

IELTS WRITING TASK 2

Argument Planner

A 10-essay workbook for planning “discuss both sides” arguments — choose your opinion, identify the main topics, and match supporting reasons to each paragraph.

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How to Use This Workbook

For students

This workbook helps you plan your IELTS Writing Task 2 essays. There are 10 topics. Each topic has one page.

1. Read the question at the top of the page.
2. Step 1: Choose your opinion. Tick the box next to your idea.
3. Step 2: This essay asks about two sides. Find the two topics that talk about the two sides. Tick these two boxes.
4. Step 3: Look at the list of ideas. Choose two ideas for Paragraph 1 and two ideas for Paragraph 2. Some ideas do not belong to either paragraph — do not tick these.
5. When you finish, check your answers with the Answer Key at the back of this book.
6. After you finish planning, you can write your full essay on a separate sheet of paper.

For teachers

This workbook is good for classwork or homework. Students can work alone, in pairs, or in small groups.

- Use one page per lesson, or give several pages for homework.
- Ask students to say why they chose their answers. This helps them practise speaking too.
- The Answer Key at the back has short explanations for every answer. You can use this to check work quickly, or read it with the class.
- This planning step is a good exercise before students write a full Task 2 essay.



Practise this exercise online

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IELTS Writing Task 2 Argument Planner

Question — 1. Education (University Fees)

Some people believe that university education should be free for everyone. Others think that students should pay for their higher education. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ University education should be entirely free to ensure equal opportunities.
- ☐ Students should contribute to the cost of their university education.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a "discuss both sides" essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ The rising cost of university tuition around the world.
- ☐ The reasons why students should pay tuition fees.
- ☐ The value of a university degree in today's job market.
- ☐ The benefits of providing free higher education.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	Universities that rely on tuition income have more independence from political interference.
☐	☐	Free education encourages more students to pursue subjects that benefit society, like teaching or nursing, rather than only high-paying fields.
☐	☐	Government funds saved by not subsidizing tuition can be redirected to other public services, such as healthcare.
☐	☐	Free education removes financial barriers, allowing talented individuals from low-income backgrounds to reach their potential.
☐	☐	Many university students spend too much time partying instead of studying.
☐	☐	Countries with tuition-free universities, such as Germany, still produce world-class research and graduates.
☐	☐	The cost of textbooks has increased significantly in recent years.
☐	☐	A highly educated workforce benefits the entire economy through increased innovation and tax revenues.
☐	☐	Charging fees ensures that universities have sufficient funding to maintain high-quality facilities and attract top professors.
☐	☐	Some countries offer scholarships to international students.
☐	☐	When students pay, they are often more motivated to study hard and value their degree.



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IELTS Writing Task 2 Argument Planner

Question — 2. Technology (Social Media)

Some people argue that social media has a negative impact on individuals and society. Others believe it has brought many benefits. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ The negative impacts of social media outweigh the benefits.
- ☐ Social media has largely been a positive force for individuals and society.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a “discuss both sides” essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ The positive contributions of social networks.
- ☐ The average amount of time people spend on social media daily.
- ☐ The differences between popular social media platforms.
- ☐ The detrimental effects of social media usage.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	Platforms allow people to maintain relationships across vast distances easily.
☐	☐	People used to write letters to communicate.
☐	☐	Cyberbullying is more pervasive on social media, following victims beyond the schoolyard and into their homes.
☐	☐	Social media enables instant access to news and information from around the world.
☐	☐	Constant notifications and the pressure to stay online can significantly reduce attention spans and productivity.
☐	☐	It can facilitate the rapid spread of misinformation and echo chambers.
☐	☐	Smartphones have become much more expensive recently.
☐	☐	Excessive use often leads to anxiety, depression, and unrealistic comparisons with others.
☐	☐	Small businesses can reach global customers at a fraction of the cost of traditional advertising.
☐	☐	Many celebrities have millions of followers online.
☐	☐	It gives marginalized groups a platform to raise awareness and organize movements.



