

ANSWERS Unit Six Task Two Writing Gap Fill On Overpopulation

Writing Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems.

Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Part One - Model Answer Gap Fill

Fill in the gaps in the model essay below with the words in the box.

Fill in the blanks with one of the following words:

measures caused Finally beneficial overcrowding offer experiencing
consequence solutions Secondly occupied significant address Firstly
encourage illness improve vital collective overcome urban

Many countries of the world are currently **experiencing** problems caused by rapidly growing populations in urban areas, and both governments and individuals have a duty to find ways to **overcome** these problems.

Overpopulation can lead to **overcrowding** and poor quality housing in many large cities. Poorly heated or damp housing could cause **significant** health problems, resulting in **illness**, such as bronchitis or pneumonia. Another serious **consequence** of overcrowding is a rising crime rate as poor living conditions may lead young people in particular to take desperate **measures** and turn to crime or drugs.

In terms of **solutions**, I believe the government should be largely responsible. **Firstly**, it is **vital** that the state provides essential housing and healthcare for all its citizens. **Secondly**, setting up community projects to help foster more community spirit and help keep young people off the street is a good idea. For example, youth clubs or evening classes for teenagers would keep them **occupied**. **Finally**, more effective policing of inner city areas would also be **beneficial**.

Naturally, individuals should also act responsibly to **address** these problems, and the motivation to do this would hopefully arise if the measures described above are put into place by the government. This is because it will **encourage** people to have more pride in their own community and **improve** the situation.

Therefore, it is clear that the problems **caused** by overpopulation in **urban** areas are very serious. Yet if governments and individuals share a **collective** responsibility, then it may well become possible to **offer** some solutions.

(254 words)

Part Two - Structure and Organisation

This model essay is about **overpopulation in cities**.

You specifically have to talk about the **problems** of overpopulation, and suggest some **solutions** to this problem.

Note that this question specifically asks you what **governments** and **individuals** can do.

You **MUST**, therefore, write about what **both** of these can do in order to fully answer the question.

Note as well that you must talk about **serious** problems.

The easiest way to organise a problems and solutions essay is as follows:

Body 1: Problems

Body 2: Solutions

In this essay, a separate paragraph has been written about government and individual solutions, so it is organised as follows:

Body 1: Problems

Body 2: Solutions - Government

Body 3: Solutions - Individuals

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](#).

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

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Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

Additional Model Answers

Model Answer B - Band 7.5

World population increased rapidly in the last few decades. Urban areas are the worst affected due to population growth. Over population increases the cost of living and worsens pollution. However, these issues can be tackled to a great extent if authorities and people make a concerted effort.

With the advent of technology, governments are rapidly developing urban areas. Therefore, more people are migrating to big cities and this has led to many problems. Firstly, overpopulation has led to an increase in the cost of living in urban areas. As the number of people increases, demand for accommodation also increases. To solve this problem, governments should develop rural areas by building some infrastructure and creating jobs. When jobs are available in the countryside people stop migrating to big cities, and the burden on urban areas would reduce to some extent. Thus, with proper planning, problems caused by overpopulation in urban areas can be solved.

Another major effect of overpopulation is air pollution. As the number of people increases, more people start using transport services like cars and motorcycles, thereby leading to an increase in air pollution. Some studies have shown a direct correlation between population increase and air pollution. Therefore, governments should pass some strict laws on birth control to reduce population increase. For example, countries can adopt the one child policy started by China to restrict population growth. Although this may not solve the problem completely, it will definitely reduce the population to some extent.

To recapitulate, while there are some advantages to having more people, we can see that overpopulation has some serious impacts not only on governments but also on nature. With proper planning and by adopting some policies, governments can tackle these problems easily.

(287 words)

Model Answer C - Band 9

All over the world, cities are choked by the numbers of people that they attract. The industrialization of agriculture has led to more and more people fleeing the countryside and looking for work in cities. As a

result, the population of urban areas is growing but the respective infrastructure is not always up to the challenge. One of the main problems arising from this trend, in my opinion, is the level of pollution, especially air pollution from motorized traffic.

