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I. Are cars doing more harm than good? Arguments

1. Cars are evils resulting from modernization, for they make people suffer rather than enjoy life.
2. Traffic accidents caused by cars not only bring death and injury, but also make people suffer mentally and psychologically.
3. Every year car owners have to pay vast sums to the exchequer: road tax, purchase tax, oil tax, etc. This is a big drain on their resources.
4. Since China has such a large population, the popularisation of private cars will only bring about serious social problems.
5. Cars should be done away with. We should try to find a safer means of transport which will bring joy and comfort rather than injury and death.
6. The roads are so often jammed with cars that ambulances and fire engines find it difficult to fulfil their duties.
7. Peoples hidden frustrations and disappointments are brought to the surface when they drive.
8. Road networks for cars have not only made cities uninhabitable, but also desecrated the countryside.
9. Cars often produce air pollution and fill the cities with unbearable noise.
10. Cars are the cause of traffic accidents. All over the world thousands upon thousands of people are killed or injured every year.

Counter-arguments

1. Motor cars are highly desirable for obvious reasons. We should recognize this and adapt ourselves.
2. Motor cars enable people to become more mobile. Without cars, the world would still consist of isolated communities.
3. If there are more

cars in China's rural areas, people can get to cities more easily. The gap between town and country will become smaller.<sup>4</sup> Possessing a car gives one a much greater degree of mobility, enabling him to move around freely.<sup>5</sup> The owner of a car is not forced to rely on public transport and is, therefore, not compelled to work locally.<sup>6</sup> Long distances can be covered rapidly and pleasantly. <sup>7</sup> Buses are often crowded and slow, especially during rush-hour. If there are more cars, people can get around more easily.<sup>8</sup> With the popularisation of cars, the suburbs will become more developed, and the downtown area will be less crowded.<sup>9</sup> Cars and motorists are not to blame for road accidents. Problems like too many road signs, faulty traffic lights, sudden narrowing of a street and congested parking are the real cause of traffic accidents.<sup>10</sup> There must be universal adoption of multi-storey and underground car parks so that car-parks won't become a problem.<sup>11</sup>

Are pets good for mankind? Arguments

1. Pets are of particular importance to children in this Plastic Age when most of us live in large cities.
2. Watching the everyday activities of a pet helps a child to understand nature and cope with problems.
3. Learning to care for a pet helps a child to grow up into a loving adult who feels responsible towards those dependent on him.
4. The great virtue of pets is that they can keep us company.
5. A pet is kept as a companion that makes us feel happy. It is suggested, that pets should be sent to astronauts in a spacecraft to help reduce the loneliness of space flights.
6. Besides providing mere companionship, pets invite us to love and be loved.
7. Often a cat or a dog can comfort us at times when human words don't help.
- 8.

Animals can communicate with each other in their particular way. They communicate with human beings, too, for they are quick to sense anger and sorrow.<sup>9</sup> People keep pets for emotional rather than economic reasons.<sup>10</sup> A pet dog brings its master (owner) a sense of confidence, for he can see in the dog that faithfulness does exist and he does have something to trust.

**Counter-arguments**

1. Keeping pets is just a waste of time and resources.
2. The growing number of pets has caused serious hygiene problems that cannot be solved.
3. The earth will no longer be a world of human beings and animals but a world of animals only if we don't take measures to stop the increase of pets.
4. Pet dogs and cats of both sexes should be sterilized because the animals themselves are in danger of becoming the first victims for the simple reason that their owners don't have enough time for too many of them.
5. Pets are humanized by those who keep pets. Owing to their need for a home, for food and drink, pets are tamed and idealized by their owners.
6. People nowadays are so crazy about pets that they even neglect caring for their own children.
7. A campaign should be launched against the overpopulation of pets.
8. As a matter of fact those who keep pets don't always treat their pets with kindness. They sometimes abandon their pets when they go away on holiday and are unable to take the pets along with them.
9. It's really against nature to cage birds, chain dogs and keep cats within the house.
10. Pets are animals. They should be seen in their natural habitat rather than in the homes of human beings.

**III. Do Advertisements Play a Positive or Negative role in our Society?**

**Arguments**

1. Advertisements provide the most direct comprehensive and detailed information.

We get to know about household goods from advertisements.2. Advertising itself is a business that has provided a great number of jobs.3. With advertisements, people save a lot of time in shopping, looking for jobs, etc. 4. Daily life needs advertisements because the main function of advertising is to disseminate information on commodities, services, culture, employment, student enrolment and even marriage.5. A cheerful, witty advertisement makes such a difference to a drab wall or a newspaper full of news of calamities.6. Without advertisements, newspapers, commercial radios and television companies could not survive. 7. You can find a job. rent an apartment, buy or sell a house, etc. by way of advertising.8. Advertising is a process of artistic creation. 9. Advertising creates mass markets. Without advertisements, manufacturers may find it difficult to sell their products.10. Advertising helps stabilize industry and employment, improves quality, and, by competition, helps keep prices within bounds.

Counter-arguments1. Advertisements are imposed upon a captive audience: e.g. on television.2. Advertisements on TV are a nuisance: they interrupt television programmes at a shocking frequency. 3. Consumers have to pay more for the goods owing to the advertising expenses: high prices are maintained by such artificial means.4. Advertisements are simply misleading and cheating. They are filled with flowery phrases and empty promises.5. Fake advertising cheats consumers and, in some serious cases, threatens gullible peoples lives.6. Advertisers are inconsiderate to the public. What they care about is making money.7. Advertisements are not -based on the quality of the goods,

but on the principle that if one keeps talking about the same thing long enough, eventually people will pay attention to it.<sup>8</sup>

Advertisements are an insidious form of brainwashing, using the same techniques, like slogans, catchphrases, etc.<sup>9</sup>. Advertising is offensive: it appeals to baser instincts.<sup>10</sup>. Advertising cheapens the quality of life: most ads are in poor taste.

IV. Does fashion contribute anything to society?

Arguments

1. A good appearance may help people make a better impression in social contacts.
2. When people are getting old, they should pay more attention to their appearance.

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