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Question — 3. Environment (Responsibility)

Some people think that environmental problems should be solved by politicians and governments. Others believe that it is the responsibility of individuals. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ Governments hold the primary responsibility for tackling environmental issues.
- ☐ Individual actions are the most crucial factor in environmental protection.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a "discuss both sides" essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ The impact of individual choices on the environment.
- ☐ The long-term consequences of environmental damage.
- ☐ The role and power of governments in environmental protection.
- ☐ Examples of environmental policies used by governments today.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	When individuals adopt greener habits, they often influence family and friends to do the same, multiplying the impact.
☐	☐	Consumer demand ultimately dictates what corporations produce; therefore, individual boycotts are effective.
☐	☐	Recycling programs differ significantly between cities.
☐	☐	Personal lifestyle changes, such as reducing waste and reusing items, can be made immediately without waiting for new laws.
☐	☐	Only governments have the authority to enact and enforce strict laws against heavy polluting industries.
☐	☐	Without government regulation, companies have little financial incentive to reduce their own emissions voluntarily.
☐	☐	Large-scale infrastructure changes, like transitioning to renewable energy grids, require massive state funding.
☐	☐	If millions of individuals reduce their meat consumption and use public transport, the collective impact is enormous.
☐	☐	Plastic pollution in the oceans is a terrible problem.
☐	☐	Solar panels are becoming cheaper.
☐	☐	International climate agreements can only be signed and enforced by national governments, not individuals.



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Question — 4. Work (Remote Work)

Some people prefer to work from home, while others prefer to work in an office. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ Working from home is superior to working in an office.
- ☐ The traditional office environment remains the best way to work.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a “discuss both sides” essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ The advantages of remote working arrangements.
- ☐ The design and layout of modern office spaces.
- ☐ The benefits of a traditional office environment.
- ☐ The technology and equipment needed to work from home.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	Offices usually have air conditioning.
☐	☐	Meeting face-to-face reduces miscommunication that can occur over email or chat messages.
☐	☐	Remote work allows companies to hire talented people regardless of where they live, widening the talent pool.
☐	☐	Physical proximity fosters spontaneous collaboration and stronger team bonding.
☐	☐	People need to buy comfortable chairs if they work at home.
☐	☐	Some companies offer free snacks in the office kitchen.
☐	☐	An office provides a clear separation between professional and personal life, aiding mental health.
☐	☐	Employees often report higher productivity at home due to fewer office distractions.
☐	☐	New employees learn workplace norms and skills more easily by observing experienced colleagues in person.
☐	☐	Working from home gives employees more flexibility to manage personal responsibilities, such as childcare, alongside their job.
☐	☐	Eliminating the daily commute saves workers significant time and reduces stress.



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Question — 5. Health (Fast Food)

Some people think that governments should ban the sale of junk food to improve public health. Others believe this infringes on personal freedom. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ Governments should ban junk food to protect citizens' health.
- ☐ People should have the freedom to choose what they eat, even if it is unhealthy.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a "discuss both sides" essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ How fast food companies advertise to children.
- ☐ The public health rationale for restricting junk food sales.
- ☐ The rising rates of obesity and diet-related illness.
- ☐ The argument for preserving personal dietary freedom.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	Government bans rarely change behavior effectively, as people can simply travel elsewhere to buy what they want.
☐	☐	Adults should be trusted to make their own lifestyle choices without state interference.
☐	☐	People should exercise more often.
☐	☐	Personal responsibility for health decisions is a fundamental right in a free society.
☐	☐	Fast food restaurants are often open late at night.
☐	☐	A ban would reduce the long-term strain on families who face the financial burden of treating diet-related illness.
☐	☐	Children are especially vulnerable to unhealthy eating habits formed early, which can last a lifetime.
☐	☐	Junk food is engineered to be addictive, meaning consumers cannot always make rational choices.
☐	☐	Pizza is very popular in many countries.
☐	☐	Banning foods could lead to illegal black markets and hurt the economy by closing businesses.
☐	☐	Diet-related diseases place a massive, unsustainable burden on national healthcare systems.



