffic laws can benefit from the incentive theory proposed by economists and study the effects of seat belt laws on the behaviors of drivers and how it might affect the safety of pedestrians. In fact, a whole new field known as law and economics has emerged with economic theories applied to the study of laws. Like the legal scholarship, many other fields of study need to incorporate theories from outside to make progress.

Finally, researchers may borrow new ideas and experience in research practices from outside their fields. The idea of crowdsourcing, for example, was first developed in the process of editing Oxford English Dictionary when a large group of amateurs were invited to contribute words to the editorial team. It was recently adopted as a research paradigm in different academic fields with the advent of the Internet. Even in pure mathematics, a crowdsourcing project known as the Polymath had successfully solved some difficult problems attracting mathematicians from all over the world. With the increasing communication among scholars across disciplines, more research practices such as crowdsourcing will be transferred from one field of study to another.



In conclusion, I agree that, in today's academic world, incorporating knowledge and experience from outside the field of study is necessary for the further development of all different fields as researchers need methodological tools, theoretical insights and new ideas about research practices.

---

**144. True success can be measured primarily in terms of the goals one sets for oneself.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

statement 是否成立取决于个人目标是否能迎合当代社会的需要。1, 对于危害社会的个人目标, 即使被达成也不可能被认可; 2, 目标对社会有利, 但不考虑个人利益, 如牺牲了陪伴家人的时间或牺牲了个人原则 conscience 的目标, price is too high 也不能算成功; 3, 只有统一了社会和个人需求的目标才能获得成功。

While I agree that one can measure his or her success based on his or her goals, the validity of such measurement depends on whether the goals are consistent with the values of the society, the means used to achieve the goals is ethical and the price of the "success" is reasonable. In other words, success that is anti-social, unethical or too costly is not true success. I will explain my position with some specific examples as follows.

People can set virtually any goals for themselves; but only those that are beneficial for the society are considered worthy and accomplishments of such are true success. Consider the case of September 11 attacks. A group of terrorists set their goals as hijacking airplanes and killing innocent people to make their political statements. They have succeeded phenomenally in terms of achieving their goals. Such terrorist attacks would not be possible without careful planning for years and the coordination among a group of professionals. But nobody in the civilized world would consider killing innocent people as true success. Rather, such acts are considered shameful and cowardly. As this example clearly shows, success can be measured based on goals only if the goals are beneficial for the society.

In addition to the value of the goals, the means used to achieve the goals is also a relevant issue. Suppose a student aims to perform well in the upcoming final exam. Instead of working hard to study for the tests, he tried to cheat in the exam by bringing a crib sheet. The goal is certainly worthy and even admirable. But the means through which he achieves his goal is unethical. His good exam results do not accurately reflect his academic performance. Doing so is also unfair to other students who are honest in the exams. Even if he was not caught cheating, he was not truly successful.

Finally, we have to consider the cost of the “success” when measuring it. These days, many people focus on building successful careers in their life with the belief that doing so can bring happiness to themselves and their families. Nevertheless, to achieve such goals, they often have to work long hours and sacrifice the time they should have spent with their families. The failure to achieve a work-and-life balance is too high a price for many who earned a successful career but ended up with poor relationships with their loved ones. So true success has to be measured by considering not just the goals but the cost of achieving such goals.

As I explain clearly above, we cannot measure success accurately based on our goals alone. We also need to think about the social value of the goals, the means we use to achieve the goals and the price we have to pay. Without taking multiple perspectives on success, our judgment will be narrow and unreliable.

---

**145. The general welfare of a nation's people is a better indication of that nation's greatness than are the achievements of its rulers, artists, or scientists.**  
( /121/127/28/113/120/121/127/)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

**146. The best test of an argument is the argument's ability to convince someone with an opposing viewpoint.** (79 34 49/76/79/146 不同意见人士沟通之必要 天然高频)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

**147. The effectiveness of a country's leaders is best measured by examining the well-being of that country's citizens.**( 147/94)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

---

148. Nations should pass laws to preserve any remaining wilderness areas in their natural state. (148/10/125/)

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

---

149. In any field—business, politics, education, government—those in power should be required to step down after five years.

