

	<u>TOPIC 1: Tourism Activity</u>	The criterion used to weigh
	• 'The need for relaxation is the biggest reason tourists are motivated to travel.' To what extent do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer.	
	<u>TOPIC 2: Tourism Development</u>	
	• 'The negative social impacts far outweigh the social benefits of tourism.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Give examples to support your answer.	
	• 'The environmental consequences of tourism are the most harmful to local communities.' To what extent do you consider this statement to be true? Explain your answer.	
	<u>TOPIC 3:Sustainable Tourism Development</u>	
	• "The role played by locals is far more important than the government in promoting sustainable tourism." How far do you agree with the statement? Support your answer with examples.	
	• "Local communities are more effective in achieving sustainable tourism than tourists." Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer with examples	
	• 'Ecotourism is the best way to ensure sustainability of tourism.' To what extent do you consider this statement to be true? Explain your answer.	

Level	Marks	Generic Level Descriptors for 9-mark AO3 Questions
3	7–9	• <u>Develops arguments that support both sides of the discussion clearly, using a range of points with good elaboration.</u> • <u>Examples used demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the issue or phenomenon.</u> • <u>Evaluation is derived from a well-reasoned consideration of the arguments.</u> • Criteria used: ○ Short-term impacts/long-term impacts ○ Scale: Local, national, regional, global ○ Temporary consequence/permanent consequence ○ Time: Current vs future
2	4–6	• Develops arguments that support one side of the discussion well, using one or two points with some elaboration. • Example(s) demonstrate a good understanding of the issue or phenomenon. • Arguments are well-supported by evaluation.
1	1–3	• Arguments could be clearer with limited description or may be listed. • No examples provided or examples are generic, demonstrating a basic understanding of the issue or phenomenon. • Evaluation is simple, missing, or unclear.
0	0	• No creditworthy response.

1. 'The need for relaxation is the biggest reason tourists are motivated to travel.'
To what extent do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer.
1. The need for relaxation is one of the reasons why tourists are motivated to travel.
2. The increasing pressures of work and hectic lifestyles have increased people's motivation to travel to relieve stress. Increasingly, many see travel as a way to rest and rejuvenate.
 - a. People travel to different destinations and engage in different tourist activities to relax. Some seek nature to escape the urban environment, rest, and enjoy scenic views.
 - i. For example, a survey found that one of the main reasons British tourists visit Phuket, Thailand, an island famous for its scenic beaches, is to rest and relax.
 - b. Others prefer recreational activities like visiting theme parks which provide them with a different routine from their daily lives and enable them to escape from their stress and worries.
 - i. For example, Universal Studios Singapore is a theme park that features rides, shows, and attractions, immersing visitors in a completely different setting from their usual lives. In 2019, the theme park welcomed more than 18 million visitors.
3. However, there are other reasons why people travel.
4. People increasingly consider traveling as a **way for self-growth and to achieve their fullest potential.**
 - a. Traveling allows them to develop themselves further by learning something new or improving their existing knowledge and skills.
 - b. Hence some tourists may choose a travel destination where they can pick up new skills such as cooking local cuisines or farming by learning methods from the locals.
 - i. For example, many cooking schools have sprung up in Bali to cater to tourists' desire to learn more about Balinese cuisine.
 - c. In pilgrimage tourism, tourists travel to secret sites to learn more about their faiths and grow spiritually.
 - i. Every year, more than two million Muslims travel to Mecca in Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage, where they perform a series of rituals for spiritual growth.
 - d. Some also participate in activities that are challenging or adventurous such as mountain climbing or skydiving to perfect their potential.
 - i. By participating in these activities, they feel that they are being stretched physically and emotionally, and therefore achieve personal growth.
 - ii. Example: In the last few decades, the number of tourists climbing Mount Everest has increased steadily, as they are motivated to challenge themselves and achieve their fullest potential.
5. Some people travel to gain unique travel experiences to satisfy their curiosity about the world. Traveling allows them to explore different environments and cultures that are not widely known. They often seek places that are less traveled.
6. They may also participate in special or **uncommon tourism activities such as trekking along the slopes of a volcano.**
 - a. Social media has raised interest in unique destinations and activities, especially among younger travelers.

