5.7 Writing

A for and against essay

1 Read the essay quickly and choose the best title.

a Should we send people to Mars?
b Is space exploration a good thing?
c Which planet should we visit next?

1 [1] *Many people believe* that the next step in space exploration is sending astronauts to Mars. It sounds exiting, but [2] _____ it?

2 [3] _____, we might discover things we need on Earth, like oil or gas. [4] _____, we already know that there is a lot of methane gas on Mars, and it can be used to make plastic. [5] _____ we could discover new forms of life. [6] _____ there is frozen water on Mars and possibly even running water. This may mean there are other forms of life there.

3 [7] _____, a manned mission to Mars would be incredibly expensive, at over $50 billion. The spacecraft would need to take food, water, oxygen and medical supplies, and these things would have to be launched into space. [8] _____ we could spend this money on solving the problems we already have on Earth. [9] _____, it's very dangerous. We don't know the effects of being in space and of weightlessness on the human body for such a long period of time. In [10] _____, the possible human cost is too great a risk.

4 [11] _____, while living on Mars might seem like a good idea, I think we have big problems to solve on Earth first.

2 Complete gaps 1–6 in the essay with phrases a–f.

a For example
b ~~Many people believe~~
c It seems
d Another advantage is that
e is it worth
f On the one hand

3 Complete gaps 7–11 in the essay with phrases a–e.

a my opinion
b To sum up
c I believe
d On the other hand
e Moreover

4 Look at the essay in Exercise 1 again and number the parts of it 1–4.

advantages ☐ conclusion ☐
disadvantages ☐ introduction ☐

5 Match the sentence halves.

1 [c] To sum
2 [ ] One reason for
3 [ ] Nowadays more and
4 [ ] The main
5 [ ] Finally, it could

a disadvantage is a lack of technology.
b be a stepping stone for further space exploration.
c ~~up, I believe space exploration is a good idea.~~
d doing this is to find another planet to live on.
e more people believe we should travel in space.

6 Complete the notes with the words and phrases below.

dangerous expensive new forms population problems ~~to save~~

Should we spend money on finding another planet to live on?

For:
- might not be able [1] *to save* this planet
- discover [2] _____ of life
- growing [3] _____ on Earth and limited space

Against:
- too [4] _____ – billions of dollars
- [5] _____ on Earth more urgent
- too [6] _____ – could die in space

WRITING TIME

7 Write an essay answering the question in Exercise 6.

1 **Find ideas**
Make notes for your essay. Think about:
- a short introduction and conclusion.
- your reasons for and against, and your final decision.

2 **Plan and write**
- Organise your ideas into paragraphs. Use the essay in Exercise 1 to help you.
- Write a draft of your essay.

3 **Check**
- Check language: have you used linkers of addition?
- Check grammar: have you used any conditionals?
- Write the final version of your essay.

I can write an essay discussing advantages and disadvantages. SB Unit 5

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Self-check

Vocabulary

1 Complete the sentences with the words below. There is one extra word.

comet engine galaxy gravity orbit satellite star

1 The jet _____ makes it fly very fast.
2 The recent mission sent a _____ into space to improve communication systems in Europe.
3 There are billions of stars in our _____.
4 The Earth takes one year to _____ the Sun.
5 The Sun is a giant _____.
6 _____ is what makes things fall to the ground.

2 Write the correct word for each definition.

1 the word for 1,000,000: a m_ _ _ _ _ _
2 someone who studies the stars: a_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
3 an icy rock travelling through space with a 'tail' of gas: c_ _ _ _
4 ours has eight planets in it: s_ _ _ _ s_ _ _ _ _
5 the measurement of how wide something is: w_ _ _ _
6 something you use to look at the stars: t_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
7 the measurement of how high something is: h_ _ _ _ _
8 the Earth is one of these: p_ _ _ _ _

3 Choose the correct option.

1 The Sun is around 150 million kilometres *from / away* Earth.
2 The satellite is 30 metres *length / long*.
3 They travel at 10,000 kilometres *the / an* hour.
4 It costs seven thousand, five hundred *or / and* twenty pounds.
5 The space mission cost two point *eight / eight hundred* million euros.
6 How *height / high* can modern planes fly?

Grammar

4 Choose the correct option.

1 If we *have / had* the money, we'd buy a car.
2 If I'm not too tired after school, I usually *go / would go* cycling in the park.
3 I wouldn't *meet / have met* Anna if I hadn't gone to the party.
4 Louis *won't come / will come* to the picnic unless the weather is good.
5 I wouldn't call Ann if I *am / were* you.
6 If my team *would win / wins* the championship, I'll dance in the street!
7 If we *had left / left* earlier, we wouldn't have missed the bus.
8 You break the sound barrier if you *travel / had travelled* faster than 340 metres per second.

5 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

I want to be an astronaut. I know it's very ambitious, but I'm sure if I work really hard, I [1]_____ (achieve) my dream one day. If I have any free time, I [2]_____ (study) Physics. When people ask me, 'What would you do if you [3]_____ (win) the lottery?', the answer is easy: I [4]_____ (travel) to space! I know I [5]_____ (not be) allowed to go unless I'm physically fit too, so I [6]_____ (play) sport. What about you? If you could do any job at all, what [7]_____ (you/do)?

Speaking

6 Choose the correct answer.

1 The last ___ you need to do is take the photo.
a thing b problem c check
2 After a ___ minutes, check your emails.
a some b few c time
3 It's important ___ the lights when you leave.
a turn off b turning off c to turn off
4 Try ___ park in that road after 9 a.m.
a not to b don't to c don't
5 That ___ easy.
a sure b not c seems

YOUR SCORE

Vocabulary: __/20 Speaking: __/5
Grammar: __/15 **Total:** __/40

On the Portal
Extra Practice Activities: Self-check
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