3 model answers

Structure

Language tips

Essay 1
” All over the world, societies are facing a growing problem with obesity. This problem affects both children and adults. What are the reasons for this rise in obesity, How could it be tackled? “

- Plan:

Intro

Problem 1: fast food + solution + example
Problem 2: lack of exercise + solution + example

Conclusion

Structure for a Problem Solution Essay

Introduction

- Paraphrase the question.
- Thesis Statement.

(Outline briefly the 2 problems and 2 possible solutions, keep introduction under 60 words)

Main Body 1

- State the 1st problem
- Give specific example and detail
- State the solution to this problem
- The result of the solution

Main Body 2

- State the 2nd problem
- Give specific example and detail
- State the solution to this problem
- The result of the solution

Conclusion

- Summary of the 2 problems
- Summary of the 2 solutions
- Recommendation / Prediction
  (conclusion should be about 3 - 4 sentences only, keep it concise)

Brainstorm before writing!

Getting ideas quickly by asking yourself lots of questions.

"....**What are the cause of obesity?** lack of exercise. **Why?** people don't have time to exercise. **Explain?** because they are busy. **Why?** because they have to work to earn money. **What's the solution?** do more exercise. **How?** employers could offer incentives, company gyms, find time to get to the gym.....**What about junk food?** Need educational campaigns about trans fats, government needs to regulate this kind of food.. **yes well unhealthy food is cheaper**.. so consult with local Farmers to offer fresh produce at discount prices , **but what can be done about overeating?**... well I think....."

Introduction

Remember: I only need to outline just 2 reasons for the problem, it is not necessary to go into detail in the introduction, I did not include any special hooks or tricks or impressive language, it is not needed and could lose you a band score if you do that. Keep it simple.

Here is the introduction in full.

"Nations worldwide are dealing with the increasing issue of obesity. This is a cause for concern for all age groups.There are two main reasons for this, over consumption of fast food and lack of exercise. This essay would like to outline more detail about this problem and suggest some possible ways to solve the issue." (55 words)

The last outline sentence is optional, there is nothing in the marking criteria for it but it is good for the examiner to see what you are going to write about. Remember: **Keep the introduction to under 60 words or it will be too long** and you could lose points.

Did you notice the Thesis statement does not contain an opinion? ... The original question did not ask for my opinion so I did not include it in the thesis statement.

Body paragraph 1

Key:

Green = main topic sentence , **Blue** = give an explanation , **Purple**= give an example, **Orange** = give a possible solution, **Grey** = result of the possible solution

- **One of the reasons that people are becoming overweight these days is that they are eating more junk food, ready meals and convenience food rather than cooking healthy meals at home. This is because many people tend to lead a busy life and after a long day at work it is easier to just buy ready meals in the supermarket or get a take away. For instance, In the UK, sales of these types of foods have risen by 48% since 1990, this is because busy people see cooking at home as time consuming. To tackle this issue the government should take steps to increase tax on high fat, high sugar or unhealthy foods. Therefore consumers would think twice about the foods they consume, which could lead to them losing weight.**

Body paragraph 2

Now I will use the same technique to write the main body 2 paragraph about lack of exercise.

- **Another problem that needs to be considered is lack of exercise. As a result of leading a busy life or pressures at work, many people are just too tired to go to the gym or join a sports club. For example, after a hard day at work most people prefer to just come home and sit in front of the TV. Studies show that when people have time off, they tend to relax rather than going to a gym. One possible solution is for employers to consider the health and well being of their employees and offer in-house company gyms or special incentives, such as discounts to join a sports or fitness club. If this is implemented it would have a positive effect on peoples health and a reduction in weight gain.**

Conclusion

How to write a good conclusion.

Now lets take a look at the conclusion. Here we need to summarise briefly the 2 problems and 2 solutions with a recommendation or prediction sentence.

Key:
Green = cohesive device, **Orange** = summarise the 2 problems, **Blue** = summarise the 2 solutions, **Purple**= recommendation or prediction sentence

- **In conclusion, being overweight is an increasing issue because of consumption of fast food, convenience foods and not enough exercise due to work commitments. The government needs to look at taxing fast food and companies should set up incentives for gyms, sports or fitness clubs. Unless this issue is tackled soon, then the problem of obesity will lead to a higher mortality rate in the future.**

Tips and useful language

The last sentence is optional (the recommendation prediction sentence) but this is a good idea to include if you think the essay is slightly under 250 words.[SEP] The conclusion should briefly repeat the main points you were writing about in the main bodies of the essay. <u>Be sure to keep the conclusion short and simple,</u> about 4 sentences is enough. You must write a conclusion, If you don not write a conclusion you will lose points. **Remember:** try to paraphrase your introduction in the conclusion, this will impress the examiner…

<u>Examples of cohesive devices to conclude.</u>

In conclusion / To sum up / To conclude . Just choose one of these in the conclusion.
Some words that should not be used to conclude are : All in all, Finally, Lastly, in the end, In a nutshell, I reckon… don't use these they are informal or are inappropriate.

