



Question 8: Write an opinion essay

Directions: In this part of the test, you will write an essay in response to a question that asks you to state, explain, and support your opinion on an issue. Typically, an effective essay will contain a minimum of 300 words.

Your response will be scored on whether your opinion is supported with reasons and/or examples,

- grammar,
- vocabulary, and
- organization.

You will have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Everyone's work is equally important. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
2. Some companies block their employees from using social media networks and websites such as Facebook. Do you think managers should trust employees to use time wisely, or do you think it is smart of companies to block access to some sites? Provide reasons and examples to support your opinion.
3. There are many ways to find a job: newspaper advertisements, Internet job search websites and personal recommendations. What do you think is the best way to find a job? Give reasons or examples to support your opinion.
4. What has been the best period in your life so far and why?
Write an essay of about 300 words describing the time of your life when you were the happiest, and explain why you were happiest then.
5. Most people feel that they have "learned some lessons" in their life. They may have made some mistakes that taught them something. What is one thing you have learned from your past? What would you do differently if you could? Remember to be specific.
6. Many people believe that happy workers are more productive and perform better at their jobs. Many factors contribute to workers' happiness: feeling appreciated, being challenged, having a sense of purpose in their work, feeling secure in their position. What do you think is the most important factor in a worker's happiness? Give reasons and examples to support your opinion.
7. A lot of companies are now allowing their employees to work from home. Do you think it is smart to let employees work at home? What are some of the advantages or disadvantages? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.
8. A company recently created a drink that will eliminate the need to eat real food. The drink provides all of the nutrients needed for a complete diet. What are some of the benefits or consequences of selling a drink like this?
9. Many people love the convenience of iPhones and Facebook to stay in touch with old friends, but some think it's bad for social interaction. Do you think modern technology is helping or harming our relationship? Give details and reasons to support your answer.
10. At some companies, the IT department saves a copy of all staff e-mails and monitors web sites visited on the Internet. Do you agree or disagree that companies should be permitted to do this? Provide reasons or examples to support your opinion.

