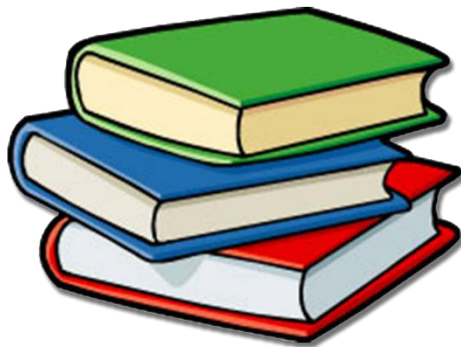




UniAdmissions

TSA

Essay Feedback



*Student name changed for confidentiality



Essay Title: Is world peace achievable?

<i>Component</i>	<i>Feedback</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	The introduction is short and concise. You could define what we mean by peace – is peace being in agreement or does it mean not having wars? Perhaps just briefly lay out the main thrust of your argument to ensure that the reader is clear where your argument is going.
<i>Main Body</i>	This was well balanced and you have deployed good examples, including relevant and up-to-date evidence. Careful when you talk about Malthus' crisis predictions – these haven't happened and genetically modified food/new technologies mean it probably never will. Also, oil reserves in the Antarctica suggest as well as renewable resources suggest that the energy problem may not be as big an issue as was once thought. Also, when you are discussing the other side of the argument, be careful when you say "all people want peace" because unfortunately some people are bent on destruction and personal gain. Peace assumes that selfishness can be contained and channelled to the public good – it almost certainly cannot be.
<i>Conclusion</i>	This is good, it summarises your argument well and comes down decisively on one side of the debate. Avoid the first person, I, because it's a little too personal. You make new points in your conclusion which is generally not advisable – if they are important enough to mention then put them in the main body of your essay. Otherwise, they just seem like an after-thought.
<i>Final Comments</i>	This is a tough question and I think you dealt with it well. The answer is balanced and you used good evidence. I like the examples of ISIS – the Middle East and sectarian violence is a great example of how intractable problems in the region make peace unrealistic.
<i>Overall Score</i>	17/20



Essay Title: **Should convicted criminals be allowed to vote?**

<i>Component</i>	<i>Feedback</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	The introduction is quite long. I feel like you get a bit distracted from the point when you start talking about voter qualification (being over 18). Focus on laying out your argument – and in a balanced way. Summarise the key issues contained with the question – the right to vote and being a criminal. What are the strongest arguments for/against and briefly lay them out.
<i>Main Body</i>	I think the point about “voting for parties which want to murder everyone” was not appropriate for this essay. Also, even though a small % of the UK population are in prison, and most are repeat offenders, it is the principle of giving votes to criminals that is at stake, on a practical level it wouldn’t have that much affect (they probably wouldn’t vote and there aren’t many of them.) The point is that if you marginalise criminals from society, they don’t have a stake or an interest. This may make them more likely to commit another crime. Criminals are humans and should be afforded the same rights. Your argument, that voting rights should depend on the severity of the crime is an interesting nuance to the question – but it doesn’t ask whether some criminals should get votes it asks should all convicted criminals get a vote. If they are in prison then they have done wrong and should be punished – they lose the right to vote (it is not a privilege.) Why should people not integrated into society be given a vote in how it is governed?
<i>Conclusion</i>	This should summarise the arguments made and fall down decisively on one side of the argument. I see what you are saying about differentiating between criminals and I think that is a fair judgement to reach. Just make sure you address the question throughout the essay – do you agree, in principle, with idea of votes for convicted criminals.
<i>Final Comments</i>	A very good essay. Make sure you use carefully selected examples and evidence in order to structure your argument in a balanced way – for/against. The conclusion should then reach a clear decisive judgement either way.
<i>Overall Score</i>	14/20



Essay Attempted: TSA – Do patents encourage development?

<i>Component</i>	<i>Feedback</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	The introduction is well balanced and addresses both sides of the argument. You could have included a definition of what a patent is. Ensure that you focus on the question set and discuss the implications of patents of product development – are those implications good or bad.
<i>Main Body</i>	You use good examples, such as Apple, and you have clearly weighed up both sides of the argument. You should, however, ensure that you focus on the question. It is asking about the development of new products, not economic development. Patents are good because they encourage people to come up with new ideas that will be protected in law – intellectual property rights. On the other hand, the monopoly argument which you made. Make sure you talk specifically about product development. The third paragraph is a little bit confused, and it is not entirely clear whether you are arguing that patents are good or bad. Patents can increase competition because small companies come up with ideas and big companies can't steal them. Or they can reduce companies because they help create monopolies. Just be really clear about which way you are arguing.
<i>Conclusion</i>	The conclusion was not decisive enough. You need to come down firmly on one side of the argument. It is good to summarise all the points you've made, but make sure that you conclusively say: based on the evidence I have presented, this is the conclusion that I make. You made a new point about short-termism and the global recession. These points were a little irrelevant and didn't really add anything to the essay. Look at the conclusion again and make it into a decisive summary.
<i>Final Comments</i>	This was a good essay, with some good examples and evidence. The structure, dealing with both sides of the argument was good. Be careful to focus on the question, using the wording set if necessary, and also ensure that you are making points clearly and that they are illustrated with the best evidence/examples.
<i>Overall Score</i>	15/20



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I hope you find this feedback useful and use it to improve your future essays. Please don't hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions.

Best Wishes,

Senior TSA Tutor