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

这道题的题干已经将 profession 分作几个不同的类型，完全符合我所说的分情况讨论。但是要注意写作指引中要 address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position 如果分情况讨论的话 如何回应这个要求是需要提前想清楚的

Leadership is vital for the success of any enterprises, whether it is in the field of business, education or public administration. It is argued that, in order to prevent power abuse and revitalize the organizations, those in the leadership positions should quit their jobs after a certain number of years. I think this proposal will not benefit businesses and educational institutions as leaders in these fields need many years to build their reputation and earn trust from the stakeholders. Nevertheless, it is important for government officials to serve for a limited number of years only.

Consider the leadership in business world first. With the separation of ownership and management in modern corporations, it is important for the stockholders to trust the managers of the businesses. But to earn the trust of the stockholders often takes a relatively long period of time. The managers will need to demonstrate their competence as leaders through years of services and accumulate more experience while working with the staff to develop the best strategic plans for the long-term development of a company. Once the manager reaches the top management, s/he will become a valuable asset that the company cannot afford to lose. If s/he has to leave the position in five years, the company will have to start over the process of cultivating a leader all over again. Therefore, to save money for the investors of the company, this rule should not apply.

With the increasing corporatization of higher education, the same logic also applied to the leadership of universities. As a president of a university, one has to spend years developing intimate knowledge about the industry of higher education and building his/her network with the key people in the circle. S/he will need to promote the university aggressively at a global scale and raise money for different projects and programs that can help the university to stay competitive. This is a very challenging job and if a university is lucky enough to find someone who can do the job well, it makes little sense to let him/her go in 5 years. This is why the leaders of universities often hold their positions for years.

Nevertheless, the proposed rule should apply to government officials who do need to leave their jobs after certain years. One may argue that just like corporate CEOs and university presidents, it also takes years for a government official to learn to do his/her job well and build his/her reputation. This is true to some extent. But it is important to bear in mind that "government, even in its best form, is a necessary evil" as it takes away certain amount of freedom from the citizens in order to preserve peace and order. As a result, the power of the government officials have to be limited through the institutional arrangement that any officials, no matter how competent or reputable they are, have to step down after a certain number of years. The risk of having a dictator justifies the cost of reducing the tenure of a capable leader.

In conclusion, I believe that the proposed rule should not be applied to the fields of business and higher education. But for the government leaders, they should definitely leave their positions after a certain number of years.

这篇文章值得注意的是全篇都没有具体的事例，可以说全部用的 hypothetical example，对于在考场上想不出具体事例的同学，这种思想实验的写法也是值得学习的。

---

**150. Some people believe that corporations have a responsibility to promote the well-being of the societies and environments in which they operate. Others believe that the only responsibility of corporations, provided they operate within the law, is to make as much money as possible. (130/150)**

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

---

151. Some people claim that the goal of politics should be the pursuit of an ideal. Others argue that the goal should be finding common ground and reaching reasonable consensus. (60/151)

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

---

152. The best way to solve environmental problems caused by consumer-generated waste is for towns and cities to impose strict limits on the amount of trash they will accept from each household.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

Outline:

TS: Limiting the amount of trash would not solve the problem because the proposed measure would be difficult to implement and may lead to illegal waste disposal. Clearly better approaches include creating economic incentives for the residents and the companies to reduce domestic waste and using new technologies such as incinerators. As for the impact on the environment caused by incinerators, the use of the technology can be justified if the overall cost is smaller than the costs of the alternative solutions and the technology may be further improved in future.

ts1: it is not feasible for the government to limit the amount of trash that each household can dispose

- the cost of enforcing the law can be very high
- the people may choose to dispose trash secretly and illegally
- the policy may be challenged as the quality of life will be severely compromised

ts2: there are better ways to solve the problems such as creating more incentives for reducing trash and recycling and using new technology (incinerator)

- offering tax credit for recycling companies and imposing taxes on disposable consumer items <http://www.investopedia.com/articles/pf/07/disposablesociety.asp>
- invest in building incinerators

ts3: while the technological solutions such as incinerators may cause more pollution in the short term, more resources devoted to the research and development will further improve its efficiency and functionality

- better models could be developed to understand the chemical processes of burning the trash
- researches will lead to new technologies to process the waste gas before it is released to the atmosphere