

The 21st century has begun. What changes do you think this century will bring? Use examples and details in your answer.

Marked version – Spelling / Grammar / Unclear/unnatural phrase / ~ = missing word(s)

The 21st century has begun. I think this century will bring many changes in our life. Some of the main reasons for this are changes in fuels for electric power *plant*, going overseas *and lifestyle*. In this essay, I will describe these reasons in more *details*.

First of all, fuels for electric power *plant* will be changed. The fuel for electric power *plant* will be changed to solar power or wind from fossil fuels or nuclear power. One third of electric power in Japan *is depend* on nuclear power. More than two months ago, eastern Japan had *~* big earthquake. As a result, *the nuclear plant happened to accident*, *~* therefore all residents around the nuclear *plants move* to another city in order not to be *damaged* by radioactivity. In Japan, many people want to stop nuclear plants and convert to solar energy from nuclear energy.

At the same time, going overseas is available to more people. Because low cost carriers appeared, air ticket *price was* down. For example, it costs *from* 60 dollars to go to Malaysia from Tokyo. Therefore, more people can go to foreign countries. In the past, travel abroad *is* expensive *to* everyone all over the world, and only a few people could go to foreign countries. Low cost carriers *help tickets to discount*, and people can get *a ticket* cheaply.

A third important reason is lifestyle. Due to *development the* information technology, we will work at home using *~* Internet. My company introduced *~* in-house working system for all employees. When I *worked* at home, I *concentrated* on my work. In addition, *we* can see off my wife because *we* don't need to go to my company. In the past, people *take* much time to commute, *~* therefore people *get* up early to go to their company. Owing to *developing the* information technology, many companies will introduce in-house working *system*.

Fuels for electric power *plant*, going overseas and *lifestyle* will *be brought* in the 21st century. These will bring us *to* more convenient life.

334 words

Comment & Score

Your essay organization, choice of topics and supporting detail, variety of vocabulary and sentence structure, and basic quantity of writing (which indicates how quickly you are able to communicate in written English), are all good enough to get a high score (4 or 5) on the actual test. However, until you reduce the sheer number of technical errors and also learn to write in a simpler, more natural style (which will also help you to reduce the number of errors), you will only score at the "borderline" 3 or 4 level.

To begin with, help yourself at a basic practical level by doing some simple things more carefully and consistently. For example, the sentence in paragraph 4 "In addition, we can see off my wife because we don't need to go to my company" is very inconsistent. Why did you change from "we" to "my" then back to "we" and then again to "my"? Writing one sentence from the same, consistent viewpoint – "we/our" or "I/my" but never a mix of both - is a very basic and logical thing to do, so it should be an easy problem to improve. In fact, making this kind of error implies that you kept stopping and starting when you were writing, and this caused you to lose consistent focus.

Another simple error to correct would be logical use of verb tenses. If you are writing about the past, then it should be both obvious and logical to use the past tense, but in your essay, you often confusingly choose the present tense: "In the past, travel abroad *is*..." and "In the past, people *take*

much time..."

If you can reduce or eliminate many of these simple errors, your essay will immediately "look" much better, and the scorer is almost certain to give you a 4 rather than a 3. However, if these basic errors remain, you are more likely to score 3. At the very least, you need to reserve a few minutes at the end of the test in order to check and correct as many basic or careless errors as possible.

For some of the more complex writing problems, take a careful look at the 3 versions of your essay here in order to recognize the errors you are making, understand how to correct them, and learn some simple ways of improving them. You have a good basic grasp of what is required for the TOEFL Independent task, but you need to get as much practice as possible in order to write more accurately and effectively within the time limit.

Corrected version – problem word/phrase/sentence

The 21st century has begun. I think this century will bring many changes in our life. Some of the main reasons for this are changes in fuels for electric power plants, going overseas, and lifestyles. In this essay, I will describe these reasons in more detail.

