**TPO Task 43 – Integrated writing task**

The article asserts three possible theories that might describe how agnostids behaved and got their required nutrients, but the lecturer claims that each theory has flaws and contradicts the statements made by the author.

The first theory mentioned in the reading suggests that the agnostids might have lived as predators and hunted for their food among the smaller organisms that lived in the ocean. Conversely, the lecturer highlights the importance of possessing an excellent visual perception for the predators and then proceeds on with the fact that the agnostids did not have a reliable vision and some of them were even blind, so there is a little chance for them to be predators.

Secondly, the passage mentions that the agnostids might have lived at bottom of the oceans and survived as seafloor dwellers by digesting dead organisms. The lecturer, however, rules out this theory by mentioning that it is common among seafloor dwellers to stay in a particular place for a long time and be localized and then she brings about the fact that trace of the agnostids have been found in a vast area as they could move fast which is considered as an unusual trait for the seafloor dwellers.

The final theory the author articulated was that the agnostids might have lived as parasites and fed off larger organisms as there are other modern arthropods with this attribute. The lecturer also contradicts this theory as she elaborates on the fact that the agnostids had a significantly high population which is concluded from observing a vast number of fossils. She states that if the population of parasites was not limited, they could have easily killed their host in the process of feeding off and considering the immense population of the agnostids this conjecture also gets ruled out. (298 words)

Time: 18 minutes

**An elementary school intends to extend the science time for children aged 5-11 and reduce music and art time. What is your opinion?**

Ever since human society grew more complex, individuals are required to be educated to perform well within the structure of the society. Elementary schools being the foundation of the massive educational system, deal with the crucial matter of educating young children and must maintain a balance between educating them and keeping them interested in attending classes. However, whether the elementary schools must allocate more time for science or activities such as music and art, is a matter of controversy. In this regard, I believe that it is not a good idea to reduce the dedicated time to music and art for children in elementary school and I will further elaborate more on my reasons in the following paragraphs.

First and foremost, the children at that age need to have more fun in school to make them feel good while spending time at school. The children at young ages are at the most playful stage of their life and no matter how eager they are about science, a persistent scientific atmosphere can become boring for them. Art in its nature has the epithet of being enjoyable and this is true for humans at any age. Teaching how to play a musical instrument to children, engaging them in artistic activities such as performing a play or painting, not only makes the time spent at school enjoyable for them but also develops their cognitive skills and will broaden their mind which will help them in scientific matters. If schools decide to cut down the allocated time for art and music for the youngsters, children might be overwhelmed with all the scientific information being taught to them and eventually lose interest in both science and school.

Another noteworthy point is that the children can learn and develop artistic skills much easier that adults. The curriculum of the educational system and the requirements of living in a highly technological era forces people to study scientific subjects more and more as they grow older. This inevitable situation results in less time dedicated to artistic activities which I believe profoundly affects the mental health of individuals. If people do not spend time on art while they are younger, it might be difficult for them to be able to find a way to spend time on it during their busy schedule. For example, it is considerably easier for children to learn how to play a musical instrument than for an adult. If someone does not learn how to play an instrument, it will be a cumbersome and time-consuming effort to learn it later and almost no one has the luxury of that much free time to be spent on such matters. It would be such a pity to deprive people of learning utterly enjoyable activities such as playing music while they can easily learn it.

To sum up, what was articulated above, I think it is not a wise decision to cut down the dedicated time for art in elementary school since art can make the mundane school life enjoyable for children and also given the fact that they will face scientific subjects for the rest of their school life it would be great for them to gain some artistic sills when it is easy to learn at the earlier stages of their lives. (546 words)

Time: 33 minutes.