- b. With globalization, vast transport networks are connecting remote places to major cities, making them more accessible.
 - c. Hence, remote and unique places around the world are experiencing a rise in tourism numbers.
 - i. For example, tourism numbers in Antarctica have increased significantly in the last two decades. Many of these tourists seek to satisfy their curiosity about one of the world's last uninhabited regions.
7. Therefore, I cannot completely agree that the need for relaxation is the biggest reason why tourists are motivated to travel. There are two other reasons why tourists are motivated to travel, and these reasons are equally important.

(Why is this conclusion not good? What is missing here?)

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2. 'The negative social impacts far outweigh the social benefits of tourism.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Give examples to support your answer.
- 1. I agree that tourism does bring about negative social impacts.
 - 2. One of the negative social impacts is the commodification of cultural practices and art forms.
 - a. As demand for heritage tourism increases, traditions may undergo commodification and lose their authenticity. This weakens their cultural value for both the local community and tourists.
 - i. Cultural rituals may be exaggerated, staged, or condensed to suit the needs and requests of tourists. Art forms may be mass-produced for tourists.
 - b. Conflict among locals may occur between those who support using their culture for tourism and those who fear losing the authenticity of their cultures.
 - i. For example, in Kenya, tour companies often organize interactive experiences between tribes such as the Maasai which may be highly exaggerated and tourists rarely have a chance to interact with them in a meaningful way.
 - ii. In Vancouver, Canada, totem poles have been commodified and are widely available for tourists to purchase as souvenirs and they are often inauthentic pieces that are created without any collaboration with native tribes.
 - iii. (Note: You only need to provide one example)
 - 3. Another negative social impact is the rise in crimes.
 - a. Destination regions may experience a rise in crimes such as pickpocketing as tourists carry large amounts of cash with them and other valuables making them targets.
 - b. Tourists are also likely to be relaxed and off guard on vacation, making them easier targets.
 - c. Tourists may also find themselves targets if negative sentiments from locals build up.
 - i. For example, in 2017, a tourist bus in Barcelona, Spain was attacked by anti-tourist protestors who punctured the tires and sprayed anti-tourism graffiti on the buses.
 - 4. However, I disagree with this statement as tourism does bring about positive social impacts.

5. One positive social impact that tourism brings is enhancing cultural ecosystem services.
 - a. This helps to provide tourists and locals with aesthetic, educational, recreational, and spiritual benefits.
 - i. For example in [Sanjiangyuan National Park](#) in China, cultural ecosystem services such as aesthetic benefits are provided for both locals and tourists to appreciate the beauty and scenery of the protected National Park.
 - ii. Recreational benefits are provided for locals and tourists get to engage in recreational activities that may offer relaxation such as snow leopard viewing, hiking, or camping.
 - iii. Spiritual benefits are provided for the local Buddhist locals to connect spiritually as tourism provides an incentive to continue protecting the mountains and snow leopards which are sacred to them.
6. Another positive social impact that tourism brings is cultural preservation.
 - a. Tourism revenues boost the local economy which provides an incentive to protect traditional cultural practices and art forms.
 - b. Planning authorities may invest money to encourage traditional practices such as building museums or giving grants for art forms to increase their appeal to tourists.
 - c. This enhances preservation efforts, which also builds locals' sense of belonging to their community.
 - i. An example is shadow puppetry in China, an [Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#).
 1. It is an ancient art form that is culturally important to local communities as it passes on history and traditions.
 2. With tourists showing greater interest, innovations were made to attract views such as watching shadow puppetry using virtual reality (VR).
7. In conclusion, I do not agree that the negative social impacts far outweigh the social benefits of tourism.
 - a. Some tour agencies may prioritize economic returns over the retention of culture. They may place the needs and interests of the tourists over the locals and may seek to look for more engaging activities rather than authentic ones.
 - b. However, many of the activities in tourism also benefit the locals.
 - i. The preservation and widespread sharing of culture and values can help locals to learn more about their own culture ensuring that traditional art forms and culture are not lost with time.
 - c. Ultimately, the social benefits far outweigh the negative impacts else tourism would not continue to be an important industry in many countries' economies.

(Is this conclusion better than Q1? How can you improve on it?)

