

The money spent by governments on space programs would be better spent on vital public services such as schools and hospitals.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In contemporary society, investing a large sum of money on space programs is favored by many countries. However, some people argue that ~~the~~ ~~this~~ money should be used ~~in~~ ~~for~~ public services rather than space missions. As for me, I agree with the ~~latter~~ claim ~~from these people~~ ~~taking into~~ consideration two major reasons.

First of all, it is uncertain whether the outcomes of ~~the~~ ~~an~~ investment ~~on~~ ~~in~~ space programs will be beneficial ~~to the national economy or the opposite may happen~~ ~~or detrimental to the economy~~. Admittedly, exploring the universe and exploiting the resources in outer space can provide the nation and ~~the~~ society with long-term profits, but the large expenditure will also ~~become~~ ~~be~~ a huge burden for governments, thereby doing ~~huge~~ ~~great~~ harm to the economy in ~~the~~ short term. For example, ~~the~~ Soviet Union once invested considerable money on ~~the~~ ~~its~~ space programs in order to compete with the U.S. ~~in the universe~~ ~~during the Cold War~~, which ~~involved~~ ~~created~~ the ~~government~~ ~~in~~ endless financial problems ~~for the government~~, contributing to the ~~eventual~~ fall of this superpower. Therefore, the large ~~fortune~~ ~~sums of funding~~ given to space ~~missions~~ ~~exploration~~ may turn out to be ~~disastrous~~ to the economy and stability of the nation.

By comparison, expending more money on public service is bound to improve the public well-being, as ~~the~~ social equality may be achieved gradually with ~~more~~ ~~improved~~ facilities ~~added~~ ~~and~~ ~~services~~. For instance, in many developing countries such as India and China, the shortage of educational resources causes unfair distributions ~~of opportunity~~ in the society. Children in big cities receive education from qualified public schools, whereas those living in poverty-stricken areas can ~~hardly~~ ~~barely~~ afford to attend these institutions, thus causing great differences ~~in the~~ learning standards among the youth. Such ~~a~~ gap can ~~even~~ ~~be~~ ~~wider~~ ~~widen~~ when these young people ~~step into~~ ~~then~~ ~~compete in the~~ job markets, ~~tw~~ hereby increasing ~~the~~ ~~socioeconomic~~ inequality in the society. Nevertheless, if the government spent more money on building standard schools in ~~backwards~~ ~~less~~ ~~privileged~~ regions, this inequality ~~can~~ ~~could~~ be reduced to a large degree.

In conclusion, regarding the possible negative effects caused by huge expenditure on space ~~missions~~ ~~programs~~ as well as the positive transformation that may be ~~supported~~ ~~enabled~~ by the money saved, I am in firm belief that more money should be given to those public service like building more schools ~~than the space exploration or exploitation~~. (40')

Task achievement: 8

Cohesion/Coherence: 7

Vocabulary: 7

Grammar: 7

Overall: 7

**Comment [Dave1]:** A little informal – better to say 'As far as I'm concerned' or 'From my point of view...'

**Comment [Dave2]:** Good! Usually safer to write about both sides, but it is ok to write about one.

**Comment [Dave3]:** Very nuanced idea, very clearly and well-written – good!

**Comment [Dave4]:** Missions is a more specific word – better to say exploration/research/programs

**Comment [Dave5]:** Great use of a weak claim – most students would make too strong of a claim here – great!

**Comment [Dave6]:** Good but a little informal

**Comment [Dave7]:** conditional

**Comment [Dave8]:** Great ideas – very clear and strong language throughout.

**Comment [Dave9]:** Great ideas, well-support, very close to a 9.

**Comment [Dave10]:** Easy to follow, good referencing, linking words and substitution. Small mistakes especially towards the beginning.

**Comment [Dave11]:** Lots of good collocations, accurate – keep it up!

**Comment [Dave12]:** Good complexity but many small mistakes could bring this down to a 6.

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Band Score	Task Achievement (Opinion and ideas)	Cohesion and Coherence (Organisation and linking of ideas)	Lexical Resource (Vocabulary and spelling)	Grammar: Range & Accuracy (Grammar and punctuation)
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully answers all parts of the question.</li> <li>Overall opinion - very clear, consistent and fully explained throughout the essay.</li> <li>Ideas - well-supported, very suitable and very relevant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisation - very clear and very easy to follow throughout.</li> <li>Linking of ideas - very good throughout.</li> <li>Paragraphing - very natural.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide range of vocabulary, used very naturally and very flexibly</li> <li>Mistakes are very rare and similar to a native-speaker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide range of grammar, used very naturally and flexibly</li> <li>Mistakes are very rare and similar to a native-speaker</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers all parts of the question very well.</li> <li>Overall opinion - clear, consistent, and well-explained throughout the essay.</li> <li>Ideas - well-supported, suitable and relevant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisation - very clear and logical throughout.</li> <li>Linking of ideas - good throughout.</li> <li>Paragraphing - very good.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide range of vocabulary, used naturally and flexibly to explain exact meanings</li> <li>Rare mistakes with incorrect words and collocations</li> <li>Rare mistakes with spelling and incorrect form of words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide range of grammar.</li> <li>Mistakes are very rare - most sentences are 100% correct.</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers all parts of the question well.</li> <li>Overall opinion - clear, consistent and supported throughout the essay.</li> <li>Main ideas - relevant and clearly supported.</li> <li>Supporting ideas - some are too general or less relevant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisation - clear and logical throughout.</li> <li>Linking of ideas - overall good but occasionally linking phrases are repeated or missing.</li> <li>Paragraphing - good, with one clear topic for each</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good range of vocabulary, sometimes used naturally and flexibly to explain exact meanings.</li> <li>Some good use of more natural collocations.</li> <li>Rare mistakes with incorrect words, spelling and/or incorrect form of words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good range of complex grammar.</li> <li>Many sentences are 100% correct.</li> <li>Rare mistakes with punctuation.</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some parts of the question are not answered fully.</li> <li>Overall opinion - relevant and supported but may be unclear, inconsistent or repetitive.</li> <li>Main ideas - relevant but not always clearly supported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisation - clear and logical overall but not throughout</li> <li>Linking phrases - some good use but some are incorrect or robotic.</li> <li>Referencing - may be unclear or incorrect.</li> <li>Paragraphing - not always logical.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OK range of topic vocabulary.</li> <li>Tries to use less common and more natural vocabulary, sometimes successfully.</li> <li>Some mistakes with incorrect words, spelling and/or incorrect form of words but meaning is always clear.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A good range of complex and simple grammar.</li> <li>Some mistakes but meaning is nearly always clear.</li> <li>Some mistakes with punctuation.</li> </ul>