

1. Cause and Solution Essay

Topic: Many cities are facing serious traffic congestion problems. What are the causes of this, and what solutions can be implemented?

Essay (276 words)

Traffic congestion has become a pressing issue in many urban areas worldwide, causing economic losses and environmental damage. This problem mainly stems from rapid urbanisation and excessive reliance on private vehicles. However, several practical solutions can be adopted to address it effectively.

One primary cause of traffic congestion is population growth in cities. As more people migrate to urban centres for employment opportunities, the number of vehicles on the roads increases dramatically. In addition, inadequate public transportation systems encourage individuals to use private cars instead of buses or trains. Another contributing factor is poor urban planning, where residential and commercial areas are not strategically designed, resulting in unnecessary travel distances and overcrowded roads.

To mitigate this problem, governments should prioritise the development of efficient public transport networks. Affordable, reliable, and convenient transport options would discourage people from using personal vehicles. Furthermore, implementing policies such as congestion charges and car-free zones could significantly reduce traffic volume in busy city centres. Urban planners should also promote mixed-use developments so that people can live closer to their workplaces and essential services, thereby reducing commuting needs.

In conclusion, traffic congestion is largely caused by urban population growth, dependence on private cars, and ineffective planning. By improving public transportation and introducing smart urban policies, cities can alleviate congestion and improve the quality of life for residents.

Why this is Band 7+:

- **TA:** Clear causes and solutions with fully developed ideas.
- **CC:** Logical paragraphing and cohesive devices (e.g., “Furthermore,” “In conclusion”).
- **LR:** Topic-specific vocabulary (urbanisation, congestion charges, mitigate).
- **GRA:** Variety of complex sentences with mostly accurate grammar.

2. Agree or Disagree Essay

Topic: Some people believe that technology has made our lives more complicated rather than easier. Do you agree or disagree?

Essay (274 words)

In recent decades, technological advancements have transformed nearly every aspect of human life. While some individuals argue that technology has increased complexity, I strongly disagree with this view because modern innovations have improved efficiency and accessibility in multiple areas.

Firstly, technology has simplified communication dramatically. In the past, people relied on letters or expensive phone calls to connect with others across long distances. Today, instant messaging, video calls, and social media platforms allow individuals to communicate effortlessly regardless of location. This convenience has strengthened both personal relationships and professional collaboration.

Secondly, technological developments have enhanced productivity in workplaces. Automation and digital tools enable employees to complete tasks more quickly and accurately than ever before. For example, cloud computing allows businesses to store and share information efficiently, reducing paperwork and administrative burdens. As a result, organisations can operate more smoothly, saving both time and resources.

In conclusion, although technology may introduce certain complexities, its overall impact on communication and productivity has made life considerably easier. Therefore, I firmly believe that technology is a positive force that simplifies modern living rather than complicating it.

Band 7+ Explanation

- **TA:** Clear opinion maintained throughout.
- **CC:** Strong progression of arguments with linking phrases.
- **LR:** Good range (automation, productivity, digital literacy).
- **GRA:** Complex clauses and accurate sentence control.

3. Discuss Both Views and Give Opinion

Topic: Some people think universities should focus on academic subjects, while others believe practical skills are more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Essay (278 words)

There is ongoing debate about whether universities should prioritise theoretical knowledge or practical skills. While academic subjects provide intellectual foundations, I believe higher education should place greater emphasis on practical abilities to prepare students for real-world challenges.

On the one hand, academic subjects are essential for developing critical thinking and analytical skills. Disciplines such as mathematics, philosophy, and science encourage students to question assumptions and explore complex ideas. These abilities are crucial for innovation and research, which contribute significantly to societal progress. Furthermore, certain professions, such as medicine and engineering, require strong theoretical knowledge before practical application can occur.

On the other hand, practical skills are increasingly important in today's competitive job market. Employers often prefer graduates who possess hands-on experience and workplace competencies rather than purely theoretical knowledge. Skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving enable individuals to adapt quickly to professional environments. Moreover, internships and vocational training can enhance employability by providing direct exposure to industry practices.

In my opinion, although academic learning remains important, universities should integrate more practical training into their curriculum. A balanced approach that combines theory with real-world application would ensure graduates are both knowledgeable and job ready.

In conclusion, while academic subjects develop intellectual capacity, practical skills better equip students for employment. Therefore, universities should focus more on applied learning while maintaining strong theoretical foundations.

Band 7+ Explanation

- **TA:** Both views discussed and opinion clearly stated.
- **CC:** Clear structure with balanced paragraphs.
- **LR:** Academic vocabulary (intellectual foundations, employability).

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- **GRA:** Mix of simple and complex sentences with accuracy.

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