

UNIT 5: CONSUMERISM

WRITING

Exercise 1: Match each essay question with what it is asking you to do.

Agree or disagree	Compare advantages and disadvantages
Compare two different opinions	Discuss problems and solutions

1. There are too many overweight children in the world. Why do children become overweight and what can be done about it?

2. Some people think that vegetarians are healthier than meat-eaters while other people think they are less healthy. Compare the two views.

3. Compare the dangers and benefits of using oil in cooking.

4. Sugar is now a big health problem in many countries around the world. What is your opinion?

Exercise 2: Put the paragraphs in the correct order to complete the IELTS Writing Task 2 essay.

Sugar is now a big health problem in many countries around the world.

What is your opinion?

	On the other hand, it is important not to stop enjoying traditional food. For example, in my country we have traditional sweet cakes with cherries and nuts, which we eat at parties. Also, where I live it is normal to have sugar with coffee. I think it would be sad to stop eating these cakes on special occasions and I do not agree that it is a problem to drink coffee with sugar sometimes. In conclusion, I agree that sugar is a big health problem. I think people should reduce the amount of sugar they have by drinking water instead of cola, but I also think they should still enjoy sugar on special occasions or in coffee sometimes. Nowadays, a lot of people around the world are unhealthy because they eat too much sugar. In my opinion, people should reduce the amount of sugar they eat but also enjoy sweet things sometimes. In this essay, I am going to explain why I partly agree and disagree that sugar is a big health problem. On the one hand, it is true that people eat too much sugar now and that it has a bad effect on their health. For example, in my country a lot of people drink cola with their meals instead of water. Cola has a large amount of sugar in it so they are drinking a lot more calories. More calories means that people get fat and have problems with their heart or other illnesses. In my view, they should reduce the amount of cola that they drink.
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Exercise 3: Complete the table with the advantages and disadvantages.

advantages disadvantages	often cheaper than eating in a restaurant
	can be delicious
	can make you overweight
	quick and easy
	sometimes tastes disgusting
	if you buy fast food you do not have to cook at home
	can cause heart problems
	often high in fat and sugar

Exercise 4: Choose the correct words or phrases to complete the sentences.

1. I like Maths but I also / **as a result** / **however** like Literature.
2. He was excellent in his interview. **But** / **However** / **Moreover**, he is the most qualified for the job.
3. I had a headache during the exam. **Also** / **Because of this** / **Nevertheless**, I answered all the questions.
4. My grandfather runs a business. **Also** / **Because of this** / **However**, I could easily go to work for him.
5. My sister always does her homework. **But** / **However** / **Likewise**, my brother always does his, too.
6. If you want to be a dentist, you need good grades. **Because of this** / **In addition** / **Nevertheless**, you must like working hard.
7. My father wants me to be an accountant **also** / **because of this** / **but** my mother wants me to be a musician.
8. I didn't think I would get the job. **Also** / **Because of this** / **However**, they offered it to me the day after the interview.

Exercise 5: Read the IELTS Writing Task 2 question. Then complete the student's essay plan. Use the words and phrases in the box.

Many people think it is important to go to university while others prefer to start work without getting a university education. Discuss both choices and give your opinion.

get a degree in Law	get a degree in Medicine	go	have a university education	
improve your knowledge	going	manage a business	require a degree	run

Essay Plan

Introduction: a lot of people want to _____, but others want to work.

Body 1:

Fact: true = there are advantages to studying at university

Reasons or examples: if you _____, you can be a doctor

if you _____, you can be a lawyer

also, a degree can _____ and ability

Body 2:

Fact: however, some jobs do not _____

Reasons or examples: a degree is not necessary if you want to _____

a shop or _____

also, _____ to university can be very expensive

Conclusion: a degree is necessary for some jobs but not others

I think you should _____ to university if you can

Exercise 6: Complete the essay. Use the words and phrases in the box.

addition	conclusion	for example	in this essay
likewise	on the one hand	on the other hand	secondly

At the present time, a lot of people want to have a university education while others choose not to go to university, and get a job instead. _____, I am going to compare both of these options and then offer my own view.

_____, it is certainly true that there are advantages to studying at university. Firstly, certain jobs require certain degrees. If you want to be a lawyer or a doctor, you will need to get a degree in Law or Medicine. _____, learning about something that interests you can improve your knowledge. Moreover, there are studies that show that getting a degree can help you learn how to ask questions and solve problems.

_____, there are a lot of jobs that do not require a degree. As a result, some people prefer to start work as soon as they leave school without going to university. _____, if you want to run a shop, it is not necessary to get a degree in Psychology first. _____, you do not have to study Engineering or Education in order to manage a business. In _____, university can be very expensive, so some people prefer to get a job instead of paying a lot of money.

In _____, there are definitely advantages to receiving a university education. A degree is necessary for certain jobs but not essential for others. However, in my opinion, everyone who has the opportunity to go to university, should go.