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Question — 6. Crime (Rehabilitation vs. Punishment)

Some people believe that the main purpose of prisons is to punish criminals. Others argue that prisons should focus on rehabilitating offenders. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ The primary function of the prison system should be punishment and deterrence.
- ☐ Prisons should prioritize rehabilitating inmates to reintegrate them into society.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a “discuss both sides” essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ How to prevent youth crime.
- ☐ The benefits of focusing on prisoner rehabilitation.
- ☐ The arguments for using prisons primarily as a form of punishment.
- ☐ The financial cost of running the prison system.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	Providing education and job training reduces reoffending rates when inmates are released.
☐	☐	Helping inmates address mental health and substance abuse issues reduces the likelihood they will reoffend after release.
☐	☐	Severe penalties serve as a strong deterrent, discouraging others from committing similar offenses.
☐	☐	A justice system focused on punishment reinforces the idea that actions have consequences, upholding social order.
☐	☐	Removing dangerous offenders from society through strict sentencing directly protects the public.
☐	☐	Prison uniforms vary between different countries.
☐	☐	Countries that prioritize rehabilitation, such as Norway, report significantly lower reoffending rates than punishment-focused systems.
☐	☐	Victims of crime deserve justice, and seeing offenders suffer consequences provides closure.
☐	☐	Prisons are very expensive to build and maintain.
☐	☐	Many criminals commit crimes due to underlying issues like addiction or poverty, which need treating, not just punishing.
☐	☐	Some people are wrongfully convicted.



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Question — 7. Transport (Cars vs. Public Transport)

Some people think that governments should spend more money on improving public transport. Others believe that funds should be invested in building new roads for cars. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ Government investment should prioritize public transportation networks.
- ☐ Funding should be directed towards expanding and improving road infrastructure for private vehicles.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a “discuss both sides” essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ The number of new cars sold each year.
- ☐ The advantages of investing in public transportation.
- ☐ The reasons for prioritizing road building and expansion.
- ☐ The safety features found in modern vehicles.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	Electric cars are becoming more popular.
☐	☐	Better roads reduce travel time for emergency services, such as ambulances and fire trucks.
☐	☐	Subsidized public transport ensures mobility for lower-income individuals who cannot afford cars.
☐	☐	A reliable public transport network decreases traffic accidents by reducing the total number of vehicles on the road.
☐	☐	Cars provide unparalleled convenience and flexibility for personal travel and commuting.
☐	☐	Rural and suburban areas often lack the population density to make public transport financially viable, so roads remain essential.
☐	☐	Investing in public transport reduces the need for costly parking infrastructure in crowded city centers.
☐	☐	Expanding road networks is crucial for the efficient transport of commercial goods, boosting the economy.
☐	☐	Efficient trains and buses significantly reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in cities.
☐	☐	Bicycles are a healthy way to travel.
☐	☐	Traffic laws differ from country to country.



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Question — 8. Society (Elderly Care)

Some people believe that it is the responsibility of individuals to take care of their aging parents. Others think that the government should provide care for the elderly. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ Adult children have a moral obligation to care for their elderly parents.
- ☐ The state should bear the responsibility for providing elderly care.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a "discuss both sides" essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ The familial duty and benefits of caring for aging parents.
- ☐ The range of care services available to elderly people.
- ☐ The rising life expectancy in many countries.
- ☐ The arguments for state-provided care for the elderly.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	Family members can offer a level of emotional support and personalized care that institutions cannot match.
☐	☐	Some elderly people enjoy gardening as a hobby.
☐	☐	Nursing homes can sometimes be depressing places.
☐	☐	People are living longer now than in the past.
☐	☐	Professional care facilities employ trained staff who can better manage complex medical needs than untrained family members.
☐	☐	Many modern families require both adults to work full-time, making full-time caregiving impossible.
☐	☐	It is a cultural expectation in many societies to repay parents for the care they provided during childhood.
☐	☐	State-funded elderly care ensures that everyone receives support regardless of whether their family can afford or provide it.
☐	☐	Caring for elderly parents at home allows them to remain in a familiar environment surrounded by loved ones.
☐	☐	Family caregiving strengthens intergenerational bonds and teaches younger family members compassion and responsibility.
☐	☐	Elderly people have paid taxes throughout their lives and deserve state support in their vulnerable years.



