

Directed Writing- 2

*Shopping locally versus shopping online***Imtiaz:**

As the world becomes increasingly smaller, it is imperative that all of us do everything we can to support local businesses. Our individual efforts can sometimes seem futile when confronted with the unstoppable wave of globalisation, but if we all made the effort to shop locally, rather than buying from large online corporations, we would see several benefits. Firstly, it would make our local town centres and high streets more attractive and interesting places. Rather than boarded-up store fronts and empty streets, we would see thriving markets with fresh produce, attractive window displays and crowds of local people interacting with each other. It would also help to create more local jobs, meaning that money stays in the community and is used to support local people.

As well as supporting our own communities, shopping locally would also send a message to the big corporations, many of whom use unethical business practices to maximise their profits. If more people refused to support these companies, they might change their ways by paying people more and contributing more tax, which helps to fund public services like hospitals and schools. Finally, shopping locally also has environmental benefits. Small local businesses will often use local materials and ingredients, which means that carbon emissions from shipping and distribution are vastly reduced.

Daraz:

I find it hard to believe that what I put in my shopping basket makes any real difference in the fight against globalisation and climate change. I do my best to make ethical choices when shopping, but it isn't always easy.

In the past, local shops at least had the advantage of being more convenient. If you needed something urgently, you could walk down the road or get on the bus to your local shop and pick it up immediately, whereas you might have been waiting for up to a week for it to be delivered from an online store.

Nowadays, however, most online shops offer next or even same-day delivery, meaning you can order something from the comfort of your own home and have it brought to your front door just hours later. Moreover, it's a fact that shopping online is usually much cheaper than buying locally. Big companies are able to save money by buying materials in vast quantities and mass-producing items, meaning they can afford to charge customers less than a local business would do for an equivalent item. Many young people like me don't have very much money, so why should we spend extra supporting local businesses when we don't earn very much and have to pay such large sums in rent and bills?

Finally, how do I really know that what I'm buying in a local shop is more ethical than what is available online? For all I know, it could be the exact same product, made in the same factory and shipped the exact same distance, with a slightly different label stuck on the packaging. In my opinion, it's not the consumer's responsibility to police the business practices of the companies they buy from; it's down to governments to enforce stricter rules.

Write a blog article about the advantages and disadvantages of shopping locally.

In your article you should:

evaluate the ideas and opinions in both texts

give your own views, based on what you have read in the texts, about whether it is important to support local businesses.

Base your article on what you have read in both texts but be careful to use your own words.

Address both of the bullet points.

Begin your article with a suitable headline.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

Directed Writing- 3

Peaceful Protests or Call For Action**Jaweria**

We all want to make the world a better place, but there is a right way and a wrong way to raise awareness and bring about meaningful change. In recent times we have seen protesters carry out a range of stunts in an attempt to win support for their causes: blocking roads, delaying trains and buses and behaving disruptively outside government buildings and big businesses. One protest saw activists dump several tons of manure outside the office of a national newspaper. But who really suffers as a result of these stunts? Will politicians and managing directors be responsible for restoring order?

Will the newspaper's editor be out on the street with a shovel clearing up the mess?

Of course not. It will be ordinary people like you and me - cleaners, security guards and police officers - whose lives will be made more difficult. That's not even to mention the thousands of people just trying to get to work on blocked roads so that they can pay their rent and feed their families. In a recent survey, 30 per cent of people said they had a very negative opinion of these protesters, while only 4 per cent felt very positively about them. I worry that these stunts will only serve to turn people against their causes and make it harder to implement genuinely beneficial policies.

Hassam

The time for asking nicely is over. Our community and the world at large are facing a number of serious crises: climate change, housing shortages, mental health and inequality, to name just a few. Given the seriousness of these issues, I personally think no protest is too drastic as a means of alerting people to the catastrophes into which we are sleepwalking. These aren't new problems. We have known about them for decades, and for decades people have been campaigning for change, writing letters and signing petitions. And for decades they have been largely ignored. As the need for change becomes more urgent, it seems only right that the methods of campaigning become more extreme. The protesters aren't hurting anyone, and the minor inconveniences the public face are nothing compared to the major inconveniences we all might experience if nothing is done. Maybe the protesters aren't popular, but there is some evidence that their message may be getting through; for example, more people than ever are thinking about ways they can personally combat climate change, such as by eating plant-based diets or looking for alternative ways to travel rather than by plane or car.

'Protesters should be able to use any means possible to raise awareness of their cause, despite the inconvenience it causes to other people.'

Write an article for your school newspaper either in support of or against this statement.

In your article you should:

evaluate the ideas and opinions in both texts

- give your own views, based on what you have read in the texts about the actions of protesters.

Base your article on what you have read in both texts but be careful to use your own words.

Address both of the bullet points.

Begin your article with a suitable headline.

Write about 250 to 350 words.