

The Discussion Clock

- When considering a topic you may refer to the discussion clock, which will help you think of ideas when planning your essay.
- Referring to the discussion clock is a useful “brainstorming” technique, as it helps you examine a topic from various viewpoints and decide on ideas/points to include in your essay.
- Keep in mind that a topic may not relate to all the aspects presented in the discussion clock.
- Remember that for each viewpoint you have thought of, there is usually an opposing argument. Think of the opposing arguments when planning your essay.

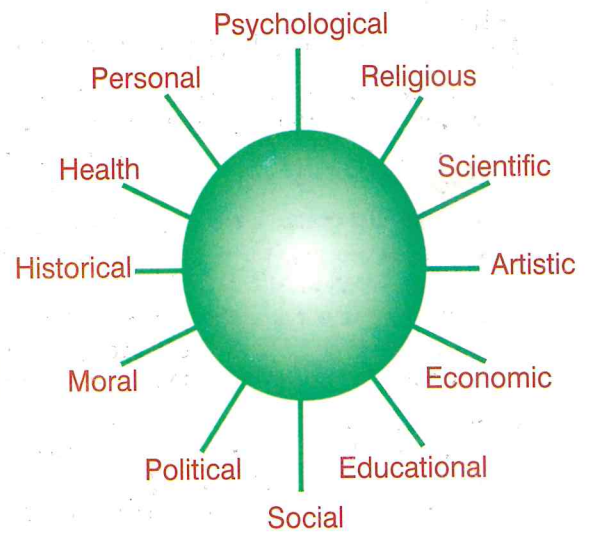
8 Match each of the following viewpoints with the corresponding opposing argument.

Viewpoints

- 1 From a political point of view, space exploration enables super-powers to demonstrate their level of technical advancement.
- 2 From a scientific standpoint, space exploration has been responsible for rapid developments in materials and processes which have also been of benefit to people on earth.
- 3 From an economic standpoint, the investment of time and money in space exploration could, in future, repay humanity many times over. The discovery of resources in outer space could be of great benefit to our planet.
- 4 Regarding the social implications of space exploration, there are those who argue that the potential that other planets hold for colonisation could prove to be the salvation of the human race.

Opposing Arguments

- a However, it can be argued that the money would be better spent on alleviating the problems of developing countries.
- b Nevertheless, many sociologists argue that colonies in space would create more social problems than they would solve.
- c On the other hand, some political analysts claim that the Space Race has led to unnecessary competition between nations and a consequent failure to cooperate and collaborate on international issues.
- d Opponents argue that space technology is of limited use to society and that the research could be used more profitably to try to solve some of the more pressing problems which we face.



9 Read the points below, and looking at the discussion clock identify the aspect each viewpoint relates to.

- 1 As far as is concerned, allowing cigarettes to be advertised is extremely damaging, since cigarette smoking causes cancer and heart problems, as well as affecting unborn babies.
- 2 From a standpoint, it may be argued that the individual faces such problems as depression, anxiety and attempted suicide, as a result of the pressures of modern life.
- 3 From a(n) viewpoint, popular sports create jobs for a large number of people in addition to generating income for the state.
- 4 As for the aspect, allowing children at school to express themselves more freely would help them to develop their creative talents.
- 5 With regard to matters, the use of computers gives students a chance to increase their knowledge and develop their research skills.