

In some countries, companies allow people to work from home. In others, people are still expected to work in an office.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

In recent years, due to advances in technology, 'home-office' concept has risen in popularity over the alternative of working in an office. Despite the discipline, productivity and socializing opportunity that office environment might offer, I believe that opportunity of flexible working from home might bring about broader benefits to employees, such as running operations from the comfort of their home and avoiding the stress caused by the work environment .

Comment: This paragraph is grammatically correct for the most part and presents a clear thesis. There's a small inconsistency in article usage, though. Instead of "'home-office' concept," use "the 'home-office' concept." Also, "socializing opportunity" should be in the plural form, "socializing opportunities". You might want to watch out for overuse of the phrase "from home" and "work environment" for better variety in language use.

Delving into the potential advances that conventional way of working first, an office environment that is surrounded by colleagues and business partners, foster the culture of the work ethic and discipline. This is because managing home workers and monitoring their performance in an office environment is easier than monitoring their performance from home. Moreover, without the distractions, such as other family members, presence of tv or household routines, employees could utilize office facilities to better focus on their work tasks and they can resort to their colleagues if they need any assistance. What is more, a recent research carried out among employees who worked from home during pandemic has revealed that these individuals might feel a disconnect from their colleagues. Consequently, the advent of home office as preferred way of working leads to sense of isolation and concomitant depression among a considerable portion of workers.

Comment: This paragraph is well structured and provides a clear argument. A few minor issues need attention:

- **"The opening sentence is a bit confusing. Consider rephrasing to something like, 'Firstly, delving into the potential advantages of the conventional way of working...'"**

In the original sentence, "Delving into the potential advances that conventional way of working first," it's unclear what "first" is referring to because of its placement in the sentence. The phrase "conventional way of working first" seems to imply that the conventional way of working is somehow first, but it's unclear what it's first in relation to. A rephrase to "Firstly, delving into the potential advantages of the conventional way of working..." makes it clear that you're introducing your first point of discussion - the benefits of traditional, in-office work.

- **"The phrase 'foster the culture of the work ethic and discipline' would be better as 'fosters a culture of work ethic and discipline'."**

In the original phrase, the subject "an office environment" is singular, so the verb "foster" should agree with it in number and be "fosters". Also, the phrase "the culture of the work ethic and discipline" could be interpreted as referring to a specific culture, but it's unclear what specific culture you're referring to. Simplifying this to "a culture of work ethic and discipline" avoids this ambiguity and makes it clear you're speaking generally about the types of culture an office environment can create.

- **"The phrase 'a recent research' should be 'recent research' or 'a recent study'."**

In English, "research" is typically an uncountable noun, which means it does not have a plural form and is not typically used with the indefinite article "a". You can talk about "some research", "much research", or "a lot of research", but it's unusual to say "a research". If you want to use an article, you could say "a study" or "a piece of research".

- **"The phrase 'the advent of home office as preferred way of working leads to sense of isolation' could be more clear as 'the advent of the home office as the preferred way of working can lead to a sense of isolation'."**

- Adding "the" before "home office" and "preferred way" specifies that you're talking about a specific concept or trend, and makes the sentence easier to follow. Including "a" before "sense of isolation" similarly helps clarify that you're talking about one particular outcome that can result from this trend. Using "can lead to" instead of "leads to" acknowledges that this is a potential rather than guaranteed outcome.

On the other hand, while the advantages of working in an office are valid, I am of the opinion that working in an office should serve as complementary option when needed. That is to say, so long as appropriate regulations and conditions are put in place, employees should have freedom of agility and flexibility in working arrangements. To illustrate, they should be able to run their operations in the comfort of their home and when they needed, and also they should be able to benefit from the facilities of the office environment as well. Furthermore, freed from the necessity to prepare in the morning and time spent on the way to the work, professionals could utilize extra time for productivity and work tasks.

Comment: This paragraph is well-structured and offers a clear contrast to the previous paragraph. A couple of issues, however:

- ❖ **"I am of the opinion that working in an office should serve as complementary option when needed."**

In this sentence, the article "a" is missing before "complementary option." This omission disrupts the flow of the sentence and can cause minor confusion for the reader. The corrected sentence would read: "I am of the opinion that working in an office should serve as a complementary option when needed."

