

These days, more people are going to university than in the past. They start work later in life and with higher qualifications.

Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?

Your original answer

In today's generation, most students prefer to enrol in a University because of better quality standards, wide resources, good social community and tremendous extracurricular activities. They usually spend more time and money to achieve levelled up education like earning a degree to achieve higher credentials. Though allotting more time and money in order to secure a degree from a University is significantly a financial challenge and time consuming to most people, the writer firmly believes that it is a considerable form of investment for a lifetime developmental benefit.

Financial is one of the biggest aspect to consider in deciding to choose a degree in a University. Thousands per year is required because of expensive tuition fees and school requirements. In addition, students who are away from their home town will be needing extra cash for accommodation and daily expenses. For instance, in the Philippines the average tuition fee yearly would cost P130000 to P250000 but if you decide to upgrade to a higher level of education like master's degree or doctorate degree, the cost would probably double or triple. Thus, it may cause long term debts.

After high-school or college, starting a job and earning money can be initiated earlier but if you desire to pursue continuing education you will be needing to utilize more time thus extending the time when you will earn money. Higher degrees require 5 years unlike the usual 4 years. Medicine prerequisites a 4 year degree before a student is allowed to continue a 4-year course in a medical school and then complete a 3 to 7 years of residency. Those years spent studying when used for a job may have given you a huge amount of money.

However, bigger opportunities awaits for those who sacrificed time and money for a higher level of education. Even though later in life they started earning money, the salary of a degree holder is much way competitive because higher positions are available and promotions are more viable. Moreover, graduating with a degree would mean that you are well equipped with exceptional skills and knowledge because of advanced training and lessons taught.

To summarize, attaining a degree for higher credentials is difficult and challenging but if students will weigh the advantages that it can provide for tomorrow those problems are like a dot that is too small to compare with.

Your corrected answer

In today's generation, most students prefer to enrol in a University because of better quality standards, wide resources, good social community and tremendous extracurricular activities. They usually spend more time and money to achieve levelled up education like earning a degree to achieve higher credentials. Though allotting more time and money in order to secure a degree from a University is significantly a **financial** challenge and time consuming to most people, the writer firmly believes that it is a considerable form of investment for a lifetime developmental benefit.

Financial is one of the biggest aspect to consider in deciding to choose a degree in a University. Thousands per year is required **because of** expensive tuition fees and school requirements. **In addition**, students who are away from their home town will be needing extra cash for accommodation and daily expenses. **For instance**, in the Philippines the average tuition fee yearly would cost P130000 to P250000 but if you decide to upgrade to a higher level of education like master's degree or doctorate degree, the cost would probably double or triple. **Thus**, it may cause long term debts.

After high-school or college, starting a job and earning money can be initiated earlier **but if** you desire to pursue continuing education you will be needing to utilize more time thus extending the time when you will earn money. Higher degrees require 5 years unlike the usual 4 years. Medicine prerequisites a 4 year degree before a student is allowed to continue a 4-year course in a medical school and then complete a 3 to 7 years of residency. Those years spent studying when **could have been** used for a job **which may have given** you a huge amount of money.

However, bigger opportunities awaits for those who sacrificed time and money for a higher level of education. Even though later in life they started earning money, the salary of a degree holder is ~~much~~ way **more** competitive **because** higher positions are available and promotions are more viable. **Moreover**, graduating with a degree would mean that you are well equipped with exceptional skills and knowledge because of advanced training and lessons taught.

To summarize, attaining a degree for higher credentials is difficult and challenging **but if** students will weigh the advantages that it can provide for tomorrow those problems are like a dot that is too small to compare with.

RED = corrections

GREEN = suggestions

Highlighted = good language

_____ (?) = meaning unclear

Minimum word count: **250**

Your word count: **392**

Marking Key

5-5.5 = Satisfactory	6-6.5 = Good	7-7.5 = Very Good	8-8.5 = Excellent
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Writing Criteria	Descriptor	S	G	VG	Ex	Areas to Improve / Further practice
Task Response	the extent to which your ideas are relevant, developed and supported			✓		<p>This is a reasonable answer which has presented some relevant ideas. However, you have provided three paragraphs with 3 ideas. Condense this down to 2 paragraphs to reduce your word count a bit.</p> <p>Your introduction is a little too long. Practise condensing your response into 3 sentences.</p> <p>Introduction layout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paraphrase the question statement • Answer the question directly (give opinion) • Outline statement (introduce main ideas)
	the extent to which your position is clear and effective.			✓		
Coherence and Cohesion	how well the information and ideas are organised			✓		<p>You have shown a variation of linking devices although you could include some common sentence stems at the beginning of each paragraph.</p> <p>https://www.ipassielts.com/toolkit/vocab-viewpoint-and-comment-adverbs</p>
	how well the information is linked			✓		
Lexical Resource	the range of vocabulary used and how accurately it is used			✓		<p>You have shown a range of appropriate lexis for the topic which is used flexibly.</p>
	how appropriate the vocabulary is for the task			✓		

