Academic IELTS > Opinion Essay – Crime (vocabulary)

When you express your opinion, introduce the topic and give your point of view in the 1st paragraph. Then explain why you think your main argument in such a way. Next, you should briefly consider the opposing view, balance your viewpoint. Finally, restate your opinion in the conclusion. The ***Task*** *has the* ***specific instruction*** *about how you must answer one or more questions, so you should refer to this as part of your opinion.*

Some observers say that police officers should be recruited from the communities where they work, so that they have local knowledge. Other people say that this is unnecessary, or even undesirable. ***Where do you stand on this debate? Is local knowledge essential in modern policing?***

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

INTRO

The need for effective, (1) _____ police officers is (2) _____ in society today, especially as (3) _____ become more (4) _____ and creative. Regarding whether police should be locally hired, there is a case to be made on both sides of the debate.

criminals **devious** **paramount** **trustworthy**

PERSONAL VIEW

Those who support local recruitment of officers point to the need for the police to understand the (5) _____ of the local community. For example, a community may have certain frictions or a history of a specific (6) _____ , whether religious, political or otherwise. In such situations, the argument goes, the police need to show (7) _____ , and also be able to anticipate the kinds of crimes that may be committed. Furthermore, local officers may find it easier to gain (8) _____ in the community, leading to stronger (9) _____ at trials, higher (10) _____ rates and a (11) _____ to crime through sentencing, imprisonment, fines, or community service leading to (12) _____ of the offender.

informants **minutiae** **grievance** **evidence** **sensitivity** **deterrent** **conviction** **rehabilitation**

OPPOSING VIEW & REINFORCE PERSONAL VIEW

On the other hand, it seems likely that officers from the community may in fact share some of the tendencies of the people they grew up with. For example, in some Latin American countries, it is seen a high incidence of (13) _____ among the local business and government community which is equalled by (14) _____ among the police. A second objection is that local sensitivity may lead to the police failing to enforce laws fully, and effectively making exceptions for some offenders, which is (15) _____ towards (16) _____ citizens. Finally, we must remember that police officers should have transferable skills, such as lateral thinking and (17) _____ ability, which should transcend their background or the environment they are working in.

investigative **unequitable** **bribery** **law-abiding** **corruption**

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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CONCLUSION

Overall, it seems to me that local knowledge is not absolutely essential for the police, whose skills should be effective in any (18) _____. Indeed, I agree with those who say that the risks of local (19) _____ (20) _____ the benefits, because of the danger of corruption and (21) _____ with potential offenders.

outweigh **context** **over-familiarity** **recruitment**

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