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3. 'The environmental consequences of tourism are the most harmful to local communities.' To what extent do you consider this statement to be true? Explain your answer.
 1. I agree that the environmental consequences of tourism can be harmful to local communities.

- a. Firstly, the tourism industry produces a large amount of greenhouse gases as traveling by air, land, and sea requires a large amount of fossil fuels to be burnt.
 - b. Services provided by tourism such as air-conditioning for accommodation can also contribute to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions.
 - i. These greenhouse gases can cause respiratory illnesses to local communities and can result in air pollution that impacts a large area, beyond the area of origin.
 - 1. For instance, there is a significant increase in the percentage of greenhouse gas emissions contributed by tourism, with it being 10.5% in 2019.
 - 2. Hence, tourism can bring about environmental effects that are perhaps irreversible such as the case of the increasing amounts of greenhouse gas being emitted into the atmosphere.
 - c. More crucially, the depletion of natural resources because of tourism can be a threat to the livelihoods of local communities.
 - i. The overuse of natural resources such as water may lead to negative long-term consequences such as droughts as well as harm aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.
 - 1. For instance, in Bali, the tourism industry draws approximately 3 million liters of water per day, with hotels and resorts emptying the public water supply and draining large amounts of groundwater.
 - 2. Locals are immediately affected as they face a lack of water as well as the rising prices of water due to the limited supply.
 - 3. Agriculture also becomes increasingly unprofitable due to the rising water costs resulting in local farmers experiencing a loss of livelihood.
2. Besides the environmental consequences of tourism, cultural clashes may arise when tourists are insensitive to the local norms and religious customs.
- a. Furthermore, the environmental consequences of congestion and pollution can negatively impact the local communities, which can further strain the relationships between the locals and tourists.
 - i. For example, in Venice, the overpopulation and over crowdedness of tourists and cruise ships have led to much resentment among the local people.
 - 1. Many were unhappy with the fact that tourists are increasingly invading their private spaces and are causing much congestion because of the sheer number of cruise ships that enter during peak seasons.
 - 2. In Hawaii, USA, many locals also argue that the tourists do not respect the local indigenous Hawaiian culture and would rather not welcome tourists.
 - ii. Hence, local communities may have to live with not only the environmental consequences but also the immediate effects of negative interactions between both communities.

3. Besides environmental consequences, tourism can bring about much damage to the local culture, safety, and security of the local people.
 - a. Destination regions may experience a rise in crime rates because of the rise in tourism.
 - b. Many times, while tourists may find themselves targeted, the rise in crime rates can result in an unsafe environment for the local communities.
 - i. For example, many tourist hotspots have a high number of theft and car break-ins, as high as 282 instances at Fisherman's Wharf and that has escalated to the surrounding neighbourhoods.
 - ii. Locals living in those areas may therefore have to live in fear of such crimes.
4. In conclusion, while it is noted that environmental consequences are perhaps a large factor in causing much harm to the local habitats and environments, sometimes even irreversible, the immediate effects that are sometimes equally harmful would also be coupled with the social and cultural elements.
5. It is agonizing having to put up with disrespect in addition to the environmental inconvenience that tourists may pose to the local communities, sometimes making it hard for local communities to continue with their daily lives.

(Why is this conclusion better than Q1 and Q2? What criterion is used to evaluate the question ?)

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4. "The role played by locals is far more important than the government in promoting sustainable tourism." How far do you agree with the statement? Support your answer with examples.
 1. I do not agree that the role of role played by locals is far more important than the government in promoting sustainable tourism.
 2. Locals do play a role in promoting sustainable tourism.
 - a. Locals can speak out against overdevelopment as they have local context and their knowledge is invaluable.
 - b. This can be done through community-based tourism, where the locals engage in decision-making together with other stakeholders. Involving the locals empowers the local community and ensures the benefits gained from tourism stay within the community.
 - i. For example, [Sanjiangyuan Natural Reserve](#), China, is popular for rare snow leopard sightings. The villagers in Angsai village (aka Valley of the Cats) run a community-based tourism (CBT) program. This is a small-scale local tourism developed by local communities.
 - ii. The programme allows tourists to stay with local families. It is considered successful as tourism revenue stays within the village and all decisions are made by locals.
 3. However, the locals do face some limitations.
 - a. They may lack financial and technical assistance. They may not have sufficient resources or know-how to carry out sustainable tourism plans. They may not have the information on how they can apply for assistance.

