



O'level Foundation Set 11

The Write Tribe

DISCURSIVE

| Discursive Essay Format | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Introduction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define and review topic in general - There is no need to state a stand for discursive | PURPOSE - To give a direction to the reader on what we would be discussing about / describe current situation / climate of topic and the perspectives we would be exploring. This creates a sense of direction for them on what to look out for. |
| Point 1 | - PEEL (body paragraph - FOR) | Point - Summarise what this paragraph would be about Evidence - Use evidences to support your argument Explain - Explain exactly <i>how</i> your evidence supports argument Link - Link the point you just made to your essay topic |
| Point 2 | - PEEL (body paragraph - FOR) | |
| Point 3 | - PEEL (body paragraph - AGAINST) | |
| Point 4 | - PEEL (body paragraph - AGAINST) | |
| Conclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarise key points from FOR / AGAINST arguments - State where you stand - You can be FOR / AGAINST / BOTH / SUGGEST A MIDDLE WAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reiterate key points and help your audience remember the highlights of both sides of the argument - DO NOT include any new points |

"FOR"

Discuss the dangers of our over-reliance on technology

1. Skills - replacement

Technology can affect our natural skill attainment abilities

Technology gives us the opportunity to learn new skills no matter where we are located. People can start businesses from scratch that run entirely online. However, this quick access to skills can present the same problem as with memorization. Because we turn to our devices for a particular skill-set (for instance, using a water intake app instead of knowing how much water we should be drinking on our own), it can impact our natural skill attainment abilities.

In the past people built websites by learning programming. They learned how to edit photos using softwares. They understood the building blocks of a website. Today, thanks to automation, anyone can be a website designer by using softwares like WIX or be able to do graphic design by using another software called CANVA. A person who takes the trouble to learn programming will have more advantage than someone who relies on a software that automates everything. The person with programming skills will have more creative control and know how to troubleshoot better. Therefore, over-reliance on technology affects our skills attainment abilities



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Navigational skills

2. Over-reliance on GPS devices affects our sense of direction

Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation devices and applications have become ubiquitous over the last decade. With every additional technology that assists in exploring the physical world around us, **we are losing our sense of direction and ability to navigate without them.**

Without first learning to read the analog world, children especially are **losing a part of their sense of being.** Our instinct to rely on the digital world is fast creating crippling dependence on it.

In the case of learning to read a map and relating it to our environment, several mental processes are strengthened," he says, specifying the following criteria:

- 1 **Shape recognition:** critical to forming thoughts
- 2 **Direction and orientation:** relate to our ability to orient ourselves and the intrinsic ability to know when we are moving away or toward something, (some feel this is critical to moral decision making as well).
- 3 **Analysis and Synthesis:** analysis of environmental factors, distance, timing, safety and synthesis, which is pulling these together for seeking a relevant or most appropriate/safe path.
- 4 **Working memory:** as we learn to navigate our environment and pull in all the other factors (mental connections) our memory builds until we can find our way automatically (it becomes a zombie system) allowing us the ability to enjoy the environment instead of looking at a screen.



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3. GPS has been responsible for accidents

GPS programming sometimes gets sloppy, though. The data may fail to take into account recent modifications to roadways, certain vehicle limitations, or changes in traffic patterns.

Examples include:

- Directing a driver into oncoming traffic
- Failure to recognize a one-way highway
- Failure to recognize railroad crossings
- Out-of-date software relying on roadways that may no longer exist
- Confusing actual roads with bodies of water or unsafe terrain.

GPS also poses a different kind of peril for drivers: distracted driving. Like any other electronic device, GPS requires drivers to at least occasionally divert their eyes from the road. In that sense, it creates a distraction not unlike a mobile device. Indeed, many drivers use their smartphones as a primary GPS.



AGAINST

Discuss the dangers of our over-reliance on technology

Before the electric washing machine, a laundry load demanded **four hours** of manual labor and lots of hot water. This may require an outdoor stove and fire lit using wood. Drying the laundry depended on the weather. In short, laundry could be a whole day affair!



With the electric washing machine, laundry has become automated! You just need to throw the clothes in with detergent. Some washers come with dryers! You do not need to rely on the weather to dry them.



Today, we can't imagine life without such technology. Yes, we are over relying on technology to provide us with clean laundry. However, has that caused us any danger?

Today, we rely on plenty of technology to help us in the household. Rice cookers to cook rice, electric stove to provide heat to cook food, refrigerators to preserve food, electric kettles to boil water and even robot vacuums that do automated mopping without the need of a human operating it!

Imagine if we chose to do all the above manually?

Yes, we are over-reliant on technology. However, that has freed up our time, so we can focus on innovation and making our lives better.



AGAINST

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2. Technology has improved many sectors

Mechanization Of Agriculture

Ancient agricultural practices have seen a radical change with the mechanization of agriculture. Such mechanization simply means that machines and technological systems (including robots) have replaced ancient farming systems such as work animals and manual labor. This has resulted in more automated, highly efficient farm practices, producing far more abundant food resources for more people.

Improvement Of Transportation

While it is still possible to walk to most places on earth, the advent of trains, buses, cars, airplanes, speed boats, etc. has made it feasible for people to travel to and from their required destination in much less time. Adding to that are ridesharing apps, such as Uber and Grab, which have made it incredibly easy to get to a destination very quickly and inexpensively. The backbone of any society is its infrastructure, which includes both telecommunication and transportation systems, so the evolution of both systems has greatly helped to shape the modern world.

Improvement On Communication

Telecommunication systems are a very crucial part of any advanced society. From using bird messages and smoke signals, to the faster, more efficient, more effective, and more global system of email, phone calls, and app messaging allows for people to stay connected in a globalized world. From Skype to VOIP to global telecom carriers, it is highly feasible for people to travel the world and stay connected, and even possible for remote workers or international businesses to utilize video calls and conference calls via the Internet to keep their businesses going without interruption.

Improving The Education And Learning Process

In the modern world, it is as easy as utilizing a Google search, podcast, or YouTube video to learn virtually any skill that one needs to succeed, whether it be a new language, a programming language, a technical skill, or an obscure part of history. As opposed to having to learn from printed paper books, now ebooks and even online seminars allow people to learn in a faster, more efficient fashion, and with the convenience of mobile computer systems/apps. Online gateways and websites have also allowed institutions of education to offer educational materials in an all new, streamlined manner, helping students to master materials using computer systems that they are familiar with, and also allowing them to consolidate their educational materials in a single place.



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