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Question — 9. Tourism (Impact)

Some people argue that international tourism has a negative impact on local communities and the environment. Others believe it brings economic and cultural benefits. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ The negative impacts of tourism on locals and the environment outweigh the benefits.
- ☐ International tourism is primarily beneficial economically and culturally.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a "discuss both sides" essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ The detrimental effects of mass tourism.
- ☐ The economic and cultural advantages of tourism.
- ☐ The most visited tourist destinations worldwide.
- ☐ The rising cost of international travel.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	Small local businesses, such as family-run restaurants and shops, can thrive thanks to tourist spending.
☐	☐	Tourists often complain about the weather.
☐	☐	Tourism revenue often funds the preservation and restoration of historical and natural sites.
☐	☐	It often causes a rise in the local cost of living, pricing residents out of their own neighborhoods.
☐	☐	Many airlines offer frequent flyer programs.
☐	☐	Overcrowding at popular sites can damage historical monuments and natural landmarks over time.
☐	☐	An influx of visitors can lead to the destruction of natural habitats and increased pollution.
☐	☐	Local traditions can become commercialized or diluted when they are packaged mainly for tourist consumption.
☐	☐	The industry creates millions of jobs in hospitality, transport, and local services.
☐	☐	Interacting with tourists promotes cross-cultural understanding and preserves local traditions.
☐	☐	Passports are required for international travel.



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Question — 10. Animals (Zoos)

Some people think that zoos are cruel and should be closed down. Others believe they are useful for protecting wild animals. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

1 Choose your opinion

Tick the statement that best reflects your own view.

- ☐ Zoos are inherently cruel and should be abolished.
- ☐ Zoos play a vital role in conservation and education.

2 Identify the main paragraph topics

This is a "discuss both sides" essay — tick the **two** statements that would work best as main topics for your two body paragraphs.

- ☐ The role of zoos in conservation and public education.
- ☐ The ethical arguments against keeping animals in captivity.
- ☐ The variety of animal species commonly found in zoos.
- ☐ The daily care and feeding routines for zoo animals.

3 Match supporting reasons to each paragraph

For each idea below, tick which paragraph it best supports. Choose exactly **two** ideas for Paragraph 1 and **two** for Paragraph 2 — leave the rest unticked.

P1	P2	SUPPORTING IDEA
☐	☐	Modern zoos have significantly improved enclosure design to closely mimic animals' natural habitats.
☐	☐	Animals in zoos are often exploited purely for human entertainment rather than true conservation.
☐	☐	Seeing animals up close inspires children to care about wildlife and support environmental causes.
☐	☐	Breeding programs in modern zoos have saved several species from the brink of extinction.
☐	☐	Lions sleep for many hours a day.
☐	☐	Confining animals to small enclosures restricts their natural behaviors and causes psychological distress.
☐	☐	Zoos fund important scientific research into animal behavior, health, and genetics that benefits wild populations too.
☐	☐	Zoos usually sell expensive souvenirs.
☐	☐	Wild animals raised in captivity often cannot be successfully reintroduced to their natural habitats.
☐	☐	Some zoos have gift shops near the exit.
☐	☐	Many species kept in zoos are highly intelligent and suffer measurable stress from captivity that enclosures cannot fully address.



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Answer Key

Correct paragraph topics and supporting reasons for all 10 essays, with brief explanations.

Essay 1 — 1. Education (University Fees)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The benefits of providing free higher education.

Paragraph 2: The reasons why students should pay tuition fees.

- ✗ **The rising cost of university tuition around the world.**
Close, but this describes a cost trend rather than an argument for who should pay.
- ✗ **The value of a university degree in today's job market.**
This is about the general worth of a degree, not about who should fund it.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **Free education removes financial barriers, allowing talented individuals from low-income backgrounds to reach their potential.**
A positive point supporting free education.
- ✓ **A highly educated workforce benefits the entire economy through increased innovation and tax revenues.**
A broad positive outcome of free education.
- ✓ **Countries with tuition-free universities, such as Germany, still produce world-class research and graduates.**
Real-world evidence supporting free education.
- ✓ **Free education encourages more students to pursue subjects that benefit society, like teaching or nursing, rather than only high-paying fields.**
Shows a societal benefit of removing the cost barrier.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **Charging fees ensures that universities have sufficient funding to maintain high-quality facilities and attract top professors.**
A positive reason for charging fees.
- ✓ **When students pay, they are often more motivated to study hard and value their degree.**
A positive point about student responsibility.
- ✓ **Government funds saved by not subsidizing tuition can be redirected to other public services, such as healthcare.**
A practical economic argument for charging fees.
- ✓ **Universities that rely on tuition income have more independence from political interference.**
Highlights institutional autonomy as a benefit of fee-based funding.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **Many university students spend too much time partying instead of studying.**
Irrelevant. This is a stereotype and doesn't clearly support either funding model.
- ✗ **The cost of textbooks has increased significantly in recent years.**
Irrelevant. Too specific and doesn't address the core issue of tuition fees.
- ✗ **Some countries offer scholarships to international students.**
This is about scholarships for a specific group, not a general reason for or against free education.

