**Family Values Essay**

This is an IELTS family values essay, centered around the belief that families are not as close as in the past.

If you look at the question carefully, you will see that there are two tasks.

**Nowadays, families are not as close as in the past and a lot of people have become used to this.**

**Why is this happening?**

**Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?**

Firstly, you have to explain why (give *reasons*) families are not so close.

The second task is to state whether you think this more of a *negative* or *positive* trend.

So this essay is a mix of **causes, advantages** and **disadvantages**.

Be careful in noting that it is partly as **opinion essay** as you have to give your opinion as to whether the advantages outweigh (i.e. more advantages) the disadvantages.

Take a look at the question and the model answer:

**Comments**

This family values essay would merit a high IELTS score.

The essay is **organized clearly**. The introduction introduces the topic and the thesis clearly sets out the contents of the essay.

Each body paragraph has a **clear central idea** - the first paragraph is about the *reasons* and the second paragraph examines the *advantages and disadvantages*. This paragraph also makes it clear that the writer believes the **drawbacks outweigh the benefits**.

It would also be possible to have presented a separate body paragraph, each with the advantages and disadvantages, but you would need to be careful not to write too much and possibly run out of time.

The conclusion then **summarises the main points** made in the essay and again **clarifies the opinion**.

**Family Values Essay**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Nowadays, families are not as close as in the past and a lot of people have become used to this.***

***Why is this happening?***

***Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Write at least 250 words.

**Family Values Essay Model Answer**

There has been a trend over recent decades for families to become less close than they were in the past and this situation is largely accepted in society. This essay will discuss the reasons for this and examine the benefits and drawbacks of this development.

One of the first reasons for a decline in the closeness of families is connected to the busy lifestyles that we now lead. Most people are having to work longer hours and often both parents work, so they simply do not have as much time to spend with each other as they did in the past. Another factor is the materialistic and consumer driven culture we now live in, which has led to less value being placed on family relationships. Modern technology also means that people are more interested in their online life than interacting with their family in their free time.

It could be argued that this has benefits. If people are not so close with their family, they are free to pursue their own dreams and aspirations, and to focus on improving their own lifestyle. However, I believe that there are far more negative outcomes. The most important factors leading to a fulfilled and happy life are emotional security and comfort. Without these we are in danger of feeling lost. It is a difficult world we live in and we need the support of people close to us to cope with modern life. We are seeing a rise in mental health problems in many countries and this may well be a factor in this.

To conclude, busy modern lifestyles, changing cultural values and modern technology are causing families to become less close. We should try to halt this trend as it has more negative than positive outcomes.

(*294 Words*)