

**Part 1** (4 points, 1 point per item). You are going to read some advice on choosing a university course. For questions 26–29, choose the statement from **A–F** which best summarises each paragraph. There is **one** statement that you do not need to use. There is an example (0).

### How to choose a university course

- A** Think about your motivation
- B** Be ready to make changes
- C** Look at the course content
- D** Try to be honest with yourself
- E** Get ready to study hard
- F** Decide how you learn best

0.   **A**   The most important consideration when choosing your course is asking yourself why you want to study in the first place. Is it because you can see your exciting career ahead? Or is it because you want to get specific knowledge? By questioning yourself now, you can work out the exact path you want your course to take you on.
26. \_\_\_\_\_ It is difficult to get accepted onto popular courses, especially those which are in high demand. More importantly, some courses are hard to get in to, while others are too hard to succeed in completing. So you need to think carefully before applying for a competitive course. Are you sure you are capable of doing well in that course?
27. \_\_\_\_\_ To avoid making mistakes, make sure you review the course outline of the course you want to apply for. The outline is usually available on the website of the university. Have a look at the topics and the types of learning, assignments and examination tasks involved. This will enable you to form a rough idea of what lies ahead for you.
28. \_\_\_\_\_ Hopefully you have some idea by now of how you prefer to study. And hopefully the answer is not 'by crossing my fingers as I walk into the exam hall.' Some people study hard before final exams, others like regular tasks to keep them busy throughout the year. Some like to work in groups, others prefer to work individually. Choose whatever suits your study style and you will be more confident in your success.
29. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, this is an important decision. But if you get there and you realise you have made a terrible mistake, it is not too late. Talk to the university staff, and see if there are better options for you there. Don't waste time staring at textbooks you have no interest in whatsoever. Remember, it is all about your passion – keep the excitement alive, and you will succeed.

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## Magna Carta

belong ~~inspired~~ involved made means opportunity part place set

Magna Carta, one of the most important and well-known documents of medieval England, (0) inspired the US Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The four surviving original copies of Magna Carta were brought together in 2015 for the first time in history. The event took (30) \_\_\_\_\_ over three days and launched a year of celebrations across the UK and the world to mark the document's 800th anniversary.

Magna Carta, which (31) \_\_\_\_\_ 'Great Charter' in Latin, was signed in 1215. The document is seen as the basis of Britain's constitution, outlining a unique (32) \_\_\_\_\_ of basic rights. It is believed that about 250 copies of the original manuscript were created and sent to legal and religious officials across the country to make sure it was carried out.

Today there are four surviving copies of Magna Carta. Two copies (33) \_\_\_\_\_ to the British Library, one copy is owned by Lincoln Cathedral and one by Salisbury Cathedral. All three organisations were (34) \_\_\_\_\_ in the event, which was held at the British Library in London.

Before the event, the library had said it would be a "unique (35) \_\_\_\_\_ for researchers and the public to see the original surviving documents side-by-side."

**Part 3** (7 points, 1 point per item). You are going to read an article written by a British student about being active in politics. Seven sentences have been removed from the text. For questions 36–42, choose from sentences A–I the one which best fits each gap. There is **one** sentence that you do not need to use. There is an example (0).

### Students should get involved in politics because they can help shape the political landscape

- A And who can blame them?
- B The decisions of those in power may be in full effect by the time you graduate.
- C It only takes minutes to find out what they are about and join them.
- D You can resist the title of 'adult' for a little bit longer.
- E But students can make it a major political achievement of the country.
- F During the event, politicians seriously encouraged young people to get involved in politics.
- G There are endless opportunities here to get involved in politics.
- H If students attended events like this one, they would be able to make a difference.
- I This, however, defeats one aim of studying in the first place: to prepare for your future.

We've heard it all before: the youth of today are not interested in politics. (0) A The distance between an ordinary student and the people in power can seem gigantic. But you shouldn't feel put-off by politics, because it will affect you throughout your life.

There is the comfort of being at university. (36) \_\_\_\_\_ Being a student is somewhere between being a teenager at home having to go to school, and living independently and actually (or hopefully) being employed. Sadly, though, all good things must come to an end, and eventually you have to become a responsible member of the society. However, many students at university choose to distance themselves from anything even remotely political. It's fairly easy to go through university without getting involved with politics. (37) \_\_\_\_\_

The truth is, whether or not a housing law is passed, or whether the Government is cutting jobs in a certain sector, these decisions will directly affect you when trying to make a living. Therefore, as part of growing up, you should start speaking up for what you believe in and university is a great place to do so. (38) \_\_\_\_\_ For example, one may start with question-and-answer sessions for the students' union elections, or public debates on national issues. You don't need to be a politics student to attend them and you could leave having learnt a lot.