Essay 2 — 2. Technology (Social Media)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The detrimental effects of social media usage.

Paragraph 2: The positive contributions of social networks.

- ✗ **The average amount of time people spend on social media daily.**
This is a usage statistic, not an argument about social media's impact.
- ✗ **The differences between popular social media platforms.**
This compares platforms rather than discussing overall impact.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **Excessive use often leads to anxiety, depression, and unrealistic comparisons with others.**
A strong negative impact.
- ✓ **It can facilitate the rapid spread of misinformation and echo chambers.**
A negative societal impact.
- ✓ **Constant notifications and the pressure to stay online can significantly reduce attention spans and productivity.**
A further negative cognitive effect of social media.
- ✓ **Cyberbullying is more pervasive on social media, following victims beyond the schoolyard and into their homes.**
A serious negative social consequence.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **Platforms allow people to maintain relationships across vast distances easily.**
A clear personal benefit.
- ✓ **It gives marginalized groups a platform to raise awareness and organize movements.**
A positive societal benefit.
- ✓ **Small businesses can reach global customers at a fraction of the cost of traditional advertising.**
A clear economic benefit of social networks.
- ✓ **Social media enables instant access to news and information from around the world.**
Highlights information access as a benefit.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **Smartphones have become much more expensive recently.**
Irrelevant. Focuses on hardware cost, not social media impact.
- ✗ **People used to write letters to communicate.**
Irrelevant fact that doesn't argue for or against social media's current impact.
- ✗ **Many celebrities have millions of followers online.**
This is a fact about follower counts, not an argument about social media's impact.

Essay 3 — 3. Environment (Responsibility)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The role and power of governments in environmental protection.

Paragraph 2: The impact of individual choices on the environment.

- ✗ **Examples of environmental policies used by governments today.**
This lists policy examples rather than arguing why governments should be responsible.
- ✗ **The long-term consequences of environmental damage.**
This explains the consequences of the problem, not who should be responsible for solving it.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **Only governments have the authority to enact and enforce strict laws against heavy polluting industries.**
Supports government intervention.
- ✓ **Large-scale infrastructure changes, like transitioning to renewable energy grids, require massive state funding.**
Highlights government capacity.
- ✓ **International climate agreements can only be signed and enforced by national governments, not individuals.**
Highlights a power only governments hold.
- ✓ **Without government regulation, companies have little financial incentive to reduce their own emissions voluntarily.**
Argues that regulation is necessary because self-regulation is unreliable.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **If millions of individuals reduce their meat consumption and use public transport, the collective impact is enormous.**
Supports individual action.
- ✓ **Consumer demand ultimately dictates what corporations produce; therefore, individual boycotts are effective.**
Argues for individual power.
- ✓ **Personal lifestyle changes, such as reducing waste and reusing items, can be made immediately without waiting for new laws.**
Argues individuals can act faster than governments.
- ✓ **When individuals adopt greener habits, they often influence family and friends to do the same, multiplying the impact.**
Highlights the ripple effect of personal action.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **Plastic pollution in the oceans is a terrible problem.**
This is just stating a problem, not arguing WHO should fix it.
- ✗ **Solar panels are becoming cheaper.**
A fact, but doesn't explicitly link to whether citizens or governments should act.
- ✗ **Recycling programs differ significantly between cities.**
This is a factual observation about program differences, not an argument for who is responsible.

