

ANSWERS Unit Seven Sports and Entertainment Earnings Gap Fill Essay

WRITING TASK TWO

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many countries people working in sport and entertainment earn much more money than professionals like doctors, nurses and teachers.

Why do you think this happens in some societies and do you consider it good or bad?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Part One - Gap Fill

Fill in the blanks with the words in the table below:

instance	mass media	unique	a major imbalance		value to society
talent	salaries	however	retire	first	on closer analysis
believe	a variety of reasons		pleasure	vital	financial rewards
professions	unavoidable	sources of income		careers	get rewarded

It is undoubtedly true that there is often **a major imbalance** between the **salaries** of the professional classes and celebrities from the worlds of sport and entertainment. At **first** sight, this seems unjust, but **on closer analysis** it is easy to understand why it happens and see that it is almost inevitable.

It does often seem wrong that certain people should earn so much money when their only **talent** is to entertain. While giving **pleasure** is important, people in the medical and educational **professions** have far more important roles in society. For example, a surgeon can save your life in the operating

theatre and a teacher can prepare you for your career. Indeed, because both doctors and teachers are so **vital** to any society, it would seem only right that they receive the largest **financial rewards**.

When, **however**, we look to see who earns the most, we discover that it is typically sports and entertainment personalities. There are **a variety of reasons** why this should be. Firstly, we live in the age of **mass media**: these people earn so much because they are national or even global stars and **get rewarded** through endorsements and other **sources of income**. Secondly, these stars are **unique** in a way doctors and teachers are not, often they can do what no one else can. Finally, sometimes these stars may have short **careers** in comparison with other professions. For **instance**, while doctors can work until they are 65, footballers normally **retire** in their early 30s.

I personally **believe** that in the ideal world someone's income would relate to their **value to society**. However, in the modern world, it is almost **unavoidable** the famous will have the highest incomes because of their media exposure.

(288 words)

Part Two - Ideas

Some people believe that the salaries paid to professional sportspeople are too high, while others argue that sports salaries are fair. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

View 1: sports salaries are too high

- Sports professionals earn too much money.
- They do not provide a vital service.
- Football players earn enormous salaries by simply kicking a ball.
- We could all live happily without professional football.
- We should value professionals such as nurses and teachers more highly.

View 2: sports salaries are fair

- It is fair that the best sports people earn a lot of money.
- Sport is a multi-million-pound industry.
- There is a large audience of sports fans who are willing to pay.
- Televised games or events attract many viewers.
- Being a top sports person requires hours of practice.

Part Three - Writing

Write your own answer to the same question. Use vocabulary and expressions from the answer above, from the answers below, and from [IELTS Academic Writing Task 2 Vocabulary, Phrases and Expressions](#).

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Write at least 250 words.

Additional Model Answers

Model Answer B

Nobody can deny that there are certain professionals like nurses, doctors and teachers who are essential to the fabric of society, and who should therefore be rewarded accordingly. However, this is seldom the case. When we look at the salaries and fees commanded by certain film stars and actresses and people who run large companies, this does not seem fair.

First of all, not all film stars earn huge sums of money. In fact, at any one time in the UK, for example, roughly 80 percent of actors are out of work and on top of that the number who are paid so-called 'telephone number fees' is even smaller. One must also remember that the career of many

actors is very short and that therefore the money they earn has to be spread over many years. The same applies to company bosses.

Stating a set of criteria as to how much people should be paid is not easy. The idea of performance-related pay is very much in vogue at the moment. Rewarding people according to qualifications has long been used as a yardstick for paying people, but it is not a consistently good measure. Another is years of relevant experience, but there are many cases where a younger person can perform a task better than someone with lots of experience.

Whatever criteria are used to assess salaries, an on-going cycle will develop. This will create pressure in other areas. This considered, generally I feel that certain key professionals should have their salaries assessed by independent review bodies on an on-going basis so that they do not fall behind.

(269 words)

Model Answer C

Nowadays, it is acknowledged that sport professionals earn huge salaries that exceed other respected professionals by far. This situation has sparked a heated debate with opinions on both sides, in favor and against.

Some people argue that it is irresponsible to pay such an amount of money to people who have just borned with a natural gift to play a certain sport. They believe this is unfair for other professionals that spent several years studying hard and have to deal with really serious situations daily. Doctors, engineers, fire fighters among others, are clear examples of this unbalanced situation. Furthermore, we are setting a bad example for the youngsters as they grow up witnessing how our society does not reward hard work.

Nevertheless, other people assert that athletes deserve their salary. They have a very short career, as they can only play at highest performance during a very limited number of years. Normally sport players above thirty five are considered old to keep playing professionally. Moreover, they have a big responsibility as they are requested to perform their best in every single game. It is their job to strive until they see their team win, there are millions of dollars involved in each game. Companies invest a lot of money to sponsor teams and this creates an extra pressure on the players.

In a nutshell, I believe that athletes deserve a huge compensation for their work. Even though it is true that they have been naturally gifted, they still need to train hard every day to perform their best and help the sponsors to boost their brand value hence increasing the selling.

(266 words)

Model Answer D

Star athletes like LeBron James, Tiger Woods, and Manny Pacquiao receive multi-million dollar contracts which are exponentially more than what other important professionals are paid. This has led to controversy over whether this is justified and fair. Although I can understand why some people feel this is unfair, I feel professional athletes are justified in receiving this pay.

No one can deny that there are many people who provide much more meaningful services that directly help or impact individuals and communities. People such as teachers, caregivers and healthcare workers affect so many people by making their lives better and comfortable. Despite their hard work and valuable service, they unfortunately aren't paid the same exorbitant wages as sport professionals, which seems unfair.

On the other hand, salary unfortunately does not always reflect the importance, need or value of a job. In fact, salary more often reflects how much money the employer or the business can pay. Professional athletes are part of the billion-dollar sports and entertainment industry that plays a large part in the economy. A lot of consumers choose to pay money for pro sports and related products, so the team owners have the money to pay these players huge sums. Therefore, it's justified that these players get their share of the profits. To put this in perspective, elderly adults who need caregivers do not have a lot of money to pay their caregivers, and so caregivers earn little.

In short, the large sums of money that sports professionals receive is justified because they are earning that money from their employers by doing their jobs of entertaining and raising profits for their employers.

(273 words)

Model Answer E

The world of sports is a multimillion dollar industry. Around the globe, people flock to sporting events or watch their favourite teams faithfully each week on television. As a result, professional sports athletes receive huge salaries – well above, for example, those of doctors, lawyers, teachers or social workers. There is some debate about whether such outrageously high salaries are justified.

On the one hand, sport is viewed as a professional career, in which the top players should rightly earn high salaries. Athletes train rigorously from an early age to become peak performers in their field. They face tremendous pressure in each and every game, match or competition. Their personal lives are compromised and they lose all privacy. At the same time, their strong achievements bring honour and attention, not only to themselves, but also to their teams, schools, cities or countries.

On the other hand, various professions contribute to making our world run smoothly. Doctors put in at least ten years of gruelling study and internship; their work saves lives. Teachers educate and inspire young people to be responsible citizens: their efforts produce the citizens of tomorrow. Social workers rescue individuals facing physical, mental and psychological challenges: their intervention creates safer societies.

Yet, professionals in the fields above usually struggle to get by, despite their meaningful and critical contribution to the world.

In my view, paying enormous salaries to sportspeople is unnecessary. We need to reconsider our social priorities and eliminate the great disparity in income received by diverse professionals. By doing so, we can build societies in which each one feels valued, appreciated and appropriately compensated for their own vocation or specialisation.

(273 words)
