

1. Is **freedom of speech** necessary in a free society?
2. Some people think **women** should be allowed to join the army, the navy and the air force just like men.
3. **Machine translation** (MT) is slower and less accurate than human translation and there is no immediate or predictable likelihood of machines taking over this role from humans.
4. Some people consider **computers** to be more of a **hindrance than a help**. Others believe that they have greatly increased human potential.
5. Modern lifestyles mean that many **parents have little time for their children**. Many children suffer because they do not get as much attention from their parents as children did in the past.
6. In most countries **multinational companies** and their products are becoming more and more important. This trend is seriously damaging our quality of life.
7. More and more qualified people are moving from poor to rich countries to fill vacancies in specialist areas like engineering, computing and **medicine (brain drain)**.  
Some people believe that by encouraging the movement of such people, rich countries are stealing from poor countries. Others feel that this is only part of the natural movement of workers around the world.
8. Computers and modems have made it possible for office workers to do much of their work from home instead of working in offices every day. **Working from home** should be encouraged as it is good for workers and employers.
9. Nowadays many **students** have the opportunity to study for part or all of their courses in **foreign countries**.  
While studying abroad brings many benefits to individual students, it also has a number of disadvantages.
10. As mass communication and transport continue to grow, societies are becoming more and more alike leading to a phenomenon known as **globalization**. Some people fear that globalization will inevitably lead to the total loss of cultural identity.
11. In some countries **young people** have **little leisure time** and are under a lot of pressure to work hard in their studies.  
What do you think are the causes of this?  
What solutions can you suggest?
12. Scientists and the news media are presenting ever more evidence of **climate change**. Governments cannot be expected to solve this problem. It is the responsibility of individuals to change their lifestyle to prevent further damage.
13. In some countries young people are encouraged to **work or travel for a year** between finishing high school and starting university studies.
14. Some people say that **advertising** encourages us to buy things that we really do not need. Others say that advertisements tell us about new products that may improve our lives.
15. **Successful sports professionals** can earn a great deal more money than people in other important professions.  
Some people think this is fully justified while others think it is unfair.
16. School children are becoming far too **dependent on computers**. This is having an alarming effect on reading and writing skills. Teachers need to avoid using computers in the classroom at all costs and go back to teaching basic study skills.

17. Governments should make more effort to promote **alternative sources of energy**.
18. Countries such as China, India and Japan have **unsustainable population growths**. In fact many experts are of the opinion that the population 'explosion' which is now a very worrying concern, is the most serious threat to life on this planet. Give some suggestions to address this problem.
19. In a recent survey conducted in this country, it was found that up to 20% of twelve year-olds in some schools were showing early signs of **nicotine addiction**.  
In the eighteen to twenty year age bracket the percentage was as high as 70%. A large contributing factor to this high level of addiction is attributed to the uncensored TV advertising of cigarettes.  
For this reason all cigarette advertising should be banned.
20. **Illiteracy** has traditionally been viewed as largely a third world problem.  
However it is becoming apparent that in countries such as the USA and Australia, illiteracy is on the increase.
21. In today's competitive world, many families find it necessary for **both parents** to go out to **work**. While some say the children in these families benefit from the additional income, others feel they lack support because of their parents' absence.
22. If you could **change** one important thing about your **hometown**, what would you change?
23. A company has announced that it wishes to **build a large factory** near your community.  
Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this new influence on your community. Do you support or oppose the factory? Explain your position.
24. It has been said, "**Not every thing that is learned is contained in books.**"  
Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why?
25. Nowadays, **food** has become **easier to prepare**. Has this change improved the way people live?
26. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? **Parents are the best teachers**.
27. People **attend college or university** for many different **reasons** (for example, new experiences, career preparation, increased knowledge). Why do you think people attend college or university?
28. In many countries today, the **eating habits and lifestyle of children** are different from those of previous generations. Some people say this has had a negative effect on their health.
29. The number of **overweight children** in developed countries is increasing. Some people think this is due to problems such as the growing number of fast food outlets. Others believe that parents are to blame for not looking after their children's health.
30. Nowadays we are producing more and more **rubbish**.  
Why do you think this is happening?  
What can governments do to help reduce the amount of rubbish produced?
31. Recent figures show an **increase in violent crime** among youngsters under the age of 18. Some psychologists claim that the basic reason for this is that children these days are not getting the social and emotional learning they need from parents and teachers.  
To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
32. **Financial education** should be a mandatory component of the school program. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

