



## XÃ HỘI

*Some people think that social skills are as important as academic qualifications. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Traditionally, academic achievements are often **regarded** as an **indispensable** factor for success. However, there are a handful of individuals hold the belief that **the art of social interaction** also **shares equal importance** in determining one's success in life. **My sentiment is on par with** this viewpoint, and some of my good grounds will be presented in the essay below.

It is **conspicuous** that academic qualifications are of great significance when comes to seeking employment. Undoubtedly, academic qualifications reflect a person's **educational background** and personal experiences. This usually lays a foundation for an overall evaluation of any candidate. Based on what is written and listed in those certificates and degrees, recruiters would select the most appropriate one to join their organizations. In other words, educational achievements can **exert a tremendous impact on** the judgment of the employers who are looking for potential white-collar workers.

Simultaneously, it cannot be denied that the art of social interaction plays a **pivotal** role in one's success as well. In actual fact, in this day and age, having a high level of social skills is considered to be a strength in the workplace. This is due to the fact that managers often **put an emphasis** on the ability of coordination, cooperation, and communication to enhance efficiency. A salient example of this is the solidarity of the staff within an office, which would **foster a positive attitude** towards work and a sense of community, leading to a sense of **self-satisfaction**

from their job.



To conclude, in a society in which people are becoming increasingly **interdependent**, one cannot succeed with mere qualifications. Thus, social interaction **paves the way for** a person to advance in his career as well. **(280 words)**

### Các cụm từ cần nhớ

- be regarded as: được đánh giá là
- indispensable(adj): không thể thiếu
- the art of social interaction: nghệ thuật tương tác xã hội
- share equal importance: có cùng sự quan trọng
- My sentiment is on par with: Quan điểm của tôi giống với
- conspicuous(adj): rõ ràng
- educational background: nền tảng học vấn
- exert a tremendous impact on: tạo một tác động lớn lên
- pivotal(adj): cực kỳ quan trọng
- put an emphasis: đặt nặng

*We have become a disposable society, preferring to buy new products rather than repair existing items.*

*Why do you think this is? How can this trend be reversed?*

It has become common not to try to **extend the life of items** but rather to **purchase replacements**, and this can be attributed to a number of social changes, as will now be presented along with some thoughts on how this attitude can be altered.

Of the many reasons why society in general opts not to repair items, perhaps the most influential is changes in technology. **Modernised production methods** allow goods to be



**mass produced** at a lower cost, but often at the expense of quality; this means that although they may not have the **durability** of handmade items, they are cheaper and thus can be replaced. In addition, evolutions in technology are now rapid, and the **impulse** to own the latest gadget encourages purchasers to continually buy new items. A clear indication of this is mobile phones, where in the last decade new features and abilities are released constantly.

To address this, there are a number of potential approaches. One is that governments could raise the level of tax on brand new items whilst lowering the taxation on repair shops, therefore supporting those who are happy with their existing technology and **penalising** those who constantly race to acquire the very latest model. In turn, this would encourage the companies producing such items to build them in a way that new developments can be **incorporated into** it, rather than requiring it to be **disposed of**.

To conclude, it is only by a **change in attitude** that we can **decrease the continued consumption** of new items and increase the **retention** of those that may need some repair.

(273 words)

### Các cụm từ cần nhớ

- extend the life of items: kéo dài tuổi thọ của sản phẩm
- purchase replacements: mua sản phẩm thay thế
- modernised production methods: phương pháp sản xuất hiện đại  
mass produce: sản xuất hàng loạt, sản xuất số lượng lớn
- durability(n): sự bền (của sản phẩm)
- impulse(n): hưng phấn, hứng



*In some countries, people who are unemployed receive a sum of money each week in the form of a benefit. While some support this, other people believe that this money should not be given.*

*Discuss both points of view and give you own point of view.*

The payment of a benefit for those who **are out of work** is a sensitive issue with strong opinions for and against. This essay will now examine both sides of the argument and present a final conclusion.

Those in favour of this financial support argue that in some cases, it is not the fault of the unemployed person, and that the **assistance** is needed for them to survive while they continue to look for work. Without this, there is the potential concern that crime would increase due to a lack of alternatives. To illustrate, if a parent with dependent children could not find work and had no other help, they would have little option but to **resort to** theft to prevent their children from going hungry. On the other hand, there are those that argue that paying someone who does not work simply encourages people to **remain unemployed**, especially when the alternative could be a relatively low paid job. There are situations where people are simply not interested in finding a position of employment as it offers very little additional money compared to doing nothing at home and receiving free handouts. This situation could **escalate** as people who are on a low income may resent paying a portion of their tax payments to support those who make little or no effort to find employment.

**Considering both points of view**, it seems that a compromise may be the best solution. Payment of the unemployment benefit should be limited to a short period of time, after which the amount received should be progressively reduced. This would encourage those receiving the benefit to be more **proactive** when looking for work.



