

Academic IELTS > Opinion Essay – Unemployment (vocabulary)

This is an opinion (personal viewpoint) essay since it asks how far you agree with an idea. You should introduce the topic and give your opinion in the introduction. Then, explain why you have this view and consider the opposing view. Next, restate your opinion in the conclusion. This task has an extra element, which sometimes happens in Task 2: **it asks you to suggest some other challenges also**. You should combine these ideas in the main body of the essay, as in the example below.

'Unemployment remains the biggest challenge to school-leavers in most countries'
How far do you agree with this assessment? What other challenges face young people today?

Choose the word that fits each blank properly from the word box below each paragraph.

INTRODUCTION

Youth unemployment is certainly a worrying ⁽¹⁾ _____ for most countries, especially at a time of economic ⁽²⁾ _____ and social ⁽³⁾ _____. However, to say that this is the largest ⁽⁴⁾ _____ is to overlook a range of equally pressing matters, as we will discuss now.

instability issue challenge unrest

VIEWPOINT

It must be admitted that ⁽⁵⁾ _____ can undermine a young person's economic ⁽⁶⁾ _____ and consequent social ⁽⁷⁾ _____. Nevertheless, this issue can be ameliorated by coordinated ⁽⁸⁾ _____ between the state and the private ⁽⁹⁾ _____, as we have seen, for instance, in Canada recently. When this is realized, we can see that other ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ are at least as serious.

sector mobility concerns joblessness action prospects

OPPOSING VIEW

Foremost among these is perhaps the issue of age demographics, ⁽¹¹⁾ _____ young people ⁽¹²⁾ _____ the burden for an increasingly ⁽¹³⁾ _____ population with high longevity. This means that young people will pay higher taxes and work longer hours, possibly forcing them to ⁽¹⁴⁾ _____ to countries where this pressure is lower. The effect of this is the 'brain drain' situation which can be seen in southern Europe, where young, ambitious people prefer to leave their countries altogether, ⁽¹⁵⁾ _____ the problem for those remaining.

whereby migrate exacerbating elderly bear



Exercise taken and adapted from Alperne J. and Swires P. (2014) IELTS Band 9 Vocabulary Secrets. Cambridge IELTS Consultants. Cambridge, UK
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OTHER CHALLENGES

Furthermore, we must remember that a substantial proportion of young people globally face existential ⁽¹⁶⁾ _____ such as famine, drought or ⁽¹⁷⁾ _____ of disease. These ⁽¹⁸⁾ _____ are often caused by (or are compounded by) civil war, political instability or the corruption of people in power locally. Such ⁽¹⁹⁾ _____ are a danger to their safety in addition to their livelihood, and so would appear to be far more serious than unemployment.

outbreaks problems threats risks

CONCLUSION

To conclude, it seems ⁽²⁰⁾ _____ to accept that joblessness is a major challenge for young people. However, ⁽²¹⁾ _____ trends in demographics among ⁽²²⁾ _____ countries and the presence of physical dangers in ⁽²³⁾ _____ countries should be regarded as at least as ⁽²⁴⁾ _____.

severe logical developed developing persistent



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