

IELTS and EAP Lesson – Model Essay

Speaking:

Think of three ways your daily routine would be different without your phone.

What do you spend most time doing when you use your phone?

If your phone were taken away, what would you miss the most?

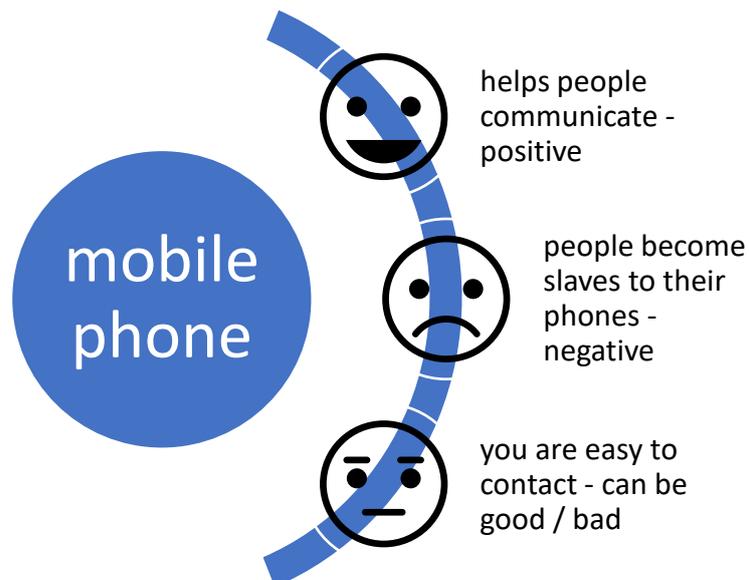
Writing:

Exercise 1

- a) Carefully read the question below: Can you think of any significant developments? In your opinion were the effects of these positive / negative / both?

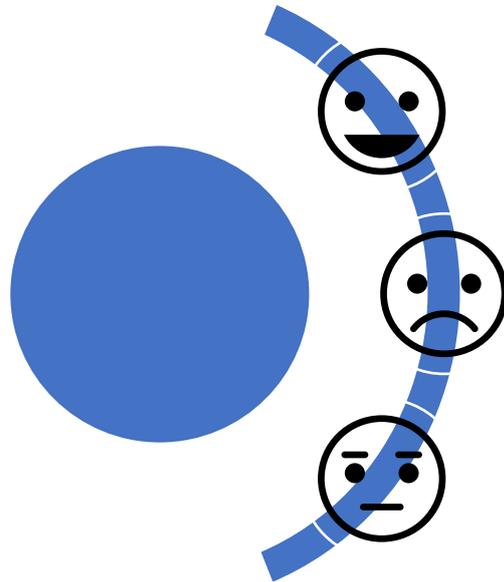
In the last 20 years there have been significant developments in the field of information technology (IT), for example the World Wide Web and communication by email. However, these developments in IT are likely to have more negative effects than positive in the future. To what extent do you agree with this view?

- b) Look at the example below – are there any more points you could add to it?



Exercise 2

Now do the same for one of your other ideas from exercise 1a.



Exercise 3

- a) Read the model answer; did they use some of the same ideas that you did?
- b) Now read the model answer again. Try to decide if you think this is a good essay or not and why. Highlight and underline reasons.

Vocabulary:

Exercise 1

- a) Find words in the text that mean:
 1. changing quickly
 2. will have a negative effect on
 3. do not talk to
 4. ignores
 5. decrease in the number of people who work
 6. is dangerous to
 7. gives us a chance to

- b) Why are the words that were used in the essay better choices?

Exercise 2

progressing rapidly will be detrimental to overlooks
lack interaction with shrinking of the workforce
could pose a threat presents an opportunity to

All of these words could be used in IELTS writing part 2 and they are chunks of language. This means that rather than breaking the words down, it is better to view them as a set phrase.

Choose 4 of the words and use it in a sentence on technology.

E.g. The field of robotics is progressing rapidly

Grammar

Exercise 1

Analysis: Read the sentence and then answer the questions:

Those who dislike the changes often cite the problems within communication that devices have brought.

1. What tense is underlined?
2. Why has the writer used it and how does it fit with the question?
3. Can you find another example like this from the essay?
4. What tense is most of the essay written in?

Exercise 2

Look at the sentences below and answer the questions:

- a) This is a problem for society as with more complex machines ...
 - b) This potentially could be a problem for society as with more complex machines ...
1. What is the difference in meaning between *a* and *b*?
 2. Which words have the same meaning and function as *could*?
 3. Why is it a good idea to use these words academically?
 4. Rewrite this sentence to make it more academic: *Technology makes life easier.*

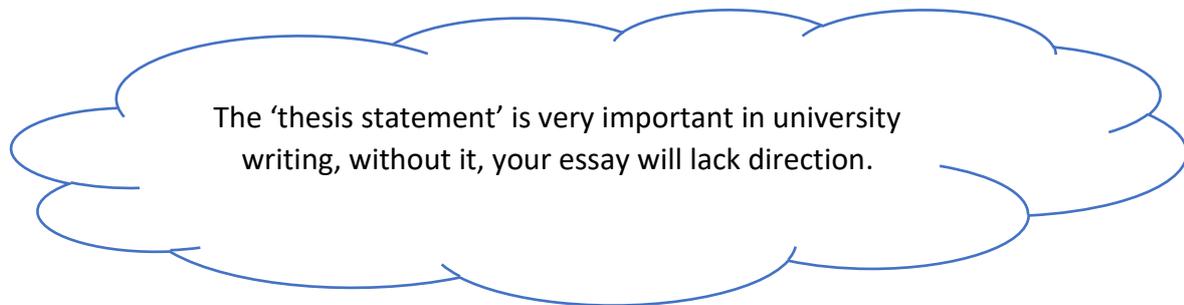
An essay at University

How suitable do you think the model essay would be at university? Why / Why not?

Exercise 1

Compare this introduction to the one in your first model – how are they different and what effect does this have?

The increase of technology in the modern world is progressing rapidly. This is especially true in computing, but this increase has led some to question whether this progress is beneficial or will be detrimental to our society. This essay will argue that despite the adverse effects, the growth of computers offers us huge possibilities in a range of fields.



Exercise 2

What differences can you notice between this paragraph and the one in the model.

Those who dislike the changes often cite the problems within communication that devices have brought (Smith 2010). She highlights the fact that people spend too long looking at computers or other screens and therefore lack interaction with 'real' people. However, this overlooks the huge change that these screens have brought to the lives of millions. Simons (2014) argues that in our globalized society many of us live far away from friends and family and through our screens are able to keep in touch. This shows that far from preventing communication, screens and computers enable it.

Exercise 3

Answer these statements about citations true or false.

1. Citations are there to make us look clever
2. Our essays should be about what we have read so citations are there to prove we have done some reading
3. We should use only one citation for each paragraph
4. Citations must be quotations
5. All native students know how to use citations before they get to university

Exercise 4

This essay will argue that despite the adverse effects, the growth of computers offers us huge possibilities in a range of fields.

If you remember, this was the thesis position from the second introduction. Notice that it does not use 'I' but instead says 'this essay'.

Look at the question below and try to think of three different thesis positions.

In the last 20 years there have been significant developments in the field of information technology (IT), for example the World Wide Web and communication by email. However, these developments in IT are likely to have more negative effects than positive in the future. To what extent do you agree with this view?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