First of all, fuels for electric power plants will be changed. The fuel for electric power plants will be changed to solar power or wind from fossil fuels or nuclear power. One third of electric power in Japan depends on nuclear power. More than two months ago, eastern Japan had a big earthquake. As a result, an accident happened at a nuclear plant, and therefore all residents around the nuclear plant moved to another city in order not to be harmed by radioactivity. In Japan, many people want to stop nuclear plants and convert to solar energy from nuclear energy.

At the same time, going overseas is available to more people. Because low cost carriers appeared, air ticket prices have gone down. For example, it costs only 60 dollars to go to Malaysia from Tokyo. Therefore, more people can go to foreign countries. In the past, travel abroad was expensive for everyone all over the world, and only a few people could go to foreign countries. Low cost carriers have helped to discount tickets, and people can get tickets cheaply.

A third important reason is lifestyle. Due to the development of information technology, we will work at home using the internet. My company introduced an in-house working system for all employees. When I work from home, I can concentrate on my work. In addition, I can see off my wife because I don't need to go to my company. In the past, people took much time to commute, and therefore people had to get up early to go to their company. Owing to the development of information technology, many companies will introduce in-house working systems.

Fuels for electric power plants, going overseas, and lifestyles will change in the 21st century. These will bring us a more convenient life.

344 words

Improved version – significant revisions/additions

The 21st century has begun, and I think this century will bring many changes to our lives. In my opinion, some of the main changes will be electric power generation, going overseas, and lifestyles. In this essay, I will describe these changes in more detail.

First of all, electric power generation will change. The fuel for electric power plants will be switched

from fossil fuels or nuclear power to solar power or wind. One third of electric power in Japan depends on nuclear power, but just over two months ago, eastern Japan had a big earthquake. As a result, an accident happened at a nuclear plant, and all residents around the plant had to move to other locations in order to avoid being harmed by radioactivity. In Japan, many people now want to stop nuclear plants and convert to solar energy from nuclear energy.

At the same time, going overseas will be possible for more people. Because low cost carriers have appeared, air ticket prices have gone down. For example, it now costs only 60 dollars to go to Malaysia from Tokyo. Therefore, more people can go to foreign countries. In the past, travel abroad was expensive for everyone, and only a few people could go to foreign countries. Low cost carriers have helped to discount tickets, and people can now get tickets cheaply.

A third important change will be to lifestyles. Due to the development of information technology, we will work at home using the internet. My company introduced an in-house working system for all employees, and when I work from home, I can concentrate on my work. In addition, I can see off my wife because I don't need to go to my company. In the past, commuting took much time, and so people had to get up early to go to their company. Owing to the development of information technology, many companies will introduce in-house working systems.

Electric power generation, going overseas, and lifestyles will change in the 21st century. These changes will bring us a more convenient life.

342 words

High-level Sample Essay

I am sure that many surprising changes will occur in the 21st century in all areas of life. I am especially interested in three changes related to the environment, technology, and science, which I will describe in this essay.

To begin with, every person in the world will have urgent concerns about environmental problems, and every country will take countermeasures to prevent further damage to the natural environment. For example, sea levels are already rising because of global warming, and as a result, some regions will disappear underwater during the 21st century. This will finally make us recognize the importance of dealing with environmental problems. Therefore, everybody will take action, such as no longer driving cars unless absolutely necessary.

Moreover, technology will make unbelievable progress. In particular, the advance of information technology will bring us an extremely convenient lifestyle, and we will be able to do almost everything necessary to live wherever we are. However, the more convenient our lives become, the less face-to-face communication we will have. Thus, we will have difficulties in building good human relationships. In this way, the progress of technology will have both good and bad effects.

Finally, we will live even longer lives. Nowadays, the study of genes is advancing rapidly all over the world. A breakthrough in these studies in the near future will lead to great advances in the medical world. As a result, we will be able to receive many benefits. For example, we will be able to treat many killer diseases, and some serious diseases will disappear completely. Therefore, people all around the world will live longer.

In conclusion, we will be able to receive wonderful benefits in the 21st century, but at the same time, we will be troubled by some new difficulties. These changes will have a dramatic impact on our lifestyles.

304 words