Essay 4 — 4. Work (Remote Work)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The advantages of remote working arrangements.

Paragraph 2: The benefits of a traditional office environment.

- ✗ **The technology and equipment needed to work from home.**
This is about the tools needed for remote work, not why it's preferable.
- ✗ **The design and layout of modern office spaces.**
This is a narrow point about office design, not why offices are the better environment.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **Eliminating the daily commute saves workers significant time and reduces stress.**
A strong pro-remote argument.
- ✓ **Employees often report higher productivity at home due to fewer office distractions.**
A positive outcome of remote work.
- ✓ **Remote work allows companies to hire talented people regardless of where they live, widening the talent pool.**
A benefit of remote work for employers and employees alike.
- ✓ **Working from home gives employees more flexibility to manage personal responsibilities, such as childcare, alongside their job.**
Highlights a lifestyle benefit of remote work.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **Physical proximity fosters spontaneous collaboration and stronger team bonding.**
A strong pro-office argument.
- ✓ **An office provides a clear separation between professional and personal life, aiding mental health.**
A benefit of the office environment.
- ✓ **New employees learn workplace norms and skills more easily by observing experienced colleagues in person.**
A mentorship-related benefit of office work.
- ✓ **Meeting face-to-face reduces miscommunication that can occur over email or chat messages.**
A communication-related benefit of the office.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **People need to buy comfortable chairs if they work at home.**
A minor detail, not a primary reason to prefer one over the other.
- ✗ **Offices usually have air conditioning.**
A trivial point that doesn't constitute a strong main argument.
- ✗ **Some companies offer free snacks in the office kitchen.**
This is a minor perk, not a substantive reason to prefer one work style over the other.

Essay 5 — 5. Health (Fast Food)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The public health rationale for restricting junk food sales.

Paragraph 2: The argument for preserving personal dietary freedom.

- ✗ **The rising rates of obesity and diet-related illness.**
This is a health statistic, not an argument for government restriction specifically.
- ✗ **How fast food companies advertise to children.**
Relevant to the broader topic, but doesn't directly address the specific ban vs. freedom debate requested.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **Diet-related diseases place a massive, unsustainable burden on national healthcare systems.**
A strong public interest reason for a ban.
- ✓ **Junk food is engineered to be addictive, meaning consumers cannot always make rational choices.**
Defends intervention by questioning 'free will' in this context.
- ✓ **Children are especially vulnerable to unhealthy eating habits formed early, which can last a lifetime.**
Strengthens the public health case, especially for protecting children.
- ✓ **A ban would reduce the long-term strain on families who face the financial burden of treating diet-related illness.**
Extends the public health argument to household finances.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **Adults should be trusted to make their own lifestyle choices without state interference.**
The core personal freedom argument.
- ✓ **Banning foods could lead to illegal black markets and hurt the economy by closing businesses.**
A negative consequence of a ban supporting the anti-ban side.
- ✓ **Government bans rarely change behavior effectively, as people can simply travel elsewhere to buy what they want.**
Questions the practical effectiveness of a ban, supporting the freedom side.
- ✓ **Personal responsibility for health decisions is a fundamental right in a free society.**
A core philosophical argument for personal freedom.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **Pizza is very popular in many countries.**
Irrelevant statement of fact.
- ✗ **People should exercise more often.**
Good advice, but fails to address the specific debate about banning junk food.
- ✗ **Fast food restaurants are often open late at night.**
This is a fact about opening hours, not an argument about banning junk food or personal freedom.

Essay 6 — 6. Crime (Rehabilitation vs. Punishment)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The arguments for using prisons primarily as a form of punishment.

Paragraph 2: The benefits of focusing on prisoner rehabilitation.

