

Opinion Questions

In these questions you are given a statement and then asked your opinion. Different phrases are used to ask your opinion. These include: 'What is your opinion?' 'To what extent do you agree or disagree?' 'What are your views?' 'Do you think this is good or bad?' 'Is this a positive or negative development according to you?' Here are some examples:

- *Some people think dangerous sports should be banned. **Do you agree or disagree?***
- *All fathers should be entitled to time off work when their children are born. **What is your opinion?***
- *In many countries, plastic shopping bags are the main type of rubbish. They cause water pollution and land pollution, so they should be banned. **To what extent do you agree?***
- *Some people think that the government should take care of disadvantaged people such as the unemployed and homeless people. **Do you agree or disagree?***
- *Although more and more people are reading the news on the internet, most people still prefer reading the news in a newspaper. **What are your views?***
- *Some people use technology to take advice for their medical problems rather than seeing a doctor. Why is this so? **Is it a positive or negative development according to you?***
- *Some people spend a lot of money on sports and cultural events. **Do you think this is good or bad?***

Suggested Structure

It is best to write a one-sided argument for these questions, rather than a more balanced response. This is because it is simpler to plan and write a one-sided argument. This is a four-part plan that you can use to answer these questions.

Introduction: Short and simple. Just write two sentences:

Introduce the topic

Give your opinion:

1) I agree / disagree with the idea that... **(For an agree or disagree question)**

2) My view is that... **(For other forms of opinion questions)**

Paragraph 1:

1) Firstly, **(First supporting argument)**

Paragraph 2:

1) Another reason why... is that... **(Second supporting argument)**

Conclusion: Repeat your overall opinion:

For the reasons mentioned above, **(+ Your opinion)**

Model Answer

In many countries, plastic shopping bags are the main type of rubbish. They cause water pollution and land pollution, so they should be banned. To what extent do you agree?

Plastic bags are the main type of rubbish in many countries. I agree with the idea that plastic bags should be banned because they cause a great deal of damage to the environment and there are better alternatives.

Firstly, there is a strong argument that plastic bags cause serious damage to the environment. Plastic takes many years to decompose and therefore does not disappear once it enters the environment. A striking illustration of this is plastic in the oceans, which makes the ocean dirty and poisons sea life. This may lead to some creatures becoming extinct and may make the fish we eat poisonous.

Another reason why plastic bags should be banned is that they are not necessary. It is easy for people to use other bags which can be reused many times, such as bags made of canvas. If plastic bags were banned, then people would be forced to use alternatives which are better for the environment. Some people argue that charging money for plastic bags also encourages people to use alternatives; however, the prices charged for bags are often very low and therefore many consumers do not mind paying the extra charge.

For the reasons mentioned above, I am convinced that plastic bags should be banned in as many countries around the world as possible.