Smog has become a ubiquitous problem in cities. Cars, lorries, vespas - they all spew pollutants into the air that are not easily contained or cleaned up. The more people arrive in an urban area, the more there is a need for transport, both of goods and of people.

While smog in itself is unpleasant, there is a flow-on effect in public health, as smog can cause serious respiratory illness and even death. This means that urban air pollution is not simply an aesthetic issue, but is indeed a severe health problem that drains public health systems.

It is thus in the best interest of governments to tackle this issue. One obvious solution to the problem is an investment in rail-based infrastructure, which provides a means of transport that doesn't produce smog. Such an investment should include both public transport, for example, light-rail or train, and rail-based transport of goods. Furthermore, governments could initiate public health campaigns, including advertising, to better educate the public about the risks of smog.

Individuals, on the other hand, also have a role to play. They can make an effort to choose public transport over the car - even if it isn't always as convenient - and they can even choose the bike as a means of getting around. In addition, a lot of traffic can be avoided if one simply chooses to live near the workplace.

In conclusion, it is unlikely that the influx of people into urban centres is coming to a halt anytime soon. Among the many problems this development causes, urban air pollution is one of the most pressing ones, but it can be tackled if governments and individuals realize the urgency of this public health crisis and act accordingly.

Total Words: 400

Task Achievement: 9

Coherence & Cohesion: 9

Lexical resources: 9

Grammar: 9

Overall Score: Band 9

Model Answer D

Overpopulation is one of the most pressing issues faced by the entire world in this day and age. Today, the world population is well over 7 billion and rising. The more concerning fact is that the distribution of population is severely erratic and is concentrated primarily in countries like China and India. Consequently, this predicament has precipitated countless complications among the general public, especially those residing in urban areas. In this essay, I will address some of the significant problems caused by overpopulation and suggest possible solutions to overcome the situation.

One of the gravest problems that are facilitated by overpopulation is the deficiency of living space. As we know that land resources are limited in nature, the area available for residence is also finite. Since the majority of the population resides in urban areas, the ability to shelter every individual becomes an arduous task. This phenomenon is called overcrowding and is relatively common in metropolitan areas. Additionally, due to the issue of overcrowding, the collective standard of living also declines considerably in urban cities. As the number of inhabitants surges, the means of the local authorities to provide decent public services like safe drinking water, sanitation and proper food is hampered.

Nevertheless, some measures can be taken to uplift these circumstances. First and foremost, the concept of family planning should be made known to the underprivileged and uneducated sections of society. It is only when the stigma regarding such sensitive subjects is eradicated that the focus of the populace will be re-directed towards more distressing matters. Also, proper city planning must be undertaken by the administration to tackle the current situation of overpopulation. With a reliable system, the plight of innumerable urban dwellers can be resolved.

Finally, the problem of overpopulation is something that cannot be solved instantly. With the consolidated efforts of both the general public and the government, the further aggravation of this issue can be restrained.

(320 words)

Vocabulary

Erratic

Meaning: not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable.

Eg: The results from this method were quite erratic.

Predicament

Meaning: a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation.

Eg: He was responsible for his current predicament.

Precipitated

Meaning: cause (an event or situation, typically one that is undesirable) to happen suddenly, unexpectedly, or prematurely

Eg: The violent death of that woman precipitated nationwide outrage.

Finite

Meaning: limited in size or extent.

Eg: The natural resources of the world like fossil fuels are finite.

Arduous

Meaning: involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring.

Eg: The arduous journey from the bottom of the mountain to the summit was unbearable.

Surges

Meaning: a sudden large increase

Eg: The surge in the number of COVID-19 patients was alarming.

Hampered

Meaning: hinder or impede the movement or progress of.

Eg: His work was constantly hampered by the loud noises outside.

Stigma

Meaning: a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person.

Eg: There is an age-old stigma regarding inter caste marriage in society.

Eradicated

Meaning: destroy completely; put an end to.

Eg: The concept of racism has to be completely eradicated from society.

Aggravation

Meaning: the state of becoming worse or more serious.

Eg: The remarks of the politician led to the further aggravation of the situation.

