

BAND 3 - 4:

Profile of Professionals & Main Goals

The stimuli present a table on the profile of professionals and another on their main goals. In general, the two groups have very different profiles and goals where the younger group aims to make more money while the other focuses more on health.

According to the first table, most professionals aged 18 to 27 are junior executives and earn an average of RM3000 with 5 years of work experience. Only 40% of young professionals are married while almost all senior professionals are married (95%). Senior managers aged between 46 to 55 have an average of 20 years work experience. They earn more than triple the salary of a junior executive.

Based on the second table, both groups have very different goals for the year ahead. The younger group ranks making more money as top priority followed by improving technology and communication skills. Meanwhile, the older group focuses more on health, saving money and prioritising family time while goals related to money, improving skills and new friends are not as important to them.

In conclusion, priorities change depending on age group where the younger generation focuses on making money while the older generation cares more about their health and saving money.

(200 words)

BAND 5 - 6:

Profile of Professionals & Main Goals for the Year Ahead by Age Group

The stimuli present a table on profiles of professionals and another on their main goals for the year ahead. In general, the youngsters focus on accumulating wealth while the more affluent older group can afford to concentrate on health.

Based on the information provided, the profile of a professional from the 18 to 27 years age group are mainly junior executives who have worked an average of 5 years and 40% are married. They only earn RM3000 so and their main goal is to make more money. Also top on their list is to improve their technology and communication skills rather than saving money or spending time with family.

The profile of an older professional is completely opposite as these 46 to 55 year olds hold the position of senior manager with 20 years experience and earn more than triple a junior executive's salary. 95% are married therefore their priorities have changed to focus on being more healthy, saving money and spending family time rather than on new friendships.

In conclusion, the two groups have very different goals for the year ahead as the juniors prioritise money and skills while the mostly married seniors concentrate on health, savings and family.

(200 words)

The most valuable thing in life is friendship. Do you agree? Discuss. You should write at least 350 words. [60 marks]

It is true that no 'man is an island' meaning that no one in this world can live alone without friendship. That person would be very socially challenged as he or she would miss the camaraderie and life experiences that come with friendship. However, I completely disagree with the statement that the most valuable thing in life is friendship as there are certainly more important and priceless things in life besides this. **In this essay, I will outline how life itself is more valuable than friendship, and elaborate on why family and the individual's principles in life are ranked higher.**

First and foremost, before one can enjoy the beauty of friendship, one must surely value life itself or in other words, we should value our health. This is because, the quality of our life is the single most important criteria in life if we are to live a meaningful and wholesome life. Moreover, without good health, we will be hard pressed to do even the simplest of tasks like feed ourselves or relieve ourselves without the help of doctors, nurses and caregivers. For example, if we are paralysed, lost our sight, hearing or ability to speak or even a simple case of a fever or allergic reactions, then the quality of our life is greatly reduced and no amount of friendship can make us healthy again. Therefore, while friends can stand by us in our time of need, pristine health is still the most valuable asset in our lives.

Secondly, we are no one without our family as indeed blood is thicker than water. This means that however you analyse it, friendships will almost always play second fiddle because family always comes first. Furthermore, if we do not value our family above others, then there must be a problem among the family members that has caused their relationship to be strained. For instance, people tend to turn away from family if the family member(s) themselves are the ones to cause them to react negatively such as divorced parents, abusive parents or siblings and so on. Thus, when people consider friendship to be the most valuable thing in life, more often than not they may come from a troubled household.

Last but not least, a person's principles in life is by far more valuable than friendship alone. This is due to the fact that each person needs to have a code of ethics, quite often prescribed by their individual religions. In addition, this code will guide each person to live their lives according to the good and right principles. Take for example, if an individual has set his principles to do good, then no amount of friendship especially negative influence from friends, can shake his hold on his principles and cause him to commit undesirable deeds like smoking, stealing, raping, murdering and others. Hence, if a person values friendship so much to the point where he is willing to break his principles, then he has done a serious misdeed against himself and will most likely regret his actions later in life.

In short, friendship is the rainbow of life as it colours our horizons with invaluable experiences but without good health, a supportive family and strong principles, life becomes empty and meaningless. In my opinion, it is beyond a shadow of a doubt that I still firmly believe that friendship is not the most valuable thing in life. Our government can encourage people to prioritise health, family and principles in life by organising awareness campaigns especially in primary schools where the younger generation should learn about priorities in life because they are the leaders of tomorrow.