

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many countries today insufficient respect is shown to older people.

What do you think may be the reasons for this?

What problems might this cause in society?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Source: Official IELTS Practice Materials 2, page 29

Brainstorming:

Causes:

- Fast technological progress → youngsters know more about everyday stuff than the elderly → they don't think they should learn from older people → less respect
- The experience of old people is outdated → old people no longer act as respectable problem solvers → less respect

Effects:

- Less respect → Young people may think old people are jobless parasites → young people think pensions are not justified
- Less respect → Experience shared by the elderly will not be appreciated → many problems will no longer be easily solved through that experience

Sample answer by E. Tahasoni:

In many modern communities, young people no longer appreciate old age as a symbol of reverence. The aim of this essay is to identify the factors which have contributed to this change of attitudes and also explain a number of the issues it is likely to create in modern communities.

One could think of various reasons why the youth of today do not respect the elderly much. First and foremost, the rapid pace of technological progress in today's world has led to youngsters knowing more about commonly used technologies such as email or internet television. Consequently, they seldom feel the need to learn from the elderly whose knowledge and experience might seem rather outdated so their respect for them would decline. Moreover, many youngsters do not view old people as respectable and experienced problem solvers because the problems they face now tend to be quite different from those experienced by the older generation.

That said, one cannot ignore the social problems this new attitude is likely to contribute to. Most importantly, youths might start to question the justifiability of high pensions for old people because they would think there is no reason for supporting those who stay at home watching the news rather than work like younger people have to. In addition, the younger generation is likely to find issues like effective and successful child rearing very difficult to handle as many may start to ignore the advice and experience shared by the elderly.

To sum up, the above clearly indicate the factors responsible for the inadequate respect paid to the elderly and the problems which may ensue.

(268 words)