In many countries there has been an increase in social problems involving teenagers in recent years. Many people believe that this is due to modern lifestyles because parents spend more and more time at work and have less time to supervise their children. To what extent do you believe this is true?

_________________________________________ standards of behaviour have fallen among teenagers. The popular belief is that the principle cause is that parents are unable to supervise their children because they are away at work. I __________________________ this viewpoint as there are other important factors too.

It is undeniable that parents should __________________________ for the actions of their teenaged children. This is particularly true when they are absent from the home and not in a position to control their children. __________________________ if they were at home, then they would be able to make certain that their children did not join gangs and spent their time on socially acceptable activities.

However, it can also be said that working parents are in fact setting a good example to their children. __________________________, it is very often the case that teenagers who come from hardworking families spend their time on schoolwork and conduct themselves well. In fact, the teenagers who do create social problems by, for example, getting drunk or painting graffiti come from homes where parents are unemployed.

_________________________________________ that lead to teenagers getting into trouble relate to the educational system. This is due to the fact that many teenagers leave school aged 16 and do not find work because of lack of qualifications. __________________________, they spend time on the street with nothing productive to do. Likewise, social problems with teenagers can be the consequence of poor discipline at school with teachers failing to control their classes.

In conclusion, it is possible to say that this sort of problem is only sometimes the result of parents not supervising their children. It is __________________________ possible to say that discipline in schools is at fault.
Today’s food travels thousands of miles before it reaches customers. Is this a positive or negative trend?

In the modern world, we frequently no longer rely on food that has been grown locally, but we have become accustomed to buying produce from all over the world. (1) this trend has some clear benefits to consumers, I would argue that overall transporting food over long distances is a negative.

(2) against importing food is environmental. Studies have shown that transport and the use of fossil fuels is one of the leading causes of global warming and climate change. This means that if we want to lead a greener lifestyle, we should be trying to minimise transport and this includes the unnecessary transport of foodstuffs.

Another (3) is the impact of transporting food on local farmers and traditional ways of life. Again, there is good research to show that farmers and smallholders are unable to compete in price with the supermarkets that import cheap, and often low-quality, produce from abroad. This is (4) a problem for local farmers who are likely to go out of business, (5) it has an impact on weakening traditional communities that rely on those farms for employment and trade.

(6) is that food that has travelled across the world is considerably less healthy than locally grown, fresh produce. (7) the further food travels before it reaches the consumer, the less fresh it will be and any nutritionist will confirm that fresh food is fuller of vitamins. (8), it would be preferable if supermarkets and other stores did not transport food from other countries.

In conclusion, I (9) that the trend for transporting food over long distances is undesirable because it is environmentally unfriendly, threatens local communities and results in less healthy options for the consumer.

1. (a) there is no way (b) nonetheless (c) despite (d) while
2. (a) even though (b) the strongest argument (c) it is argued (d) it must be stated
3. (a) point of view is (b) conclusion (c) point that needs to be considered (d) positive argument
4. (a) not only (b) all the same (c) nevertheless (d) often
5. (a) never (b) even though (c) despite (d) but also
6. (a) nonetheless (b) moreover (c) the simple point is (d) although
7. (a) it is true to say that (b) a further consideration is that (c) an unconvincing argument is that (d) it is not true that
8. (a) therefore (b) as a result (c) this is why (d) despite the fact
9. (a) deny (b) believe (c) belief (d) am not convinced