

Direct Questions

These essay types are known as 'two-question essays'. They consist of a statement followed by two questions that you need to answer. Here are some examples.

- Most people agree that money can't buy happiness. Why is happiness difficult to define? How can people achieve happiness?
- It is often said "when in Rome, do as Romans do". Do you think people should adapt and accept the culture of the country they visit? Do you think it is possible to learn a culture without learning a language?
- The internet is a great source of information and has opened up opportunities for people to learn all over the world. Is all information reliable on the internet? What could be done to control information online?

Suggested Structure

This is a template that you can use for these questions. Note that the answer to each question is in a separate body paragraph.

Introduction: Short and simple. Just write two sentences:

Introduce the 2 points of view and give your opinion:

A common belief is that... **(Introduce both views)**

In my view, ... **(Give your opinion to all the questions)**

Paragraph 1: Answer to first question

Personally, I would argue that... **(Introduce the first point of view)**

Firstly, Secondly, **(Use this structure to organise several points)**

For example, **(Try to give an example for one of your points)**

Paragraph 2: Answer to second question

I tend to believe that...

First of all, Furthermore **(Use this structure to organise several points)**

For example, **(Give an example)**

Conclusion: Summarise your answers to the questions:

In conclusion,... **(Summarise your argument)**

Model Answer

It is often said “when in Rome, do as Romans do”. Do you think people should adapt and accept the culture of the country they visit? Do you think it is possible to learn a culture without learning a language?

A common belief is that visitors should act in accordance with the cultural norms of the country that they visit. In my view, travelers should indeed adjust to the local culture, and they should be able to understand the culture even if they don't speak the language.

Personally, I would argue that people should fit in with the culture of the country they visit. Firstly, I think that travelers will be safer if they do this. Breaking a law or even just a cultural norm, can lead to serious consequences. For example, alcohol is illegal in certain countries such as Brunei, so a visitor shouldn't drink beer there or they may get arrested. Secondly, I think that it is also a matter of respect. It is arguably unfair for travelers to disrupt the way of life of people in their own country.

I tend to believe that it is possible to learn a country's culture without knowing the language. First of all, a lot of cultural behavior can be observed without speaking, such as how people interact. For example, Japanese people are generally quite orderly and polite, and this is obvious even if you don't speak Japanese. Furthermore, it is possible to learn about another culture by reading books and watching television documentaries.

In conclusion, visitors should adjust to the culture of the place that they visit because it is respectful, and it may also make them safer. A traveler can understand a foreign culture without being able to speak the local language because there are other ways to learn about it, such as by observation and reading books.