- ❖ **"Freed from the necessity to prepare in the morning and time spent on the way to the work, professionals could utilize extra time for productivity and work tasks."**

This sentence is grammatically correct, but it could be made more concise and clear. The phrase "time spent on the way to the work" could be simplified to "commute time." The sentence would then read: "Freed from the necessity to prepare in the

morning and commute time, professionals could utilize extra time for productivity and work tasks."

The key to an excellent essay is clear and precise language. While your ideas are strong, minor grammatical errors and unclear phrases can detract from your overall argument. Making these adjustments will strengthen your writing and make your ideas more compelling.

In conclusion, while office environment offers a more disciplined environment and opportunity of socializing with the colleagues, I believe that these advantages are outweighed by the benefits of flexible working arrangement and freedom of working from home.

Comment: This paragraph sums up the essay well, with a clear restatement of the thesis. A few small corrections could be made:

❖ **"while office environment offers a more disciplined environment and opportunity of socializing with the colleagues..."**

The phrase "office environment offers a more disciplined environment" can be a bit redundant because of the repetition of the word "environment". You could simplify it by saying "while the office offers more discipline". Also, the phrase "opportunity of socializing with the colleagues" has a slight grammatical mistake. In English, it's more common to say "opportunity to do something" instead of "opportunity of doing something". Therefore, you might want to rephrase it as "opportunity to socialize with colleagues".

❖ **"...I believe that these advantages are outweighed by the benefits of flexible working arrangement and freedom of working from home."**

Here, the phrase "benefits of flexible working arrangement" is missing an article. The correct form should be "benefits of a flexible working arrangement" or "benefits of flexible working arrangements". This small correction helps to clarify your meaning and improve readability.

By refining these areas, the paragraph would read:

"In conclusion, while the office offers more discipline and the opportunity to socialize with colleagues, I believe these advantages are outweighed by the benefits of a flexible working arrangement and the freedom to work from home."

These adjustments not only correct the minor errors but also enhance the overall readability of your conclusion, ensuring that your viewpoint is clear, concise, and compelling.

Score

Task Achievement: 8 Your position is clear as you favour flexible work from home options over the traditional office environment. You state your position directly in the introduction and restate it in the conclusion, which is good. However, to reinforce your position further, try to weave your viewpoint more explicitly into your body paragraphs. For instance, when discussing the benefits of office work, you might add a sentence acknowledging these benefits but reiterating why you think flexibility is more important. Notice how you could do so:

"While the discipline, focus, and socialization offered by traditional office environments are indeed valuable, I contend that the heightened flexibility associated with working from home—such as the ability to set one's own hours and to adapt to personal circumstances—offers a superior work-life balance, which in turn can lead to increased productivity and overall job satisfaction."

Coherence and Cohesion: 8 Your essay has a clear structure with an introduction, two body paragraphs discussing each viewpoint, and a conclusion. You start by presenting both views and stating your position in the introduction, then discuss each view in separate paragraphs, and finally restate your position in the conclusion. However, you could make your argument easier to follow by using clear topic sentences at the beginning of each paragraph that summarize the main point of that paragraph. For example, your second

paragraph could start with: "Working in a traditional office environment offers several advantages, including..."

Use of cohesive devices: You've used linking words like "Moreover", "Consequently", "On the other hand", "That is to say", and "Furthermore" to guide the reader through your arguments. These devices help to show the relationships between your ideas.

Suggestion: You might want to vary your use of linking words to avoid repetition and improve the flow of your essay. For example, instead of "Moreover" you could use "Additionally" or "Furthermore"; instead of "Consequently" you could use "As a result" or "Therefore".

Referencing: You've effectively used referencing words like "these individuals" and "their performance" to avoid repetition and keep your writing cohesive.

Suggestion: Be careful to ensure that your referencing is always clear. For example, in the sentence "This is because managing home workers and monitoring their performance in an office environment is easier than monitoring their performance from home", the use of "their" in "their performance" is a bit ambiguous. To improve clarity, you could specify whose performance you're talking about, for example by saying "the employees' performance".

Paragraphing: Your essay is well-paragraphed, with each paragraph discussing one main point. This makes your essay easier to read and follow.