Some key phrases for introducing problems and giving solutions

Problem : *One of the main reasons for…..* **Solution**: *To tackle this issue…..*
Problem: *Another problem to consider is….* **Solution**: *One possible solution is….*
Problem: *One main cause for…….* **Solution**: *The way forward could be to…..*

Examples for introducing problems: ⌞SEP⌟

One of the main reasons for people becoming overweight these days is that they are eating junk food, ready meals and convenience food…
Another problem that needs to be considered is lack of exercise…..

Grammar for showing possible results/outcomes: ⌞SEP⌟
Therefore, consumers would think twice about the food they consume…..
As a result, this would have a positive effect on peoples health…..
Unless action is taken, the problem will get worse……
If the government takes steps to address the issue, the problem could be resolved…
This would result in a reduction **of** obesity/This would lead to a reduction **in** obesity….

Key point on giving examples in body paragraphs:
Something that will make your band score higher is quoting percentages or recent studies when giving examples , such as *"In the UK sales of these types of food have risen by 48% since 1990"* or *"studies show that ….."* . **The data does not have to be accurate, the examiner is not going to google your information and check** , the point is that you can give examples. The aim of this is to show how you can use examples to demonstrate your English language skills.

Essay 2

Problem Solution Example Essay

The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before.

What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?

Plan (different from the first essay)

Intro.

Paragraph 1.
Problem 1-2

Paragraph 2.
Solution: problem 1 (2 solutions);
problem 2 (1 solution)

Conclusion.

Sample answer

- The enormous growth in the use of the internet over the last decade has led to radical changes to the way that people consume and share information. Although serious problems have arisen as a result of this, there are solutions.

- One of the first problems of the internet is the ease with which children can access potentially dangerous sites. For example, pornography sites are easily accessible to them because they can register with a site and claim to be an adult. There is no doubt that this affects their thoughts and development, which is a negative impact for the children and for society. Another major problem is the growth of online fraud and hacking. These days, there are constant news stories about government and company websites that have been hacked, resulting in sensitive information falling into the hands of criminals.

- It is important that action is taken to combat these problems. Governments should ensure that adequate legislation and controls are in place that will prevent young people from accessing dangerous sites, such as requiring more than simply confirming that you are an adult to view a site. Parents also have a part to play. They need to closely monitor the activities of their children and restrict their access to certain sites, which can now be done through various computer programs. Companies must also improve their onsite IT security systems to make fraud and hacking much more difficult by undertaking thorough reviews of their current systems for weaknesses.

- To conclude, the internet is an amazing technological innovation that has transformed people's lives, but not without negative impacts. However, with the right action by individuals, governments and businesses, it can be made a safe place for everyone.
- (285 words)

- **Writing about Problems**
- From the problem solution essay, look at the problems paragraph, and answer the following questions (then click on the link below to see the answers):
- How many problems are discussed?
- What are they?
- What expressions are used to introduce the problems?
- How are the problems illustrated further?
- What results are discussed for each problem?

Answers

- **1) How many problems are discussed?**
- *2*
- **2) What are they?**
- *children can access potentially dangerous sites*
- *growth of online fraud and hacking*
- **3) What expressions are used to introduce the problems?**
- *One of the first problems of the internet is...*
- *Another major problem is...*
- **4) How are the problems illustrated further?**
- *For example, pornography sites are easily accessible to them because they can register with a site and claim to be an adult.*
- *These days, there are constant news stories about government and company websites that have been hacked.*
- **5) What results are discussed for each problem?**
- *There is no doubt that this affects their thoughts and development, which is a negative impact for the children and for society.*
- *...resulting in sensitive information falling into the hands of criminals.*
-

- When you brainstorm your ideas for problem solution essays, think about
- **(a)** *what the problem is*
- **(b)** *how you will explain it*
- **(c)** *and what the effect is*. Your paragraph will then follow this pattern.

First – you need to plan!

Here is an example of the brainstorming for this paragraph:

Here they are illustrated in the paragraph, with the introductory expressions underlined:

Problem 1: *children can access potentially dangerous sites*

→ **Explanation / Example:** *Pornography sites*
→ **Result:** *Affects thought & development - negative for children & society*

Problem 2: *growth of online fraud and hacking*

→ **Explanation / Example:** *Evident from the constant news stories*
→ **Result:** *Criminals get sensitive information*

One of the first problems of the internet is the ease with which children can access potentially dangerous sites. For example, pornography sites are easily accessible to them because they can register with a site and claim to be an adult. There is no doubt that this affects their thoughts and development, which is a negative impact for the children and for society. Another major problem is the growth of online fraud and hacking. These days, there are constant news stories about government and company websites that have been hacked, resulting in sensitive information falling into the hands of criminals.

