

2.1 Argument and discussion

1 Discussion vocabulary

- (a) benefits/ advantages
- (b) drawbacks/ disadvantages
- (c) negative
- (d) advantages/ benefits
- (e) disadvantages/ drawbacks
- (f) benefit/ advantage

2 Organisation

Vertical: a simpler pattern suitable for short essays

Horizontal: this allows a more complex approach in longer essays

3 Practice A

Possible ideas include:

+	-
No time spent commuting to work Gives employees more flexibility Saves expensive office space	Employees may feel isolated May not suit all employees Home may contain distractions Requires different management style

Example outline with structure (a):

(a) Introduction: reasons for growth of home-working: development in communication

technology, demand for more flexible work patterns.

(b) Drawbacks: Employees may feel isolated, be distracted by activities at home.

May not suit all employees, some prefer more direct management.

(c) Benefits: Companies need to provide less office space, less time spent on commuting = more work time, employees have more flexibility.

(d) Discussion: Of benefit to certain employees in some roles, but necessary to have regular contact with colleagues and managers.

5 Counter-arguments

The writer's position is essentially critical of the way prisons work

(Example answers)

Counter-argument	Your position
It has been claimed that employees may waste time at home,	but in practice there seems little evidence for this.
Although home-working may save companies money by reducing the need for office space,	employees need to have a well-equipped workspace in their home.

6 Providing evidence

1 Claims for 'digital natives'
2. Arguments against
3. Writer's viewpoint

7 Practice B

(Example answer)

There has been considerable debate about the value of space exploration, in view of the high costs involved. Supporters such as Donnet-Kammel (2005) claim that this is a vital method of collecting data about the structure of the universe, and additionally

point out that there have been many practical benefits arising from the space programme, such as satellite communication. The example of the space station is also given as an instance of the value of the research programme in encouraging international co-operation.

In contrast, critics (e.g. Soroka, 2000) point to the huge costs involved in launching space probes, claiming that these resources would be better devoted to solving the serious earthly problems of hunger and disease. Furthermore, they argue that much of the space programme is effectively a testing ground for new weapons, such as missiles, and brings little benefit to ordinary people. In the context of the current economic crisis, a more critical approach is clearly needed in deciding which of those projects have real value.