(277 words)

### Các cụm từ cần nhớ

- be out of work: thất nghiệp
- resort to: tìm đến cái gì như là lựa chọn cuối cùng
- remain unemployed: giữ nguyên tình trạng thất nghiệp
- escalate(v): leo thang
- Considering both points of view: Khi cân nhắc cả hai quan điểm
- proactive(adj): chủ động

*We cannot help everyone in the world that needs help, so we should only be concerned with our own communities and countries.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?*

Some people believe that we should not help people in other countries as long as there are problems in our own society. I disagree with this view because I believe that we should try to help as many people as possible.

On the one hand, I accept that it is important to help our neighbours and fellow citizens. In most communities there are people who are **impoverished** or **disadvantaged** in some way. It is possible to find homeless people, for example, in even the wealthiest of cities, and for those who are concerned about this problem, there are usually opportunities to volunteer time or give money to support these people. In the UK, people can help in a variety of ways, from donating clothing to serving free food in a soup kitchen. As the problems are **on our doorstep**, and there are obvious ways to help, I can understand why some people feel that we should **prioritise** local charity.



At the same time, I believe that we have an obligation to help those who live beyond our national borders. In some countries the problems that people face are much more serious than those in our own communities, and it is often even easier to help. For example, when children are dying from curable diseases in African countries, governments and individuals in richer countries can save lives simply by paying for vaccines that already exist. A small donation to an international charity might have a much greater impact than helping in our local area.

In conclusion, it is true that we cannot help everyone, but in my opinion national boundaries should not stop us from helping those who are in need. **(280 Words)**

### **Band 9**

#### **Các cụm từ cần nhớ**

- impoverished(adj): nghèo đói
- disadvantaged(adj): thiệt thòi
- on our doorstep: ngay trước mắt chúng ta
- prioritise(v): ưu tiên

*In recent years, there has been growing interest in the relationship between equality and personal achievement. Some people believe that individuals can achieve more in egalitarian societies. Others believe that high levels of personal achievement are possible only if individuals are free to succeed or fail according to their individual merits. What is your view of the relationship between equality and personal success?*

In my opinion, an **egalitarian society** is one in which everyone has the same rights and the same opportunities. I completely agree that people can achieve more in this kind of society.



Education is an important factor with regard to personal success in life. I believe that all children should have access to **free schooling**, and higher education should be either free or affordable for all those who choose to pursue a university degree. In a society without free schooling or affordable higher education, only children and young adults from wealthier families would have access to the best **learning opportunities**, and they would therefore be better prepared for the job market. This kind of inequality would ensure the success of some but **harm the prospects** of others.

I would argue that equal rights and opportunities are not **in conflict with** people's freedom to succeed or fail. In other words, equality does not mean that people lose their motivation to succeed, or that they are not allowed to fail. On the contrary, I believe that most people would feel more motivated to work hard and reach their potential if they thought that they lived in a fair society. Those who did not make the same effort would know that they had wasted their opportunity. Inequality, on the other hand, would be more likely to **demotivate** people because they would know that the odds of success were stacked in favour of those from **privileged** backgrounds.

In conclusion, it seems to me that there is a positive relationship between equality and personal success.

### **(260 Words) Band 9**

#### **Các cụm từ cần nhớ**

- egalitarian society: xã hội công bằng
- free schooling: giáo dục miễn phí
- learning opportunities: các cơ hội học tập
- harm the prospects: làm tổn hại đến khả năng phát triển
- in conflict with: xung đột, đối ngược với
- demotivate(v): làm nản lòng
- privileged(adj): có điều kiện, đặc quyền



**In the developed world, average life expectancy is increasing. What problems will this cause for individuals and society? Suggest some measures that could be taken to reduce the impact of ageing populations.**

It is true that people in industrialised nations can expect to live longer than ever before. Although there will undoubtedly be some negative consequences of this trend, societies can take steps to **mitigate** these potential problems. As people live longer and the populations of developed countries grow older, several related problems can be **anticipated**. The main issue is that there will obviously be more people of retirement age who will be **eligible** to receive a pension. The proportion of younger, working adults will be smaller, and governments will therefore receive less money in taxes in relation to the size of the population. In other words, an aging population will mean **a greater tax burden** for working adults. Further pressures will include a rise in the demand for healthcare, and the fact young adults will increasingly have to look after their elderly relatives.

There are several actions that governments could take to solve the problems described above. Firstly, a simple solution would be to increase the retirement age for working adults, perhaps from 65 to 70. Nowadays, people of this age tend to be healthy enough to continue a productive working life. A second measure would be for governments to **encourage immigration** in order to increase the number of working adults who pay taxes. Finally, money from national budgets will need to be taken from other areas and spent on vital healthcare, accommodation and transport facilities for the rising numbers of older citizens.

In conclusion, various measures can be taken to tackle the problems that are certain to arise as the populations of countries grow older.

**(265 words)**





### Các cụm từ cần nhớ

- mitigate(v): giảm thiểu, giảm sự trầm trọng của vấn đề
- anticipate(v): lường trước
- eligible(adj): hợp pháp
- a greater tax burden: một gánh nặng lớn về thuế
- encourage immigration: khuyến khích nhập cư