

Writing Section

Writing answer 1

How far do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

People should have to pay if they require medical treatment due to health conditions caused by their lifestyle, e.g. related to obesity, lung cancer or heart disease.

Please use relevant facts, ideas and examples.

You may use the topic ideas below to support your argument if you choose.

Topic ideas:

Responsibility

Fairness: different causes

Costs

Motivation

You should write at least 300 words.

You have 85 minutes for this task.

Word count: 473 Time taken: 00:45:06/01:25:00

In recent years, there has been more awareness regarding healthy eating habits as well as more accessibility to information about the ways individuals are able to protect their health by committing to a healthier lifestyle. This has been given even more attention since the start of the pandemic as the importance of being healthy has been reinforced. Thus, it may lead some people to believe that everyone has enough information and support to maintain a healthy lifestyle and if they do not, then they should not be entitled to free healthcare like people who take personal responsibility for their health. However, this essay will argue that this approach is too simplified as it is important to take into consideration people's individual circumstances and asking individuals to pay is not appropriate.

In support of this, it is important to accept that the reasons behind certain medical conditions associated with eating habits or lifestyle, such as obesity, lung or heart conditions may differ widely between individuals. In addition, assessing these reasons is not always straightforward. Therefore,

people should be able to have equal access to healthcare, regardless of the reasons behind their condition. Asking some people to pay, because of their lifestyle would be unethical and at odds with reasons why healthcare exists in society, in the first place as it would mean that people with low earnings would be the ones mostly affected by this rule. Instead, people should be offered the support they need in order to overcome the issues which cause their health to deteriorate.

However, some people may argue that, to an extent, people should be able to manage their own health by taking responsibility and refrain from harmful habits such as eating unhealthy foods out of convenience, resorting to sedentary lifestyle or smoking and drinking alcohol excessively. While that may be true and people should be measured in their approach when it comes to certain habits which are known to be harmful, it is also important to understand the reasons behind that behaviour. Mental health issues are on the rise and they are often difficult to diagnose as they may be manifested in different ways depending on individual. Thus, the harmful habits may be a result of mental health issues which requires medical attention and consequently, physical health issues may be resolved.

In conclusion, health is too important and the reasons behind people's attitudes towards it too complex to be strictly divided into conditions which are manageable by individuals and therefore subject to being paid for by the individual. In civilised society, people need to be considered as individuals and areas such as healthcare and education should not exist for profit. Charging people for essential healthcare, based on their lifestyle is simply not acceptable and may in fact lead to other issues within society, such as discrimination based on financial abilities.

Marked with Kaplan Pathways Writing Descriptors. Kaplan Bands awarded: Task Achievement 75, Language Range 80, Language Accuracy 80, Cohesion & Coherence 85, Overall 80.