

COMMON THEMES FOR CAUSE-EFFECT ESSAYS

In Progress Tests and IELTS exams, certain themes, such as education, the environment, and family, health, and technology/the media, among others, are common. You should learn key words and points associated with them so that, in an exam situation, you always have something to write!

EDUCATION High school dropouts	ENVIRONMENT Global warming	FAMILY Divorce	HEALTH Obesity	TECHNOLOGY/MEDIA Overuse of internet
Causes (why?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need to make money (get a job) • find subjects too difficult or boring • can't afford school fees • want to get married • family problems 	Causes (why?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overpopulation (more cars and use of resources) • more industries (factories) • burning of fossil fuels • deforestation • modern/changing lifestyle • hole in the ozone layer 	Causes (why?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication problems • family problems (e.g. with father or mother-in-law) • lack of money • having no children • spousal abuse • one partner is cheating • partners get bored with each other 	Causes (why?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change in life style (sedentary, lack of exercise) • poor diet (e.g. fast food or eating too much) • feeling you must eat everything on your plate or at a certain time even if you are not hungry • hereditary factors (parents also obese) or certain illnesses 	Causes (why?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addiction • a lot of free time • entertainment (eg chat lines are appealing) • informative (many subjects available) • internet use may be required for school courses • easy communication method (way to connect with friends) • lack of a daily routine or schedule • easily available
Effects (what?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uneducated society • negative impact on the economy • can't cope with new technology • classifies people in the community into different social levels • low self-esteem for dropouts • creates more family problems (vicious circle – cause becomes effect and becomes a cause again) 	Effects (what?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of biodiversity (variety in animal life) • climate change • sea levels rise • air and water pollution • less oxygen in air • acid rain 	Effects (what?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broken hearts and broken homes • nobody is responsible for the children • children may become violent or depressed • economic – man may pay alimony to his ex-wife • it may be difficult for someone to remarry 	Effects (what?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor health (high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes) • lower self-esteem • difficult to find clothes that fit • limited employment (hard to get a job) • economic (hospitals need more money and overweight person pays a lot for special diets) • difficult to get married 	Effects (what?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waste time • become more careless and inattentive, lose ability to be independent • health problems (obesity, eye problems, back pain, RSI) • become antisocial • learn bad things from certain websites or chatting with bad people • computer (viruses)