Events, such as the *iDebate*, also bring students closer to leading political figures. The most recent *iDebate* discussed the claim 'British politics does nothing for young people'. (39) \_\_\_\_\_ One of them, 24-year-old Member of Parliament Stuart Donaldson, said: "If you're good enough, you're old enough, so get involved." There's no denying the current political landscape fails to interest every single young person. But the fact that the young audience voted against the suggested claim at the end of the debate demonstrates how such events can narrow the gap between the ordinary student and the people in power. (40) \_\_\_\_\_ That's why all students, at some point in their student life, should go to an event, protest or debate.

In terms of protesting, the modern student activist has lots of resources. Social media has enabled students to protest or to organise protests in a much easier way. (41) \_\_\_\_\_ Online petitions have become the latest way to express agreement, or the opposite, regarding an issue. On websites such as *Change.org*, you can make a petition, and if you gather enough signatures, it gets free publicity. This is yet another opportunity for students to communicate with politicians. (42) \_\_\_\_\_ It will be too late to complain when you're facing difficulties, so forming even a basic relationship with politics could be useful for your entire life.

## Inner-city living makes for healthier and happier people

Contrary to popular belief, busy city centres beat suburban living when it comes to human well-being, as socialising and walking make for happier, healthier people. Downtown residents – packed together in tight row houses or apartment blocks – are more active and socially engaged than people who live in the suburbs, according to a report that aims to challenge popular beliefs about city life. Its authors said their findings should make politicians think again about their plans for built-up city living.

“If we can convince policy makers that this is a public health opportunity, we can build well-designed communities, and in the long term you have made a big difference in health outcomes,” its co-author Chinmoy Sarkar told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. “With evidence, we can plan multi-functional, attractive neighbourhoods that allow for physical activity and social interaction, and shield from pollution and crime.”

The study – by Oxford University and the University of Hong Kong (UHK) – showed that in 22 British cities people living in built-up residential areas had lower levels of obesity and exercised more than residents in scattered, suburban homes. “As cities get more and more compact, they become more walkable. In denser residential areas there are better designed and more attractive destinations. We are less dependent on our cars and use public transport more,” he said. Sarkar, assistant professor at UHK, said policies and planning needed to catch up with the data, rather than relying on urban myths about what makes cities work.

The study showed that suburbs with about 18 homes per hectare – such as neighbourhoods near motorways, where driving is the only option – had the greatest rates of obesity and lowest rates of exercise. Suburban areas with few homes – often privileged communities with big gardens – were healthier than this but lagged behind the most densely populated areas in inner cities.

Walking made the biggest difference, and social interaction and physical activity thrived best in compact communities. The study compared more than 400,000 residents of cities – including London, Glasgow and Cardiff – and found the best health came in areas with more than 32 homes per hectare, the average density for new building in Britain.

Sarkar called into question British policies – such as laws to restrict suburban houses from dividing their plots and filling in more homes in gardens – which have sought to preserve suburbia’s open and emptier spaces. In January the government announced it would build 17 new towns and villages across the countryside in a bid to ease a chronic housing shortage. But Sarkar said policy makers should think again before building on green fields.

Despite spiralling house prices and government targets to build a million homes by 2020, Britain’s restrictive planning system has prevented the development of densely populated areas due to fears that it would lead to high-rise, low-quality blocks of flats, according to a government paper released in February. London remains one of Europe’s most sparsely populated major cities compared to Madrid, Barcelona and Paris, and below the level of Milan, Berlin and Rome. The paper urged local authorities to reverse their long-standing opposition to built-up residential areas by highlighting London’s mansion blocks and terraced streets, all of which encourage a strong sense of neighbourhood.

0. A recent report shows that inner-city living may beat life in the suburbs in terms of conditions for physical and social well-being.
43. The report seems to \_\_\_\_\_ the ideas that many people have about life in cities.
44. Politicians need to understand that creating carefully thought-out and friendly neighbourhoods could lead to desirable \_\_\_\_\_ in terms of healthcare over a longer time period.
45. For example, the authors of the report suggest that well-planned urban areas could \_\_\_\_\_ their residents from unpleasant experiences.
46. Also, many popular recreational \_\_\_\_\_ in inner city areas, such as cinemas and sports centres, can be reached by public transport.
47. Using public transport, however, is not the best \_\_\_\_\_ if one lives out of town.
48. It turns out that the social and physical well-being of people within individual communities is directly related to the \_\_\_\_\_ of residential areas.
49. Bearing in mind the need to develop new residential districts, one of the researchers proposes a different way to deal with the \_\_\_\_\_ of places to live.
50. According to the report, life in densely populated areas will \_\_\_\_\_ better social relations among the residents.