

Writing Task 2

You should spend about **40 minutes** on this task.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no special knowledge of the following topic:

Nowadays there is no realistic way of cutting yourself off from the communications blitz. We are all exposed to more communication than anyone would have believed possible 50 years ago. In some respects this has clearly improved the quality of our lives, but at the same time, modern methods of communication have threatened many things that we once believed were important.

Say whether you see instant communication as a blessing or a curse.

You should write **between 250 and 300 words**.

You should support your arguments with examples and ideas of relevance.

You will receive points for relevant content, good organisation, range of vocabulary and sentence structure, and linguistic accuracy.

V2

One of the greatest changes in the area of communication is certainly due to the heavy use of the internet. The world wide web has most obviously become the most important medium for communication in our society. Not only e-mails replace the “good old letter” but also phone calls or personal meetings have been reduced since the integration of this mighty medium. Whether this radical change in people’s communication habits is of advantage or not can be critically discussed.

Many people claim that they could not “survive” without the internet any more. Of course, quick access to information (about anybody, and anything), constant updates and immediate transfer are only a few arguments to support the advantages of the internet. Without any question, this medium which is able to connect people all over the world, makes our lives easier to a great extent. It takes less effort to check a shop’s opening hours per mouseclick than to call the company itself. It is more comfortable to compare products on the couch at home than to walk from store to store and spend hours on collecting the information one is looking for.

But there is also a price we pay for this privilege. In this world of constant progress, stress has become normal in every life of a worker. In these times, it is important to socialize and stay in personal contact with other people. Unfortunately, the internet has influenced such a way of life.

As in most cases, there are advantages as well as disadvantages of our current system. It is a matter of fact that life today is more stressful than it was 50 years ago. However, people are still capable of choosing their own way of life. Of course, there will always be a certain influence of society which we cannot deny. Nevertheless, everybody can decide for oneself to which extent one wants to let this influence control one’s life.

(320 words)

Band 4**Justification**

The lexical range is broader than on level 5 and the use of lexical items is almost consistently correct (*comfortable* should be *convenient*); repetition serves purposes of cohesion and does not disturb; use of collocation (*heavy use of internet*), alliteration (*mighty medium*), and idiomatic phrases (*all over the world*) is observable but scarce.