

UNIT 5: THE GREAT DIVIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think people become homeless?
2. How do homeless people live?
3. Are there many beggars and homeless people in your town?
4. Do you ever give them any money? Why? Why not?
5. How big a problem is homelessness in Spain?
6. In what ways do people help the homeless in Spain?
7. Should the government do more to help the homeless?

WRITING

The world is immersed in an economic crisis as there has never been one before. Write a letter to a newspaper giving your opinion on who is to blame for the crisis and suggesting ways to overcome it.

USEFUL VOCABULARY

- Subprime mortgages (Subprime: used to describe lending at a higher than usual rate of interest because it involves borrowers who are less likely to be able to pay back their loan)
- Unemployment
- Stock options (an arrangement by which a worker can buy shares in the company they work for at a good price and will make money if they keep them for an agreed number of years)
- Stock market crash
- Salary of big company high executives
- The government lending money to banks
- The government should spend more to create jobs
- The government should reduce taxation
- People should spend more to revive the economy
- Both government and people should save more

ESSAYS PROVIDING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS

They are pieces of writing in which you discuss a problem and its causes as well as the expected results or consequences of your suggestions.

STRUCTURE

Introduction

State the problem (s) and / or the causes

Main body

Two or more paragraphs: Suggestions and results / consequences.

You should start a new paragraph for each suggestion.

Conclusion

Summarise your opinion

USEFUL VOCABULARY FOR THIS TYPE OF TEXT

To make suggestions:

A useful suggestion would be to...

The situation could be improved if...

It would be a good idea to / if...

To present results and consequences:

This would...

By doing this, you/we/etc. would...

The effect of ... would be....

Then...