

The history of human civilisation is mainly dominated by male characters. Most countries have been shaped by male kings and commanders, and science was long considered to be a quest for men. However, following attempts by British and American women ~~at~~ at attaining equal rights in the previous century, debates were initiated over whether or not men and women can be given the same credit ~~for~~ in all fields and activities. Some believe the two sexes are naturally different while others insist they can reach the same skill <sup>either</sup> levels given the right training.

The proponents of the "equal abilities" argument have several reasons that need to be taken into consideration. First and foremost, they argue that today, women are competing with men in almost every field, especially at sports such as football and boxing. Moreover, it is becoming more and more evident that women are doing better at areas previously designated to men. For instance, male chefs have dominated European restaurants for centuries, but now female chefs have emerged that are winning cooking contests and working in ~~prestigious~~ top hotels and restaurants all over the world. It is also argued that universities

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are being forced to open male-only courses such as mining engineering to female candidates who end up working as well as men - or in cases even better.

However, the <sup>opponents</sup> ~~opponents~~ of this idea have reasons that cannot be ignored. Most importantly, it is clear that the physical features and <sup>the</sup> physiology of men and women are very different, which practically leads to a contrast between the capabilities of the two. This, they argue, has <sup>recently</sup> ~~led~~ to women even resolving to consume hormones to improve their power and stamina in order to compete with their male ~~counterparts~~ <sup>counterparts</sup>. Also, most people can notice <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ difference in men's and women's attitudes when working together. This in practice makes them take different approaches to solving problems which ~~are~~ have their roots in their emotional levels. For example, I have noticed that software <sup>companies</sup> ~~teams~~ usually employ female designers due to women's ability at working with details, but refrain from giving project management roles to female developers due to their inability to realise the bigger picture.

→ P. 5

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EXAMINER 2  
TASK 2

TR		CC		LR		GRA	
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UNDERLENGTH		NO OF WORDS		PENALTY	
OFF-TOPIC		MEMORISED		ILLEGIBLE	

EXAMINER 1  
TASK 2

TR		CC		LR		GRA	
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UNDERLENGTH		NO OF WORDS		PENALTY	
OFF-TOPIC		MEMORISED		ILLEGIBLE	

In conclusion, having studied both these arguments, I have personally come to believe that neither opinion is perfect and represents the reality of the sexes. Thus I think while the two genders have different natural abilities, ~~and~~ traits and skill sets which make them unique at doing certain tasks most perfectly, either can reach the ~~other's~~ <sup>other one's</sup> skill level through training ~~and~~ ~~provided~~ <sup>provided</sup> they ~~possess~~ have the will power to do so. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the perfect situation can only be ~~reached~~ reached when teams of male and female colleagues work together to share their attitudes, skills and approaches ~~and~~ ~~complete~~ <sup>while completing</sup> what each of them lacks or is short of in every field.

Examiner comments:  
I had to look really hard for mistakes.

**Note:**

I wrote this essay in autumn 2009 on the first day of a workshop on how to teach IELTS courses held by Sussex Downs College IELTS examiner and author Dr. Sula Delafuente (Dolby). The question can clearly be understood from the last sentence of the introduction paragraph. Another examiner (probably Sara) was asked to correct the essays written by all the teachers participating in the workshop and my essay was marked 9, which means it gets a 9 in all the 4 sub-bands (TR, CC, LR, and GRA). This was the second time an examiner had given me a 9 in writing (the first time was in my actual IELTS test in April that same year).

The essay has been written using my signature outline and point development system, which I teach in my own classes. I used the same system in my IELTS as well and the repetition of the 9 means this system is good enough to be taught to candidates.

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