Set 2

Read the following prompts and write an essay suggesting solutions to the problems mentioned in each one. You must write three essays, one for each prompt. Do not forget to use some of the useful phrases for writing an essay expressing an opinion about how to solve a problem. These phrases are available at:

For the tenth year running, pollution levels in the Baytown area have risen, according to researchers from Baytown University’s Environmental Research Department. “Traffic levels in the city are continually rising,” said Mavis Liddle, head of the university research team. “We need to investigate ways in which pollution levels can be reduced, for example by persuading people to leave their cars at home and by other means.” A wide variety of problems caused by air and noise pollution are certainly making life more and more unpleasant for city residents. The city council has called a general meeting at City Hall at ten o’clock in the morning of Wednesday December 18th, for members of the public to discuss the problem and offer solutions.

Pollution in and around cities is a very negative modern phenomenon. It is hazardous for our health and makes life in general unpleasant. What can be done to reduce the problem and make city-dwellers’ lives more enjoyable as a result? Support your ideas with examples.

At a meeting last week of Baytown’s elderly residents, the old people of the city complained about the lack of facilities for them. “Life for people who are retired is becoming more and more boring,” said Mrs Myrtle Braithwaite, a 77-year-old from the Ashley Bush area of the city. “For most of us, our only pastime is getting together for coffee and watching television. Surely there is more to life for us than this?” A number of elderly residents from all over the city have proposed setting up local old people’s clubs to help the city’s elderly people take up new interests and exchange ideas. A further meeting will be held at City Hall in the evening of June 19th and everyone is welcome to attend to offer their ideas on the problem.

Old age can be a difficult period of a person’s life. They are no longer working and as each day comes they find it increasingly difficult to make time pass. Inactivity can of course lead to ill health, depression and finally an early death. What can be done to make the last years of our lives more interesting, a period to look forward to rather than to worry about? Support your ideas with examples.

The municipal authority of Baytown recently expressed its concern that Baytown Prison is so full that the city will soon not have anywhere to house criminals who are convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. “Many of the prisoners in our jail have not committed serious crimes – some of them have committed financial crimes or even crimes as minor as not paying fines for driving offences – and I do not think we really need to keep such people in prison at the taxpayer’s expense,” Councilor Jeremiah Flogwell stated. “Surely there is some other way to punish such offenders?” The municipal authority has decided to hold a public meeting on the morning of March 29th at City Hall, and members of the public are welcome to attend and offer their suggestions to solve the overcrowding problem at the City jail.

Prison is still the most common form of punishment for many criminals, but many people believe that there are other options. How else can criminals be punished and are the other ways more likely to persuade people not to commit crimes again in the future? Support your ideas with examples.