Suggestion: Ensure that each paragraph has a clear focus. In your second paragraph, you discuss both the benefits of working in an office and the drawbacks of working from home. You might want to split these into separate paragraphs to maintain a clear focus in each paragraph.

Lexical Resource: 7 The Lexical Resource criterion in the IELTS Writing Task 2 assesses your use of vocabulary, including the range and accuracy of your language, your ability to use less common and idiomatic language, and your skill in paraphrasing.

Here's a critical assessment of your essay regarding lexical resources:

Range of Vocabulary: You've demonstrated a good range of vocabulary in your essay. You use terms relevant to the topic like "home-office," "discipline," "productivity," "socializing," "flexibility," and "agility."

Suggestion: Try to use synonyms and paraphrase to avoid repeating the same words. For example, you could replace some instances of "work from home" with "remote work" or "telecommuting," and use "traditional workplace" or "physical office" instead of always saying "office environment."

Accuracy of Vocabulary: Most of your vocabulary is used correctly and appropriately. However, there are a few instances where the words chosen are not quite accurate or idiomatic.

Suggestion: Pay attention to idiomatic usage. For example, you write "freedom of agility" where "agility" seems to refer to the flexibility of working from anywhere. The phrase is a bit unusual in this context, as "agility" usually refers to physical quickness and flexibility. Instead, consider phrases like "flexibility of location" or "the freedom to work from anywhere."

Grammar: 7 The majority of your sentences are grammatically correct, but there are a few errors. For instance, the phrase "a recent research" should be "recent research" or "a recent study".

❖ Another instance is "they should be able to run their operations in the comfort of their home and when they needed." Which is not grammatically correct. Let me explain the reasons below:

1. **Unclear reference:** The phrase "when they needed" is incomplete and lacks a clear reference. What is it that they might need? More context is required for this phrase.

2. **Sentence structure:** The conjunction "and" typically joins two similar constructs, but "in the comfort of their home" and "when they needed" are not parallel in structure or meaning.

To correct these issues, you could revise the sentence to specify what might be needed and to provide parallelism. Here are a couple of examples:

- "They should be able to run their operations from the comfort of their home and adjust their schedules as needed."
- "They should be able to run their operations from the comfort of their home when they need to balance work with personal responsibilities."

These revised sentences provide more context and clarify the idea that employees need flexibility in their work schedules and location.

Grammatical Range and Flexibility: You've used a range of grammatical structures including passive voice ("is surrounded"), modal verbs ("should be able"), and conjunctions ("and", "or"). This demonstrates your ability to flexibly use grammar.

Improvement: Try to further diversify your grammatical structures. For example, you could use more participle clauses (e.g., "Having saved time on commuting, employees can dedicate more attention to their work tasks.")

Overall Band Score: 7.5

A Band 9 Sample Essay

In recent times, advancements in technology have resulted in a surge of remote work, or 'home-office' phenomenon, while in contrast, certain regions continue to follow the traditional model of in-office work. In spite of the sense of structure, productivity, and camaraderie that an office environment can foster, I advocate for the benefits of flexible home-based work which allows for operations to be managed comfortably from home, sidestepping the stressors of a conventional workplace.

Exploring the merits of the conventional office-based model, it promotes a strong work culture and discipline, primarily because supervising employees and evaluating their performance becomes relatively straightforward compared to managing remote workers. Furthermore, an office environment, devoid of home-based distractions such as family members or household chores, allows employees to fully concentrate on their tasks, making full use of office resources, and seeking help from colleagues as required. Additionally, recent research indicates that employees working remotely during the pandemic often felt disconnected from their peers, leading to a sense of isolation and associated mental health issues in a significant proportion of these workers.

However, while acknowledging the value of the traditional workplace, I propose that it should function as a supplementary option when necessary. Provided the implementation of appropriate regulations, employees should enjoy the flexibility to choose their working arrangements. This includes managing tasks from the comfort of their home and utilizing office facilities when needed. Additionally, the elimination of the daily commute not only saves time but also reduces stress, enabling employees to focus more on their work.

In conclusion, while the traditional office environment provides a structured setting and opportunities for collaboration, I believe the benefits of a flexible working model surpass these advantages. The freedom and convenience offered by remote work not only caters to the evolving needs of the modern workforce but also has the potential to increase overall job satisfaction and productivity.