Here is an example of the brainstorming for this paragraph:

Problem 1: *children can access potentially dangerous sites*

→ **Explanation / Example:** *Pornography sites*

→ **Result:** *Affects thought & development - negative for children & society*

Problem 2: *growth of online fraud and hacking*

→ **Explanation / Example:** *Evident from the constant news stories*

→ **Result:** *Criminals get sensitive information*

Here they are illustrated in the paragraph, with the introductory expressions underlined:

One of the first problems of the internet is the ease with which children can access potentially dangerous sites. _For example, pornography sites are easily accessible to them because they can register with a site and claim to be an adult._ There is no doubt that this affects their thoughts and development, which is a negative impact for the children and for society. _Another major problem is_ the growth of online fraud and hacking. _These days, there are constant news stories about government and company websites that have been hacked_, resulting in sensitive information falling into the hands of criminals.

Writing about Solutions

Answer the following questions about the solutions paragraph:

1. How many solutions are given?
2. What are they?
3. What three different groups of people does the writer say are responsble for these solutions?
4. How would the solutions be implemented?
5. What three modal verb structures are used to make the suggestions?

Answers

- **1) How many solutions are given?**
- *3*
- **2) What are they?**
- *adequate legislation and controls*
- *monitor the activities of children / restrict access*
- *improve company IT security systems*
- **3) What three different groups of people does the writer say are responsble for these solutions?**
- *Governments*
- *Parents*
- *Companies*
- **4) How would the solutions be implemented?** *Stricter criteria for accessing sites*
- *Using computer programs*
- *Reviewing current IT systems for weaknesses*
- **5) What three modal verb structures are used to make the suggestions?**
- *should*
- *need to*
- *must*

- **a) The people involved**
- When you come to brainstorm your solutions, think of the key 'actors' who are involved. It is usually governments and individuals in some way or another.
- There may be another group specifically realted to the topic. For example, in this case it is companies and parents. If you are discussing crime it could be the police. If it is violence on TV it could be TV and film producers.
- You can then brainstorm your ideas under each 'group' and organize them in the same way.

- **b) Developing your solutions**
- Also, try to make sure your solutions are not too simplistic. It's all too easy to make sweeping generalizations about what people can do. For example, look at this idea:
- *The government should introduce stricter laws.*
- It it common to see such statements in IELTS problem solution essays with no further explantion. Give more detail about how or why this would work. For example:
- *Governments should ensure that adequate legislation and controls are in place that will prevent young people from accessing dangerous sites, such as requiring more than simply confirming that you are an adult to view a site.*
- Some specific detail has now been given on how this solution could work.

Solution 1: *Governments*

→ **Idea:** *Adequate legislation and controls* **for young people**
→ **How:** *More complex website access criteria*

Solution 2: *Parents*

→ **Idea:** *Monitor children and restrict access*
→ **How:** *Use a computer program*

Solution 3: *Companies*

→ **Idea:** *Improve IT security systems*
→ **How:** *Review current systems in place*

Here is the paragraph again. Note how it follows the plan and the clear topic sentence that tells the reader the essay is moving on to discuss solutions (modals verbs are underlined):

It is important that action is taken to combat these problems. *Governments* <u>should</u> *ensure that adequate legislation and controls are in place that will prevent young people from accessing dangerous sites*, *such as requiring more than simply confirming that you are an adult to view a site.* *Parents also have a part to play. They* <u>need to</u> *closely monitor the activities of their children and restrict their access to certain sites*, *which can now be done through various computer programs.* *Companies* <u>must</u> *also improve their onsite IT security systems to make fraud and hacking much more difficult* *by undertaking thorough reviews of their current systems for weaknesses.*

Essay 3
In some countries the average weight of people is increasing and their levels of health and fitness are decreasing.
What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?

- **Problem Solution**:
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Problems
- 3. Solutions
- 4. Conclusion

- **Answer:**
- In some nations, people are getting heavier and standards of health and well-being are falling. This essay will suggest that the principal cause of these issues is the type of nourishment they are eating and submit a government education program as a viable solution, followed by a reasoned conclusion.
- The main cause of the health crisis currently affecting so many individuals is over-consumption of poor quality sustenance. Convenience food and junk food, such as microwave dinners, chocolate bars, McDonald's and pizza, have become a ubiquitous part of modern life. Eating too much of these high-fat meals causes many to gain weight and this has knock-on effects on someone's general wellness. For example, the movie 'Super Size Me' demonstrated that a person who eats this kind of food all the time will not only get fat but also suffer from such things as raised blood pressure and even fatty liver disease.
- The most practical solution to this problem is a government-sponsored awareness campaign. An effective advertising campaign could warn of the dangers of a poor diet and hopefully, raise awareness amongst the public. This raised awareness of the problem would lead many people starting a healthier regime. For example, the U.K. recently lobbied their citizens to eat 5 pieces of fruit and vegetables a day and this resulted in a dramatic decrease in obesity-related illnesses such as stroke and heart disease.
- In summary, the current health crisis has been caused by an over-reliance on unhealthy food and states should curtail this by educating men and women on how to make healthier choices.
- (250 words)

- Another model answer
- http://ieltsliz.com/ielts-solution-essay-band-9-model-answer/