Tackling issues

Problems, solutions

Problems

Look at the following definitions and complete the issues they refer to.
The first letters are provided to help you.



- 4 a worldwide economic problem: g_ f_____ c_
- 5 being extremely overweight: o_

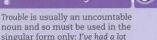
- 6 the increase of trade around the world:
- 7 a lack of accommodation: h.
- 8 problems affecting nature on a large scale:
 - a lack of oil:
 - e_____c___
- 10 the way the world's weather is changing:

 c _____ c ____

2.1 Most of these words can be used for everyday problems. Underline the three which refer to more serious problems. Write the adjective form of the words marked with an asterisk (*).

difficulty trouble hurdle obstacle predicament *disaster issue *challenge *controversy setback *catastrophe dilemma crisis

Frror warning



of trouble with the second-hand car I bought. (NOT troubles)

The word troubles is only used in very special circumstances to refer to all of

special circumstances to refer to all of the problems a person or country has: Telling someone else your troubles can really help.

However, it is better to avoid using it in this way unless you are completely sure. Trouble can also be used to mean difficulty in the phrase have trouble +-ing: I had a lot of trouble starting the car this morning.

- 2.2 Match the words (1-5) that are used to talk about kinds of problem with the definitions (a-e).
- 1 setback
- a an unpleasant situation which is difficult to get out of
- 2 dilemma
- a lot of disagreement or argument about something, usually affecting many people
- 3 predicament
- something that blocks you so forward movement is prevented
- 4 obstacle/hurdle
- d a situation where a difficult choice has to be made between two things
- 5 controversy
- e something that happens which delays or prevents a process from advancing

2.3 Complete the sentences with the phrases in the box. Use the verbs in bold to help you choose the correct phrase.

-		
1	We experienced a few	at the airport, but nothing very serious.
2	The enormous cost of this programme is a _	that we need to overcome.
3	Adopting children from poor countries is a	
4	I doubt that recycling alone can get us out of	of our
5	The building of this dam will lead to a	for the local wildlife.
6	Global warming presents a	for every government.
7	We experienced a	when we lost several plants, but the rest are thriving.
8	The use of drugs by athletes has caused	in the world of sport

minor setback

significant challenge considerable

Read the passage below. Which TWO of the following statements are true?

- A People should try to ignore depression.
- D Ancient people may have suffered from depression.

current predicament

- Depression is similar to obesity.
- E Depression is linked to old age.
- G There may be an advantage to depression.

Depression is an ongoing and pervasive problem in our society, and it poses something of an evolutionary paradox: the brain plays a crucial role in our survival, so evolution should have left our brains resistant to such high rates of malfunction. The paradox could be resolved if depression was linked to growing old. After all, the functioning of all body systems and organs tends to deteriorate with age. This is not a satisfactory explanation for depression, however, as people are most likely to experience their first bout in adolescence. Perhaps depression is like obesity – a recent problem that has arisen because modern conditions are so different from those in which we evolved. Yet this is not a satisfactory explanation either as depression exists in every culture, including small-scale societies where people are thought to live in environments similar to those that prevailed in our evolutionary past.

There is another possibility: depression is, in fact, an adaptation, a state of mind which can bring real benefits. This is not to say that depression is not a serious problem. Depressed people often have trouble performing everyday activities and tend to isolate themselves socially. So what could be so useful about depression? Depressed people often think intensely about their problems. Numerous studies have shown that this thinking style is often highly analytical and can be very productive. Depressed people dwell on personal problems, breaking them down into smaller components. Each individual component is less problematic, so what begins as an insurmountable problem is far less difficult. This type of thinking allows people to gain insight into their problems. Indeed, when you are faced with a daunting problem, feeling depressed is often a useful response that may help you analyse and solve it. After all, depression is nature's way of telling you that you've got complex social problems that the mind is intent on solving.

3.2 COLLOCATION Highlight or underline each occurrence of the word *problem* in the passage and note the adjectives and verbs used with it.

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		1 11 16.1				
74	Look at these words and	decide if they	mean the same	as make netti	er or make	worse

exacerbate	alleviate	hinder	mitigate	rectify	compound	complicate	improve	aggravate
make	better:							
make	worse:							

Solutions

- Choose two of the issues in 1. What solutions can you suggest for them?
- 5.22 28 Listen to five people. Which problem in 1 is each person talking about?

	Problems	Expressions
1		
2	1-0-1-1	1010 P
3		2101.
4		FIN P.
5		LYICO

- 5.3 28 Now listen again and complete the table above with expressions used to talk about dealing with problems.
- 6.1 Put the words in the box into the correct column below to show whether they collocate with do, make or take.

stock a mistake measures your best an effort notice of sure a change a chance part more harm than good

do	make	take

V

Vocabulary note

Be careful with the verbs prevent, protect and avoid. Look at the following examples and how these verbs are used:

prevent (= stop something from happening): Sunscreen can help to prevent skin cancer. / Sunscreen can prevent you from getting skin cancer. protect (= keep you safe): Sunscreen can help protect you from skin cancer. avoid (= stay away from): Using sunscreen helps you to avoid skin cancer.

6.2 Look at part of an essay on obesity and choose the correct alternative to complete the sentences.

Clearly, obesity 'represents / presents a real 'problem / trouble today, but what can be done to 'find / resolve a solution to it? First, I think we have to 'do / make a real effort to deal 'swith / in the underlying causes of obesity. If this isn't done, we will never completely 'presolve / raise this issue. All of our efforts will be wasted if we don't 'tackle / meet the 'difficult / difficulty situations that children face today, whether caused by increased pressure to succeed, isolation and loneliness, or boredom. Then we need to 'look to / deal with the factors that 'oreate / make the situation worse, namely poor diet and lack of exercise, and we also need to ''take / make measures to 'protect / prevent this from happening in the future.

Test practice

Writing Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Obesity is now a major global epidemic. What can be done to tackle this increasingly common problem?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Plan your answer here:

Pr		

4					
C	2	41	C	0	c
~	ш	м	9	v	u

Effects

Possible solutions



Test tip

For Writing Task 2, you may be asked to discuss a problem and possible solutions to it. For this type of question, you should explain exactly what the problem is (its causes and effects) and then consider the merits and drawbacks of various solutions.