33. Even though **globalization** affects the world's economies in a very positive way, its negative side should not be forgotten. Discuss.
34. In some countries **children** have very **strict rules of behavior**, in other countries they are allowed to do almost anything they like. To what extent should children have to follow rules?
35. Some people think that spending a lot on holding wedding parties, birthday parties and other **celebrations is just a waste of money**. Others, however, think that these are necessary for individuals and the society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
36. **Public libraries** should only provide books and should not waste their limited resources on expensive high-tech media such as software, videos or DVDs. Do you agree or disagree?
37. Modern **children** are suffering from the **diseases** that were once considered to be meant for adults only. Obesity is a major disease prevalent among children. What are its causes and what solutions can be offered?
38. Some people think that **schools** should **select students** according to their academic abilities, while others believe that it is better to have students with different abilities studying together. Discuss both views and state your own opinion.
39. Many offenders commit more **crimes** after serving **the first punishment**. Why is this happening, and what measures can be taken to tackle this problem?
40. **As computers** are being used more and more in **education**, there will be soon no role **for teachers in the classroom**.
41. 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, **future developments in IT** are likely to have more negative effects than positive. To what extent do you agree with this view?
42. Some of the **methods used in advertising** are unethical and unacceptable in today's society. To what extent do you agree with this view?
43. Currently there is a trend towards the use of **alternative forms of medicine**. However, at best these methods are ineffective, and at worst they may be dangerous. To what extent do you agree with this statement?
44. Some people believe **the aim of university education** is to help graduates get better jobs. Others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
45. Some people think that the best way to **reduce crime** is to give **longer prison sentences**. Others, however, believe there are better alternative ways of reducing crime. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
46. **Government investment in the arts**, such as music and theatre, is a waste of money. Governments must invest this money in **public services** instead. To what extent do you agree with this statement?
47. Levels of **youth crime** are increasing rapidly in most cities around the world. What are the reasons for this, and suggest some solutions.
48. In order to solve **traffic problems**, governments should **tax private car owners** heavily and use the money to improve **public transportation**. What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a solution?

49. **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.
50. As people live longer and longer, the idea of **cloning human beings** in order to provide spare parts is becoming a reality. The idea horrifies most people, yet it is no longer mere science fiction. To what extent do you agree with such a procedure?
51. A growing number of people feel that **animals** should not be **exploited** by people and that they should have the same rights as humans, while others argue that humans must employ animals to satisfy their various needs, including uses for food and research. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
52. Many **old buildings** protected by law are part of a nation's history. Some people think they should be knocked down and replaced by new ones. How important is it to maintain old buildings? Should history stand in the way of progress?
53. Examine the arguments in favour of and against **animal experiments**, and come to a conclusion on this issue.
54. Do the dangers derived from the use of **chemicals in food production** and preservation outweigh the advantages?
55. According to a recent study, the more time people use the Internet, the less time they spend with real human beings. Some people say that instead of seeing the **Internet** as a way of opening up new communication possibilities world-wide, we should be concerned about the effect this is having on **social interaction**. How far do you agree with this opinion?
56. In many parts of the world today there is a profitable market for **products which lighten or whiten people's skin**. Outline the reasons for using such products and discuss what effects they have in terms of health and society.
57. **Global warming** is one of the most serious issues that the world is facing today. What are the causes of global warming and what measures can governments and individuals take to tackle the issue?
58. **Air traffic** is increasingly leading to more noise, pollution, and airport construction. One reason for this is the growth in low-cost passenger flights, often to holiday destinations. Some people say that government should try to reduce air traffic by taxing it more heavily. Do you agree or disagree?
59. **University education** should be **free** to everyone, regardless of income. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
60. Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games. What are the positive and negative **impacts of playing computer games** and what can be done to minimize the bad effects?
61. Governments should be responsible for **funding and controlling scientific research** rather than private organizations. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
62. **Smoking** not only harms the smoker, but also those who are nearby. Therefore, smoking should be **banned in public places**. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

63. As countries have developed there has been a trend towards **smaller family sizes**. Why does this happen? How does this affect society?

