**Task 11 – Winter Essay**

Even though the English Language course is an annual course there is no mid course test. Instead, all students are required to do a Winter Essay. Richard will be grading your essays, but I will also be reading them.

Below you will find a list of questions based on the ideas you proposed during your academic writing class. You should read the questions carefully and after choosing which one you want to answer, write an outline for the essay, taking care to ensure you answer the question and support your answer with evidence. You should then write the essay, leave it for a couple of days and then edit the essay. When you are satisfied you have edited your work as well as you can, you should send your outlines and essays to me by email. You will also print a hard copy of your essays to leave in Richard’s pigeonhole at the Language Centre **by 20 January.**

**SIS FIRST YEAR ESSAY QUESTIONS**

**DEADLINE MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2014**

1) Society cannot exist unless the State places controlling power on its citizens. The claim that States interfere in people’s lives is an exaggeration. Individualism and freedom often translate into a licence to behave in a way that harms others. States do not interfere in people’s lives, they intervene to protect the vulnerable and ultimately strengthen society. To what extent do you agree with this position?

2) Freedom of religion and freedom of expression are both fundamental human rights. People should have the right to wear or display religious signs and symbols in public places. Prohibiting people from doing so is a violation of their rights. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement.

3) There are markets in sexual services that do not appear to involve forced labour or sex, and in which the workers seem reasonably well compensated. Debates over prostitution often focus on the issue of whether genuinely voluntary markets can exist or whether markets in sexual services are inherently coercive, oppressive, and harmful to the individuals who participate, as well as to non-involved third parties. Do you think prostitution should be legalised? Write an essay that states your opinion clearly, and provides support and justification for the claims you make.

***NOTE: LEGALISATION OF PROSTITUTION***

The prohibitionist approach criminalizes the activities of the provider, client, and other persons who profit from sex market transactions. The legalisation approach tolerates sex markets and businesses, but restricts them in ways that are specific to this industry. Regulations may include mandatory STD testing or condom use, zoning restrictions, special licensing requirements for businesses, government registration of workers, restrictions on advertising, and minimum age restrictions for providers and customers. The decriminalization approach seeks to remove both criminal and special regulatory restrictions and to regulate markets in sex in ways that are common for non-sex businesses. For the sake of argument, your essay should assume that some service providers enter sex markets voluntarily and with a rational assessment of their interests, and that some special regulation is necessary even if we have not yet come up with the best scheme.  Therefore your essay should focus on ***legalization*** verses ***prohibition***.

4) The Chinese one child per family rule is still the most viable measure against a potential over-population crisis. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement. Provide examples and detailed support of the points you raise.

5) Despite increasing number of officially recognised rights, in most countries homosexuals have yet to attain complete equality of status in the eyes of the law, most notably the right to marry. For many gay people, and for those who find gay rights troubling, the demand for a right to marry a person of the same gender has become the key modern political issue. South Africa, Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, Argentina, Portugal, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Spain all allow gay marriage, while twenty-two other countries, including the UK, allow civil partnerships which give gay partners all the legal rights of marriage. Proponents argue that preventing gays from marrying is discriminatory and that it upholds a traditional, out-dated concept of marriage as the path to procreation. Opponents insist however that marriage is tied to the traditional and religious bonds, which overtly suggest marriage is between a man and a woman.

Should gay couples be allowed to marry? Write an essay that states your opinion clearly, and provides support and justification for the claims you make.

6) Social networks have positively influenced the way we communicate with each other. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Provide examples and detailed support of the points you raise.

7) In the absence of a reasoned debate, a comprehensive policy response, a coordinated EU approach, and the political courage to confront irregular migration, Italy’s immigration nightmare has only just begun. What are the most urgent measures that need to be made to improve the current situation?

8) A university education provides personal growth and development. Graduates have more advantages than people without degrees when entering the world of work. Students themselves should meet the cost of their university education and not the State. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement. Provide examples and detailed support of the points you raise.

9) Identify the most significant shortfalls of Italy’s education system and describe the most important measures needed to improve it.

10) Every Ukrainian president since the fall of the Soviet Union has found himself on a complicated geopolitical chessboard between East and West. Each has had to decide how to balance and where to lead the second-largest country in Europe - toward Brussels, which is likely to be the best guarantor of Ukraine's long-term economic prosperity and political development, or toward Moscow, to which Ukraine has cultural and historical ties. Describe the factors affecting President Yanukovych’s choice and state which direction you think would have most beneficial outcomes.

**EACH ESSAY MAXIMUM 1500 WORDS**

**A PRINTED COPY OF EACH ESSAY MUST BE PUT IN RICHARD’S POST BOX AT CLA IN VIA VERDI (NEXT TO THE SECRETARIES’ OFFICE) AND NOT SUBMITTED BY EMAIL.ß**