

Exercise 2

Read the IELTS Part 3 question and a student's response. Match the paraphrases in the box with words and phrases 1–10 from the response.

Examiner: Do you think society places too much emphasis on money and possessions?

Student: Definitely! Most people see (1) getting more money as (2) the most important thing in their lives. I think it's easy to understand why people think like this. After all, we need money to (3) pay for the basic things we need for daily life, such as food and (4) a house. What's more, we live in a world where having, say, a nice car and a nice house are seen as (5) signs of social achievement. The mainstream media only (6) makes this idea stronger in people, telling us how important it is to (7) always have newer, faster or more powerful versions of the products we already have. So, it doesn't come as a shock that many people think this way. It is how the world works and how we are taught to behave. (8) I think this is bad because (9) many people spend too much of their time working, and as a result, not enough time with their (10) family or friends. They can forget to enjoy the simple pleasures in life. I think such people have their priorities wrong.

what I find terrible about this is that a considerable number of
a roof over our heads

cover our day-to-day expenses loved ones regularly upgrade

reinforces these social ideals status symbols

the accumulation of personal wealth

the number one priority

1. getting more money _____
2. the most important thing _____
3. pay for the basic things we need for daily life _____

4. a house _____
5. signs of social achievement _____
6. makes this idea stronger in people _____
7. always have newer, faster or more powerful versions of _____
8. I think this is bad because _____
9. many _____
10. family or friends _____