Model Answer E

These days, the urban population is increasing alarmingly. The large numbers of population have swollen the ranks of the unemployed. Moreover, the highly dense population causes environmental pollution. However, we can curb the problem by dealing with the root cause of the issue.

To begin with, several problems stem from the growing population in the cities. First of all, it increases youth unemployment, which by consequence impacts on the cities severely. The crime rate in urban areas has increased more than ever before. Many gangs operate their anti-social activities in tandem with idle young adults. For instance, many studies reveal that most crimes are committed by the jobless youth population. Apart from that, many people have their own private vehicles, which have brought forth traffic congestion on the road, thus exhaust emissions also contribute to global warming. On top of that, the scarcity of decent accommodation is also an increasing problem that the cities must grapple with.

However, we can quell the issues by dealing with the root cause. If we delve deeply into this phenomenon, we will see that the uneven urbanization is the root cause of overpopulation. The facilities for example, education, employment, health care, basic infrastructure etc. have only been concentrated in the urban areas. The basic amenities such as water supply, 24 hours electricity, and good roads still seem to be a part of the dream in many rural areas across the globe. As a result of this, people are migrating to the big cities in the hope of a better life.

To recapitulate, people are moving to the cities, which in turn causes a myriad of problems such as, youth unemployment, crimes, pollution, indecent housing, and so forth. The root cause of these overcrowded cities is urbanization. In this case, rural development would stem the flood of population in the cities.

(306 words)

Overpopulation of urban areas is one of the most pressing issues that we are facing today, which has led to severe problems, environmentally and economically. The effects of overpopulation are accelerating alarmingly and thus, it has become crucial to identify these problems and determine ways to tackle them.

Firstly, overpopulation leads to overcrowding and thus, demand exceeds supply. As the human population keeps on rising, exhaustible natural resources like arable land, fossil fuels etc. continue to drop sharply. This results in depletion of natural resources, for example, the reckless cutting of trees to facilitate the housing needs of a large population. It also becomes difficult to cater to the ever-growing requirements of an overpopulated nation and thus, one has to compromise on the quality of life in terms of infrastructure, health and hygiene facilities, education and employment opportunities.

It has become necessary to stabilize the rampant population growth. It is high time the government and individuals took responsibility to control the rate of population. In order to reduce its adverse impacts, the government must implement measures such as spreading awareness among people and introducing suitable policies to curb the growth rate of population. For example, introduction of family planning programs and easy access to safe and effective contraceptive options. As fertility depends on the age of marriage, the minimum age of marriage should be fixed and firmly implemented by law.

Individuals too must take responsibility to educate themselves and those around them about the adverse effects of overpopulation. They must also make effective use of birth control methods and co-operate with the government to control overpopulation.

The need of the hour is to focus on changing the mindset of people because the threat presented by the problem of overpopulation to economic progress and our environment is inevitable.

(297 words)

Model Answer G

The twenty-first century has witnessed a movement of a large migrant population from the rural areas to the urban areas. Initially, it is safe to say that the urban economy has made a substantial contribution towards providing a better life for a minority of households in the countryside, whose members have stable jobs in the cities. However, it seems increasingly clear that this overpopulation has gradually had many negative impacts on the environment, infrastructure, and the society in the urban areas.

First of all, one noticeable issue is that the unemployment of migrant people has encouraged crime in urban society. Most of them do not even have jobs or an adequate income to survive. As a result, they might participate in criminal activities to earn money. Another important point is that the development of the urban infrastructure almost cannot catch up with the overpopulation. There are many more people resulting in roads and buildings becoming run-down. In addition, it is clearly seen that the urban environment has been severely affected, for instance, air and water pollution as examples of negative consequences due to the increase in the number of vehicles.

What is needed to cope with those issues is definite action. In general, the government should implement many policies to improve rural life. Specifically, there should be many more social amenities and facilities

built. Simultaneously, job creation in the rural areas should also be maintained so that the number of migrant people can be reduced in the cities.

To sum up, I think overpopulation has indeed had many negative effects on the urban environment and society. The best way to combat those problems is to improve the quality of life in the rural areas.

(286 words)