64. **Stress** is now a major problem in many countries around the world. What are some of the factors in modern society that cause this stress, and how can we reduce it?

65. It has been claimed that **workers over 50** are not responsive to rapidly changing ideas in the modern workplace and that for this reason younger workers are to be preferred. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

66. Nowadays, **families** are not as close as in the past and a lot of people have become used to this. Why is this happening? Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?

67. These days, many **children** have **difficulty paying attention** and concentrating in their classes at school. What are the reasons for this? How can it be dealt with?

68. Many newspapers and magazines feature stories about the **private lives** of famous people. We know what they eat, where they buy their clothes and who they love. We also often see pictures of them in private situations.

Is it appropriate for a magazine or newspaper to give this kind of private information about people?

69. Some people feel that certain **workers** like nurses, doctors and teachers are **undervalued** and should be paid more, especially when other people like film actors or company bosses are paid huge sums of money that are out of proportion to the importance of the work that they do. -How far do you agree?  
-What criteria should be used to decide how much people are paid?

70. Some people think that it is important to use **leisure time** for activities that improve the mind, such as reading and doing word puzzles.

Other people feel that it is important to rest the mind during leisure time.

71. We have been living in the **nuclear age** now for over half a century. Since the first atomic bombs were developed, nuclear technology has provided governments with the ability to totally destroy the planet. Yet the technology has been put to positive use as an energy source and in certain areas of medicine. To what extent is nuclear technology a danger to life on Earth? What are the benefits and risks associated with its use?

72. People in all modern societies use **drugs**, but today's youth are experimenting with both legal and illegal drugs, and at an increasingly early age. Some sociologists claim that parents and other members of society often set a bad example.

Discuss the causes and some effects of widespread drug use by young people in modern day society. Make any recommendations you feel are necessary to help fight youth drug abuse.

73. **Studying the English language** in an English-speaking country is the best but not the only way to learn language.

74. Although abuses of the system are inevitable, **social welfare payments** are essential to protect the rights citizens have to a guaranteed minimum income in a democratic society. Discuss.

75. **Disruptive school students** have a negative influence on others.

Students who are noisy and disobedient should be grouped together and taught separately.

76. Should parents be obliged to **immunise** their children **against childhood diseases**?  
Or do individuals have the right to choose not to immunise their children?

77. **Smokers** can cause themselves serious health problems. The choice to smoke is made freely and with knowledge of dangers.  
Smokers should therefore expect to pay more for medical treatment than non-smokers. Discuss.

78. Most **writers** of fiction do not earn enough money to live from their writing.  
Do you think the government should give them financial assistance to help encourage good literature?

79. "**Prevention is better than cure.**"

Out of a country's health budget, a large proportion should be diverted from treatment to spending on health education and preventative measures. Discuss.

80. The position of women in society has changed markedly in the last twenty years. Many of the problems young people now experience, such as **juvenile delinquency**, arise from the fact that many married women now work and are not at home to care for their children. Discuss.

81. In some countries the average worker is obliged to retire at the age of 50, while in others people can work until they are 65 or 70. Meanwhile, we see some politicians enjoying power well into their eighties. Clearly, there is little agreement on an **appropriate retirement age**. Discuss.

82. Many people believe that **women** make better **parents** than **men** and that this is why they have the greater role in raising children in most societies. Others claim that men are just as good as women at parenting. Discuss.

83. The **mass media**, including television, radio and newspapers, has great influence in **shaping people's ideas**. Discuss.

84. Without **capital punishment** (the death penalty) our lives are less secure and crimes of violence increase. Capital punishment is essential to control violence in society. Discuss.

85. It has been more than 30 years since man first landed on the moon.  
Some people think that **space research** is a waste of money. Discuss.

86. Many people think that nowadays people are being subjected to more and more **pressure in their work**, and thus are having less and **less time to relax**. Discuss.

87. It is often said that the **subjects taught in schools** are **too academic** in orientation and that it would be more useful for children to learn about **practical matters** such as home management, work and interpersonal skills. Discuss.

88. With the increasing popularity of computers and calculators, **student literacy** is **decreasing** dramatically. What are the positive and negative **effects the progress of science and technology** has brought about?

**89.** In many major cities of the world, you will find **large public buildings, both new and old**. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of such buildings.  
How important is it for a country to construct impressive public buildings when houses are what is really required?

90. Businesses should **hire employees for their entire lives**.

Do you agree or disagree?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

91. The government has announced that it plans **to build a new university**.

Some people think that your community would be a good place to locate the university.

Compare the advantages and disadvantages of establishing a new university in your community.

Use specific details in your discussion.

93. It has recently been announced that **a new movie theater** may be built in your neighborhood.

Do you support or oppose this plan? Why? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

94. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People should read only those **books that are about real events, real people, and established facts**.

Use specific reasons and details to support your opinion.

95. Many parts of the world are losing important natural resources, such as forests, animals, or clean water.

Choose **one resource that is disappearing** and explain why it needs to be saved.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

96. Some people believe that the **best way of learning about life** is by **listening to the advice of family and friends**. Other people believe that the best way of learning about life is through **personal experience**.

Compare the advantages of these two different ways of learning about life. Which do you think is preferable?

Use specific examples to support your preference.

97. Some people like to **do only what they already do well**.

Other people prefer to **try new things and take risks**. Which do you prefer?

Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.

98. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? **Advertising can tell you a lot about a country**.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

99. Some people prefer to **plan activities for their free time** very carefully. Others choose **not to make any plans at all** for their free time. Compare the benefits of planning free-time activities with the benefits of not making plans. Which do you prefer - planning or not planning for your leisure time?

Use specific reasons and examples to explain your choice.

100. The 21st century has begun. What **changes do you think this new century will bring?**

Use examples and details in your answer.

101. Trade and travel would be a lot easier with **a single, global currency** that we all use.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would a single currency cause any problems?

102. The **wealth gap** between **1st world countries and 3rd world countries** seems to be increasing. How can we reduce this gap? Do you think that developed countries have a duty to assist developing countries in every way?

103. With the pressures on today's young people to succeed academically, some people believe that **non-academic subjects at school** (eg: physical education and cookery) should be **removed from the syllabus** so that children can concentrate wholly on academic subjects. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

104. **Children's lives these days are quite different from our generation's.** Describe what are the biggest changes in younger generation and explain some factors of this phenomenon.

105. **Children** who are brought up in the family that **do not have a lot of money** are **better prepared to deal with problems** when they become adults than **children who are brought up by wealthy parent.** Discuss.

107. The earth is being filled with **waste material** such as plastic bags and other rubbish. Is this really happening? What are some solutions to this problem?

108. In Britain, when someone gets **old** they often go to **live in a home with other old people** where there are nurses to look after them. Sometimes the government has to pay for this care. Who should be responsible for our old people?

109. **Action movies** with spectacular car chases are very popular with young people. it is often said that these sorts of movies lead to an **increase in car accidents** among young drivers as they try **to copy what they have seen in the films.** Do you agree that such movies increase the amount of bad driving? What can be done to encourage young people to drive more safely?

110. In the past, **buildings** often **reflected the culture** of a society but today **all modern buildings look alike** and cities throughout the world are becoming more and more similar. What do you think is the reason for this, and is it a good thing or a bad thing?