- b. Locals may not have the knowledge and experience that other stakeholders like governments and businesses have to pursue sustainable tourism. They must seek advice on how to adopt tried and tested sustainable practices.
 - c. For example, in Singapore, locals can seek guidance from the National Environment Agency to pursue practices like waste management and recycling when hosting international events and conferences.
 - d. It is important to involve locals in decision-making to minimize the negative social and environmental impacts tourism brings.
- 4. On the other hand, governments are one of the most important and influential stakeholders.
 - a. They can establish tourism policies and plans to set up an overall framework for tourism development. With a general direction set, other stakeholders can take action in alignment with the framework for sustainable tourism development.
 - i. For example, under the Singapore Green Plan 2030, Singapore aims to be a sustainable tourism destination.
 - ii. Tourism businesses can tap into the \$68.5 million Tourism Development Fund to explore ways to make their tourism processes more sustainable.
 - 1. Sentosa is aligned with STB to transform into a globally recognized sustainable destination, by developing the Sentosa Sustainability Framework.
 - iii. The authorities bring together different stakeholders to develop plans for sustainability.
 - b. The government has a regulatory role. They can enforce regulations on the types of tourism activity, or the number of tourists who can enter a place.
 - c. Enforcement is critical to ensure policies are adhered to.
 - i. For example, in Bhutan, tourism numbers are controlled and tourists can only enter the country by organizing their trips with licensed tour operators who are registered with the government.
 - 1. The registered tour operators help to ensure tourists adhere to laws, like trekking only on designated trails, to minimize the negative environmental impact.
 - 2. Minimum spending per day is enforced, and a portion of this goes to the Bhutan Sustainable Development Fee for education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation. The
 - 3. The Bhutanese government uses the tourism industry for overall sustainable development in the country.
- 5. However, there are some limitations to how much governments can do to promote sustainable tourism.
 - a. The effectiveness of government policies and regulations can be reduced by poor enforcement.
 - i. Sometimes, governments cannot practice *active enforcement* due to a lack of resources, political influence, or corruption. There are times when they cannot ensure that regulations are adhered to, hindering sustainable tourism development.
 - b. In addition, some government decisions to prioritize economic development above all else can neglect environmental and social sustainability.
 - i. For example, Mount Everest receives hundreds of tourists every year, but poor enforcement of waste disposal leads to pollution.
 - ii. Nepal authorities are unable/unwilling to impose tighter regulations, as the flow of tourists might be reduced, affecting the revenue received.

6. The governments play a more important role as they are the ones who have the overall plan for the sustainable development of tourism in their country.
 - a. They are the ones who draft the strategies and directions for all other stakeholders to follow and align their objectives to those of the national ones.
 - b. As for the local community stakeholders, their roles are more secondary, supporting the overall direction planned by the government.

(Is this a good conclusion? What criterion is used? Can you get a better criterion?)

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5. "Local communities are more effective in achieving sustainable tourism than tourists." Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer with examples.

1. Local community refers to a group of people living in the same territory. They can be effective in achieving sustainable tourism.
 - a. Locals have a good knowledge of their environment and needs and can give better feedback or input on tourism-related issues when consulted.
2. Locals can promote sustainable tourism by participating in decision-making.
 - a. Decisions made are thus less likely to harm their natural environment or local culture.
 - i. Community-based tourism can be an example of how locals can become involved in decision-making.
 - ii. It prioritizes the participation of the locals and ensures that benefits gained from tourism stay within the local community.
 - iii. It increases tourism-related employment and business for locals and as a result, raises average income and reduces leakages.
 1. For example, in Candirejo Village, near Borobudur in Central Java, Indonesia, locals are employed as guides, waiters, cleaners, drivers, hotel staff, etc.
 2. These jobs tend to pay better than farm jobs.
 - iv. However, there are limitations in how effective the local communities are in ensuring sustainable tourism.
 - v. This can be due to the lack of financial and technical resources or that the local communities might prioritize economic gains over sustainability.
 1. For example, in many Balinese villages in Indonesia, traditional dances have been shortened, exaggerated, and changed for the entertainment of tourists and the original cultural significance has been lost.
3. Visitors or tourists can help to achieve sustainable tourism if they are responsible enough to respect both the environment and the local community.
 - a. They can try to minimize their carbon footprint during holidays by not using water or electricity excessively to avoid depleting resources and hence damaging the environment.
 - i. For example, in the [Tiger Tops Elephant Camp](#) in Nepal, an ethnical elephant camp, elephants can walk around freely, allowing tourists to observe them in their natural state.
 - ii. The revenue generated is used for conservation and upkeep of the animals.
 - b. Tourists can choose to channel their revenue towards these sustainable tourist destinations instead of unsustainable ones.

