

Exercise 1

In this unit you will focus on a Writing Part 2 Advantages and Disadvantages essay on the question of having a free public healthcare service compared to a private system. Read the arguments below. Which ones explain benefits of government-provided healthcare and which are drawbacks? Choose B for benefits or D for drawbacks.

For any IELTS essay, planning is very important. One of the first stages of planning is to think about the question and make a list of possible arguments you could include. In this case, the list should include potential advantages and disadvantages of having a free health service. Because you will need to explain and develop the ideas you choose, you probably will not be able to include all of the ideas in your final essay. However, making a list like this helps you decide which points / arguments are most relevant to your answer and therefore could help you improve your Task Achievement score.

1. Any healthcare costs are already paid for through general taxation, meaning that people do not need to find money for treatment if they get sick suddenly and are not covered by health insurance.
 - B
 - D
2. With a publicly funded health service, patients usually have limited healthcare provision and do not have the option of choosing how they will be treated.
 - B
 - D
3. Waiting lists for treatment are often longer in public hospitals than in private ones.
 - B
 - D

4. Universal free healthcare means the authorities in a specific country can offer a consistent approach to treatment to all and this often prevents diseases from becoming more prevalent in society.
 - B
 - D
5. If healthcare is publically funded, some people will overuse healthcare facilities, simply because they are free. This costs taxpayer money which could be spent on other public projects.
 - B
 - D
6. Healthcare standards for a free service are dependent on the money provided by the government. If it does not invest enough money, standards of treatment can decline.
 - B
 - D
7. Private health care systems tend to cost patients a lot more per person than a publically funded one.
 - B
 - D