Grammatical Range and Accuracy	the range of structures used and how accurately it is used			✓		Appropriate use of simple and complex sentences. Review the use of third conditional, relative clauses and passive structures.
	how appropriate the structures are for the task			✓		https://www.ipassielts.com/toolkit/grammar-relative-clauses https://www.ipassielts.com/toolkit/grammar-using-the-passive

Overall marker's comment

You have given clear ideas in your essay backed up with examples but you could reduce your word count by only having 2 paragraphs and work on paraphrasing the introduction. Include some passive structures and sentence stems to make your writing sound more academic.

SAMPLE ANSWER – LOWER (295 words)

It is true that in my country, <country name>, the numbers of students at university are growing. In my parents' or grandparents' time, it was very unusual for people from the countryside to go to university. However, now it is quite common. At the same time, such a development does not take place in isolation, and there are many associated factors that we need to consider, if we want to say whether we think this is a positive or a negative development.

In the first place, we need to think about where all these extra students are coming. If they are coming into the cities from the villages, then who is in the villages? In the short term, there can be a problem in some villages, when all the fit and capable young people go away. It is harder for their older parents to work in the fields, and produce food.

In many cases, the village will benefit in the long term, however, because after they get their qualification, the young people will return and be useful as doctors, teachers, farming experts, water engineers, and so on.

In some cases, the young people do not return. They prefer to stay in the cities, or even to go other, richer countries, where they can earn more money and have more interesting lives. Although they will send money to their parents, the villages become smaller and less able to exist independently. Another major problem is that people who go to university start to have families later in life, and this can also make the population of the rural parts smaller.

In conclusion, I don't think we can say it's a positive or negative development. We can only say it is an inevitable development in the modern world.

EXAMINER'S COMMENTS

This is a satisfactory answer, with a clear, balanced line of argument running through it. The paragraphs help the reader to follow each step. The sentences are very well linked together, and we can see that the writer knows a range of vocabulary.

SAMPLE ANSWER - HIGHER (303 words)

I must begin by saying that I do not know whether this statement is true in <country name>, my own country. I believe that it is the case in the UK, where I am currently studying on a university foundation course. I will assume that perhaps it is also the case in <country name>.

As a starting point, we should acknowledge the general trend through history of making more things available to more people. This applies to housing and sanitation, technology, transport, and so on. This growing prosperity is largely driven by education. People learn how to do more, make more, be more efficient. If you continue this line of argument, then the more education, the better. We could without any hesitation say that the development described in the statement is a positive one.

But to say this is to assume that all modern developments are good, and also that they are general. In actual fact, there are reasons to be cautious about this. In the first place, development is clearly not general. While many people in the USA, for example, have large houses and two cars, many people in the world do not even have clean water or sufficient food. What good is wealth for a few if there is such poverty for many? In the second place, there is the question of whether these developments are real progress. As a result of industry and car ownership, plane travel, and so on, we are now facing a terrible crisis of pollution and even climate change. You surely cannot want a bigger TV enough to want to change the weather.

Because of all this, although I myself am hoping to qualify as an engineer, I have to say I am far from confident about whether we are educating ourselves in the right direction.

EXAMINER'S COMMENTS

A strong answer, with a powerful argument clearly presented. Paragraphs control the steps of the argument, and a range of complex sentences are closely linked through useful devices.

WRITING TIPS

- Look carefully at the question. What are you being asked to respond to? The statement is 'given' – you are not asked to argue whether it is true or not. You are asked to say whether this given fact is positive or negative.
- However, if the statement is clearly wrong as far as you are concerned – if there are fewer people at university in your country than in the past – then say so, and explain.
- Take time to think about all the implications of the statement. Make notes and group them into sections. Create a structure for your essay.
- You must give reasons for what you say.