- ✗ **The financial cost of running the prison system.**
This raises a cost concern, not an argument for punishment or rehabilitation.
- ✗ **How to prevent youth crime.**
While important, this addresses prevention before prison, not the purpose of the prison itself.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **Severe penalties serve as a strong deterrent, discouraging others from committing similar offenses.**
A strong argument for punishment.
- ✓ **Victims of crime deserve justice, and seeing offenders suffer consequences provides closure.**
A moral argument for punishment.
- ✓ **A justice system focused on punishment reinforces the idea that actions have consequences, upholding social order.**
A further argument for the deterrent value of punishment.
- ✓ **Removing dangerous offenders from society through strict sentencing directly protects the public.**
Highlights incapacitation as a benefit of punishment-focused prisons.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **Providing education and job training reduces reoffending rates when inmates are released.**
A practical benefit of rehabilitation.
- ✓ **Many criminals commit crimes due to underlying issues like addiction or poverty, which need treating, not just punishing.**
A compassionate/structural argument for rehabilitation.
- ✓ **Countries that prioritize rehabilitation, such as Norway, report significantly lower reoffending rates than punishment-focused systems.**
Real-world evidence supporting rehabilitation.
- ✓ **Helping inmates address mental health and substance abuse issues reduces the likelihood they will reoffend after release.**
A practical benefit of treating root causes.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **Prisons are very expensive to build and maintain.**
True, but doesn't argue for whether they should focus on punishment or rehab.
- ✗ **Some people are wrongfully convicted.**
A flaw in the justice system, but irrelevant to the purpose of prison for guilty parties.
- ✗ **Prison uniforms vary between different countries.**
This is a trivial detail that doesn't argue for either purpose of the prison system.

Essay 7 — 7. Transport (Cars vs. Public Transport)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The advantages of investing in public transportation.

Paragraph 2: The reasons for prioritizing road building and expansion.

- ✗ **The number of new cars sold each year.**
This is a sales statistic, not an argument for where funding should go.
- ✗ **The safety features found in modern vehicles.**
This is about vehicle safety technology, not an argument for road investment.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **Efficient trains and buses significantly reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in cities.**
A major environmental/social benefit of public transport.
- ✓ **Subsidized public transport ensures mobility for lower-income individuals who cannot afford cars.**
An equity argument for public transport.
- ✓ **Investing in public transport reduces the need for costly parking infrastructure in crowded city centers.**
An urban planning benefit of public transport investment.
- ✓ **A reliable public transport network decreases traffic accidents by reducing the total number of vehicles on the road.**
A safety-related benefit of public transport.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **Cars provide unparalleled convenience and flexibility for personal travel and commuting.**
The main argument for individual car use.
- ✓ **Expanding road networks is crucial for the efficient transport of commercial goods, boosting the economy.**
An economic argument for roads.
- ✓ **Rural and suburban areas often lack the population density to make public transport financially viable, so roads remain essential.**
Highlights a practical limitation of public transport that supports road investment.
- ✓ **Better roads reduce travel time for emergency services, such as ambulances and fire trucks.**
A safety-related argument for road investment.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **Electric cars are becoming more popular.**
Relevant to transport generally, but doesn't answer where governments should spend infrastructure money.
- ✗ **Bicycles are a healthy way to travel.**
True, but outside the scope of the public transport vs. roads debate presented.
- ✗ **Traffic laws differ from country to country.**
This is a factual observation about regulation, not an argument for where funding should go.

Essay 8 — 8. Society (Elderly Care)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The familial duty and benefits of caring for aging parents.

Paragraph 2: The arguments for state-provided care for the elderly.

- ✗ **The rising life expectancy in many countries.**
This explains why the issue is growing, but not who should be responsible.
- ✗ **The range of care services available to elderly people.**
This describes types of care available, not who should provide it.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **Family members can offer a level of emotional support and personalized care that institutions cannot match.**
A strong argument for family care.
- ✓ **It is a cultural expectation in many societies to repay parents for the care they provided during childhood.**
A moral/cultural argument.
- ✓ **Caring for elderly parents at home allows them to remain in a familiar environment surrounded by loved ones.**
Highlights the emotional wellbeing benefit of family care.
- ✓ **Family caregiving strengthens intergenerational bonds and teaches younger family members compassion and responsibility.**
A further social and moral benefit of family-provided care.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **Many modern families require both adults to work full-time, making full-time caregiving impossible.**
A practical reason why government help is needed.
- ✓ **Elderly people have paid taxes throughout their lives and deserve state support in their vulnerable years.**
An economic/rights-based argument for state care.
- ✓ **Professional care facilities employ trained staff who can better manage complex medical needs than untrained family members.**
Highlights the practical expertise argument for state-provided care.
- ✓ **State-funded elderly care ensures that everyone receives support regardless of whether their family can afford or provide it.**
An equity-based argument for state care.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **People are living longer now than in the past.**
This is the cause of the issue, but doesn't argue for who should solve it.
- ✗ **Nursing homes can sometimes be depressing places.**
A negative point, but it doesn't clearly support either side's core argument.
- ✗ **Some elderly people enjoy gardening as a hobby.**
This is a personal preference, not an argument about who should provide care.