- c. Tourists can also choose to behave in a manner that is respectful to the local communities.
 - i. For example, tourists to Bali, Indonesia, should be mindful that they have to dress modestly when visiting religious sites.
- 4. In conclusion, the role of local communities is not more important than tourists. Both are as important.
 - a. Locals have good knowledge of their environment and can advise on conservation issues.
 - b. Tourists must be responsible enough to heed such advice and respect the locals and their environment during their trips.

As both parties work together, it is easier to achieve sustainable tourism.

(Is this conclusion acceptable? Why? How can you improve on it?)

6. 'Ecotourism is the best way to ensure sustainability of tourism.' To what extent do you consider this statement to be true? Explain your answer.
- 1. The sustainability of tourism can simply be defined as the effort taken by various stakeholders to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the positive impacts of tourism in an area.
 - 2. Ecotourism is one way to ensure the sustainability of tourism.
 - a. Ecotourism describes touristic activities in often remote natural settings.
 - i. These activities aim to support conservation efforts to protect the environment and the species residing there. It is a framework for travelers to enjoy remarkable destinations where their presence has a positive impact.
 - 1. An example would be the [Galapagos National Park in Ecuador](#), which is famous for its unique biodiversity. It hosts diverse and delicate ecosystems that play a crucial role in the global balance of nature.
 - 2. It charges an entrance fee of US\$100 and imposes laws and policies to reduce the impact of tourism on the environment.
 - 3. By limiting the number of tourists going to the island, it will be able to reduce the negative impact that tourism brings.
 - 3. However, other ways could be more effective in ensuring the sustainability of tourism, such as [community-based tourism. \(CBT\)](#)
 - a. CBT is tourism where the money earned directly benefits the whole community.
 - i. The community could be a village, cooperative, or collective, and the benefits should be financial. The community should be in control of how any profits are used.
 - ii. Homestays, guided tours, cultural events, and outdoor recreation are just a few examples of the many activities that can be included in CBT
 - iii. An example is Da Bac in Hoa Binh Province, Vietnam where tourists can get off the beaten track for a more authentic experience of local culture.
 - iv. The [Da Bac Community-Based Tourism](#) project offers Vietnam homestay, trekking, and cultural experiences in three scenic ethnic minority villages.
 - 4. In conclusion, there is no single best way to ensure the sustainability of tourism, as it depends on whether it addresses the needs of locals and suits the local context.
 - a. Both ecotourism and community-based tourism can be pro-poor, which is economically beneficial to poverty-stricken areas.

- b. They both also increase the amount of tourism revenue that can be channeled to conserve natural environments and promote appreciation of local culture, thus enhancing social and environmental sustainability.
 - i. This can be seen in the case of how locals in Sanjiangyuan National Park, China offer homestay experiences with local families and appreciate snow leopards in the wild.
 - c. On one hand, this provides cultural ecosystem services such as educating tourists on traditional culture and the conservation of snow leopards. The government also trains local herdsman as rangers, which allows them to gain employment and increase their annual income by an average of 21,600 yuan each year.
5. Thus, as long as different stakeholders continue to cooperate and agree on how sustainable tourism looks like in their community, any approach will be successful in ensuring long-term development.

(Why do you think this conclusion is good? What criterion is used here?)

Similar question

- “The responsibility of sustainably managing tourism should lie on the shoulders of the planning authorities.” Do you agree with the statement? Explain your answers with relevant examples.

To write a good OEQ and get 9 marks, the essay must:
