Teacher’s Name :Prof Hafida Hamzaoui

Level : L3

Module :CWP

**LECTURE 4: ANSWERING ESSAY QUESTIONS WITH ‘TO WHAT EXTENT’**

To what extent: This question asks how far you agree with a proposition stated in the question. It needs a very in-depth assessment of the evidence used to present the writer’s argument. Such question requires that you display the extent of one’s knowledge on a given subject and to adopt an analytical style in stating his/her position. But ultimately, one must show why a particular set of evidence, or piece of information, is more valid for supporting his/her answer.

The essay answering “To what extent” questions is being examined on your ability to comprehend the evidence you find and is examining that your conclusion gives a reasonable response to the evidence given in your essay. You should examine the types of evidence and show that your evidence gives fair representation of both sides of the argument you have been asked to write about. Also the evidence that you use must be relevant.

TUTORIAL (TD) 4

Topic: The government's investment in arts, music and theatre is a waste of money. Governments should invest these funds in public services instead.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

1) Choose your opinion and generate ideas

In fact, you have 3 major options for your opinion:

  AA: You completely agree (provide 2 ideas that strengthen the statement)

  DD: You completely disagree (provide 2 ideas that weaken the statement)

  AD: You agree or disagree partly (provide 1 idea that strengthens the statement and 1 idea that weakens it)

2) After you’ve decided your opinion, generate 2-3 supporting points for it.

3) Generate supporting points for the opinion you have opted for. Below are examples for the three opinions :

AA: Investment in arts, music and theatre is a waste of money

o Art, music and theatre don’t help to solve urgent problems of the society

o Art and music can develop as hobbies, and saved money can be directed towards urgent needs of the society

o If artists and musicians were employed at more traditional jobs, there would be a great benefit for science and industry

DD: Investment in arts, music and theatre is NOT a waste of money

• The arts and music preserve unique culture and heritage, passing nation’s cultural character and traditions to future generations

• Arts, music and theatre are an integral part of the society’s cultural and intellectual development and amusement

• A strong arts, music and theatre sector is an economic asset that creates new jobs and attracts tourism revenue

AD: Investment in arts is important, but public services should be financed in the first place

For this opinion, just combine ideas from the previous points.

For our essay, we’ll choose the last opinion - partially agree / disagree (AD).

4) Structure your essay

Introduction

Body paragraph 1 - the 1st supporting point

Body paragraph 2 - the 2nd supporting point

Conclusion

We’ll use the last option which is partially agree / disagree as our opinion to write the supporting points of the body

Introduction

Write your introduction in three sentences:

• Sentence 1 - paraphrase the statement (you can use ‘it is argued/considered/thought that’ to start):

It is often argued that the government should finance public services instead of spending its budget on arts, music and theatre.

• Sentence2- Background information

• Sentence 3 - give your opinion in the thesis statement:

Although I agree that government’s investments in public services play a very important role, I think that proper funding of arts sector is also crucial for the society.

Body paragraph 1 - the 1st supporting point

• Sentence 1 - state the first reason you agree/disagree.

This sentence should contain the main idea of the whole 1st paragraph. In our case we’ll use the reason A: why it is important to finance public services. As we’ll be considering opposite opinions, it is a good idea to use a collocation on the one hand to introduce the first reason:

On the one hand, the government should definitely allocate a large part of its budget on public services.

• Sentences 2-3 - explain the reason.

To explain the reason effectively, you can imagine that your examiner didn’t understand what you were talking about and you have to explain every detail:

This economic sector determines the overall quality of life, ensuring that some basic services, like schools, hospitals and roads, are available to all citizens irrespective of their income or social status. Public services satisfy the primary needs of the society and thus need a proper funding, while artists and musicians are not curing diseases or building houses, so their role is secondary.

• Sentence 4 - example.

It’s always good to give examples in your body paragraphs, even if you’re not asked to do it (like in our case):

For example, any country can live without music concerts, but absence of medicine will create significant problems.

• Sentence 5 - a short summary of your ideas in this paragraph:

That’s why the government should adequately finance public services in the first place.

Body paragraph 2 - the 2nd reason you agree/disagree

• Sentence 1 - state the second reason you agree/disagree.

This statement should contain the main idea of the whole 2nd paragraph. This time we’ll use the reason D: why it is important to finance public services. As we are considering opposite opinions, it is a good idea to use a phrase on the other hand to introduce the second reason:

On the other hand, arts, music and theatre are not a waste of money, since they are an integral part of the society’s cultural and intellectual development and amusement.

• Sentences 2-3 - explain the reason (assume that your examiner doesn’t understand the topic at all):

Firstly, art and music draw people’s attention to diverse phenomena and represent the inward significance of things. Quite often a single drawing, piece or song can exhort myriads of people to reconsider their attitude towards some situation. This way, art serves as a major source of nation’s personal and intellectual development. Moreover, visiting museums, watching movies and listening to music are common ways of relaxation and entertainment.

• Sentence 4 - support your idea with an example:

The question doesn’t ask us to give examples, plus we’ve already written a lot in this paragraph, so we’ll skip this point.

• Sentence 5 - a short summary of your thoughts in the 2nd paragraph.

Thus, art sector is also important for the society and should not be neglected.

Conclusion

You can write the conclusion in one sentence that summarizes your opinion + 2 reasons for it:

To conclude, though I agree that the government should allocate a large part of its budget on such urgent needs of the society like public services, I think that arts, music and theatre should also be financed since they play an important role in people’s development and entertainment.

Reference

IELTS –up https://ielts-up.com/writing/to-what-extent-agree-disagree-essay.html