Essay 9 — 9. Tourism (Impact)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The detrimental effects of mass tourism.

Paragraph 2: The economic and cultural advantages of tourism.

- ✗ **The most visited tourist destinations worldwide.**
This lists popular destinations, not an argument about tourism's impact.
- ✗ **The rising cost of international travel.**
This is about travel costs, not tourism's impact on communities.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **An influx of visitors can lead to the destruction of natural habitats and increased pollution.**
A major environmental negative.
- ✓ **It often causes a rise in the local cost of living, pricing residents out of their own neighborhoods.**
A significant negative social impact.
- ✓ **Overcrowding at popular sites can damage historical monuments and natural landmarks over time.**
A further environmental and heritage-related negative impact.
- ✓ **Local traditions can become commercialized or diluted when they are packaged mainly for tourist consumption.**
A cultural negative impact of mass tourism.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **Tourists often complain about the weather.**
Irrelevant trivial point.
- ✗ **Passports are required for international travel.**
Irrelevant fact.
- ✗ **Many airlines offer frequent flyer programs.**
This is about airline loyalty schemes, not an argument about tourism's impact on communities.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **The industry creates millions of jobs in hospitality, transport, and local services.**
A strong economic benefit.
- ✓ **Interacting with tourists promotes cross-cultural understanding and preserves local traditions.**
A cultural benefit.
- ✓ **Tourism revenue often funds the preservation and restoration of historical and natural sites.**
Shows a positive economic-cultural link.
- ✓ **Small local businesses, such as family-run restaurants and shops, can thrive thanks to tourist spending.**
A grassroots economic benefit of tourism.

Essay 10 — 10. Animals (Zoos)

STEP 2 · CORRECT PARAGRAPH TOPICS

Paragraph 1: The ethical arguments against keeping animals in captivity.

Paragraph 2: The role of zoos in conservation and public education.

- ✗ **The variety of animal species commonly found in zoos.**
This describes what zoos contain, not an argument for or against keeping animals captive.
- ✗ **The daily care and feeding routines for zoo animals.**
This is about zoo operations, not the ethics of keeping animals in zoos.

STEP 3 · CORRECT SUPPORTING REASONS

Paragraph 1

- ✓ **Confining animals to small enclosures restricts their natural behaviors and causes psychological distress.**
A strong ethical argument against zoos.
- ✓ **Animals in zoos are often exploited purely for human entertainment rather than true conservation.**
A negative perspective on zoo operations.
- ✓ **Many species kept in zoos are highly intelligent and suffer measurable stress from captivity that enclosures cannot fully address.**
A further ethical and welfare argument against zoos.
- ✓ **Wild animals raised in captivity often cannot be successfully reintroduced to their natural habitats.**
Challenges the claim that zoos meaningfully aid conservation.

IDEAS THAT BELONG TO NEITHER PARAGRAPH

- ✗ **Zoos usually sell expensive souvenirs.**
Irrelevant complaint.
- ✗ **Lions sleep for many hours a day.**
Irrelevant biological fact.
- ✗ **Some zoos have gift shops near the exit.**
This is a trivial detail about zoo facilities, not an argument for or against zoos.

Paragraph 2

- ✓ **Breeding programs in modern zoos have saved several species from the brink of extinction.**
A major conservation benefit.
- ✓ **Seeing animals up close inspires children to care about wildlife and support environmental causes.**
An educational benefit.
- ✓ **Zoos fund important scientific research into animal behavior, health, and genetics that benefits wild populations too.**
Highlights a research-based benefit of zoos.
- ✓ **Modern zoos have significantly improved enclosure design to closely mimic animals' natural habitats.**
Counters welfare concerns by highlighting improved standards.