

1. Benefits of travelling:

a. Fun : "A holiday gives one a chance to look backward and forward." **May Sarton**

- To provide some excitement and an escape from the hum drum of 'ordinary' life.
- To break the ordinary daily routine
- To get rid of stress due to studies and work
- To have fun through different activities
- To recharge your batteries.

b. Knowledge "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only a page."

- To attend art shows (give examples : festivals, art galleries, museums...)
- To broaden your horizons.
- To see the world beyond your four corners.
- To experience new cultures and lifestyles.
- To meet interesting and like-minded people.

2. Recommending about a holiday (a letter):

a. Accommodation : spacious room/ with a picturesque view/ calm and serenity of the place/ full options : air-conditioning/ internet connection / spa/ gym

b. Food : luscious & varied as expected/ taste the spicy food ...

c. The residence (hotel, house...) is two-minute walk to the beach/ the city centre not far/ transport available (as advertised)

d. Staff/ guide/ room maid : friendly , helpful

e. Enjoyed the scheduled programme (visits/ sightseeing/ festivals/ excursions/ cruise)

3. Complaining about a holiday (a letter):

a. Accommodation : dirty room/ no view/ noise/ couldn't sleep/no air-conditioning/ no internet connection (as promised)

b. Food : disgusting/ rotten/filthy ___ not luscious as expected - had to eat out and pay extra money/ son got sick due to rotten food ___ doctor

c. The residence (hotel, house...) is far away from the beach/ the city centre ___ had to walk in the blistering heat / no transport available (as advertised)

d. Staff/ guide/ room maid : not friendly , not helpful_ always shouting

e. I'm looking forward to receiving a convenient compensation; otherwise I shall feel free to take the matter to the court.

4. Space tourism : positive aspects

- a. Personal experience
 - Satisfying the human desire of adventure
 - Challenge and making the impossibilities possible.
 - Live a rare experience of weightlessness
- b. Good for humanity/ part of scientific research
 - Resolving mysteries that surround the outer space
 - Discovering an all-new world
 - Exploring space and discovering the yet undiscovered facts about space
 - finding new minerals, new precious materials
 - Finding new human-like species in the outer space

5. Space tourism : negative aspects

- a. Dangerous : risk of death / flying in the outer space is still not safe
- b. Costly & expensive : only the well-to-do can enjoy such an experience/ the poor are deprived of the dream
- c. Unfair : the rich are splurging a billions of dollars to satisfy their silly personal whims while millions of children in poor countries are starving to death

6. Education/ learning / lifelong learning (benefits) 'to seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave'

- a. **Vocational purposes** : to enrol and attend school - to study different subjects - to pass exams - to get degree - to have necessary qualifications - to get a white-collar, prestigious, well-paying job - to get promoted at work
- b. **Non-vocational** : to learn - to get knowledge - to combat illiteracy and ignorance - to be a good citizen - to contribute to the progress of one's community - to cope with the change 'Never stop learning; knowledge doubles every fourteen months.' **Anthony J. D'Angelo**

7. Illiteracy/ out-of-school children/ drop outs (solutions)

- a. **Parents' responsibilities** : to be conscious of the importance of education/ to enrol and keep their children at school/ support them / encourage them with studies
- b. **Community/ organizations/ governments** : provide the basic needs of schooling/ provide tools and equipments at schools/ take care of poor children and provide them with basic life necessities (food, clothes & shelter)

c. **Rich countries** : assume their responsibilities towards poor countries/ help & donate / provide the necessary tools and expertise to boost the educational level

8. Virtual school (pros)

- Easy/ flexible/ convenient : learners feel free to study whenever & wherever they like, no more obligation of attendance or travelling/ options are varied
- Cheap : just a pc and internet connection/ less expenses for transportation, books...
- Information : available, varied, up-to-date, easy access to get
- Coping with globalization process : the world is becoming a small village where the notions of time & space are no more restricted behind walls

9. Virtual school (cons)

- Not practical/ harder : needs costly equipments (software & hardware) not attainable for the poor/ requires highly-skilled expertise (computer savvy people)
- Lack of motivation to learn / absence of competitiveness/ lazy students are more likely to fail
- Anti-pedagogic : necessity of face-to-face interaction/ the role of the teacher is minimized
 - Anti-social : communication, friendship, community life ___ more aloofness

10. Ability Grouping

Students are assigned to classes based on their measured ability or their achievements.

a. PROS:

- Students are not forced to rush or wait
- better achievement
- selecting suitable material, approach, assignment..
- high achievers excel, progress faster, build self-esteem, avoid boredom, compete more
- low achievers provided with more individual attention, repetition and review

b. CONS:

- Students May Get "Stuck" In a Group (nerdy vs dumb)/ snob
 - superiority vs inferiority
 - excuse to bullying / teasing
 - lose self-esteem/ feel stigmatised
 - additional work for teachers

11. Technology (pros & cons)

- a. **Means of transport** : (e.g car, plane, rocket) faster / easier/ time-saving/ more comfortable/ ability to explore distant areas and the outer space ≠ deadly accidents, health problems, lack of sport, obesity, pollution....
- b. **Means of communication** : (e.g mobile phone, internet, satellites) easier, cheaper, more practical ≠ health problems, information is no more credible,
- c. **Means of entertainment** : (e.g electronic games) fun, pastime, safe, develop mental skills, educative games ≠ addiction - health problems/ educational difficulties/ social hardships

12. Play station/ Video games

- a. PROS:
- Increased visual acuity.
 - A great social activity.
 - Can teach people more about life.
 - games can help improve problem solving and logic skills.
 - To assist in education. Studies have shown that children playing educational games learn more because they do not realize that they are learning/ increases attention span
 - they are fun
- b. CONS:
- become completely addicted
 - not to go to work (or school),
 - not to eat properly/ not to exercise enough.
 - violence./ copying violent video game crimes
 - taking drugs, getting drunk and smoking
 - give people false expectations of real life

13. Brain drain (solutions)

- a. **Brains' responsibilities** : they have the right to look for better opportunities abroad/ to assume one' responsibility towards one's nation/ to contribute to the progress of education and economy at home
- b. **Governments in developing countries** : provide the highly-skilled intellectuals with the necessary tools of scientific research/ to give extra privileges (high salaries) / encourage them to stay
- c. **Rich countries** : assume their responsibilities towards poor countries/ help & donate / provide the necessary tools

and expertise to boost the educational & economic level / stop seducing and luring the brains from poor countries via irresistible privileges/ more investment in poor nations

14. Morals & Virtues

- Moral concepts consist of values, virtues and ethics that help individuals distinguish their actions as being morally right or morally wrong
- Virtues are a moral concept categorized as intellectual or practical. Practical virtues are broken down into moral or non-moral virtues. The most important moral virtues include courage and honesty, which are generally considered morally right and a positive reflection of an individual's character
- Values are a moral concept used in decision-making and conflict situations. A person's mindset and behaviour are directly connected to a person's value system, and most religious traditions specify values that should be adhered to. Three important moral values are freedom, love and empathy, and these values are often taught within the home and in schools
- Ethics are a set of rules that help determine right from wrong in regards to interpersonal interactions. Responsibility and restraint are two important ethics, which strengthen a person's character and improve interpersonal interaction when observed.

14. Keep fit/ healthy diet (solutions)

- a. Follow a balanced & healthy diet (eat different types of food) 'an apple a day keeps the doctor away'
- b. Regular practice of exercises (sit-ups/ press-ups/ walking/ jogging..) 'if you want to get thinner, diminish your dinner

15. Smoking (ways to quit)

- a. Strong will & determination
- b. Remember the drawbacks
- c. Change lifestyle/ avoid smoking reminders
- d. Find a better alternative (sport)

16. Ecology (solutions)

- a. individuals' responsibilities (R.R.R.) / energy saving / eco-driving / economical methods / cleanliness
- b. Governments & organisations: sensitizing people / pass and implement strict laws / find alternatives (factories, control..)

c. U.N. international community + super powers: sign, respect and implement the international treaties (Kyoto Protocol) + ban polluting activities (chemicals & nuclear) + protect nature (forests, seas, species..)

5/ Ecodriving

- a. regular car maintenance (check oil & tyre pressure)
- b. Safe driving style (avoid sudden breaks/ smooth use of gear/ avoid unnecessary options)
- c. alternative 'if it's not far; don't go by car'

6/ Country life

- a. health vs disease , fresh air vs pollution
- b. calm vs noise , crowd vs open space
- c. community virtues vs moral decline

7/ Employment Morale

- a. mutual respect bw employers & employees
- b. rights & duties guaranteed (salary, work hours, conditions, medical care insurance...)
- c. priority for productivity, quality...

8/ Apply for a job (letter)

- a. personal information (age, qualities, ambitions..)
- b. qualifications (degrees)
- c. experience
- d. enclosed docs + phone number
- e. looking forward