**Education should only be concerned with what is useful in life. Discuss.**

**Requirement of the question:**

**Focus:**

**1) should be concerned with – what is considered important or not**

**2) what is useful and not useful (useless) -**

**- useful – tangible, direct and monetized in return from education**

**- useless – intangible, subtle and non-monetized from education**

**Perspectives:**

**1) education should only be concerned with what is useful**

**2) education should not only be concerned with what is useful – should also be concerned with what is not useful**

The conventional thinking on the purpose of education tends to lean towards the utilitarian principle as we are bestowed with the ideas that we educate ourselves with what is useful in life. In this direction, our sense of what is useful in life can be characterised by the direct benefit and immediate gain of education to the individuals and the society. However, education must stretch beyond this where the direction should not be just for financial gain or utility-oriented on what education can offer to the society and this will include the subtle, intangible and less purposeful rewards we can have to make our education more meaningful and less purposeful. Thus, in the view of these polarizing opinions, this essay takes the stand that **education should not be concerned with what is useful in life** as what is not useful may be equally and more important than what we think is useful.

Main body:

1. Opposing view:

The utilitarian principle argues (may argue) that we must gain from education as this will justify the rationale to put resources like time and money into the cause of education.

Parents invest in education – children receive a good education to a good job – IVY league and the best university in every country offers great opportunities – starting salary and opportunities in the employment (standard of practice for recruiting manpower for industries)

2. Rebuttal:

However, such a view is too narrow and myopic to classify the utility we gained from education to be the purpose of education as the subtle, indirect and non-financial gain from education can be beneficial in the longer term of our life and intrinsic aspect of life.

* What are the long term benefits of education and how this will be significant
* What are the intrinsic aspects of education and how this will be significant

3. Supporting view 1:

With a hindsight and far-sighted way of assessment, we should educate us with things which are less useful but significant in our innate aspect of development as in the personal enrichment of thinking.

Elaboration:

Example:

3.1 Supporting view 2:  
We should focus on learning what is not useful **but interesting and fun for our life** as the education journey is to give us happiness.

Elaboration:

Example:

3.3 Supporting view 3:

We should also focus on learning how to expand our social circle which may not be directly useful but psychologically significant in helping our life.

Elaboration: Can technology save the environment? (DYA)

Introduction: (observation – subjects) / perspectives / stand

Since industrialisation, the environment has worsened at an alarming rate with issues like global warming and ozone layer depletion and this has led to view that accelerated technological advancement has led to environmental degradation. However, as technological advancement is progressing with this concern over the impact on the environment, some technocrats has shared the belief that technology may be the solution for our environmental detriments. In view of these controversial opinions, this essay takes the stand that technology can save environment when we consider the diverse benefits of technology.

Main Body

1. opposing view

Some environmentalists do not share the view that technology can save the environment as they believe that technology can only accelerate our usage of more products which create harmful by-products which will degrade the environment instead of saving it. (umbrella idea)

2. Rebuttal

However, it is too conclusive to pinpoint that technology will always create more consumer products that produce detrimental impact as they can be environmentally friendly too.

3. Supporting View 1

One view that supports why technology can save environment is that it is a viable solution to understand the damage on environment and provide the technical solution to solve it.

Supporting View 2

Technology is also the means to help people gather, proliferate and educate the global citizens on their paramount importance on this issue.

Supporting view 3

Most of all, technology can redefine the way we live to make our social, economic and political activities more conducive and less damaging on our environment.

Conclusion

In conclusion, technology can definitely save the environment as it is a viable solution to let us understand and produce a way to improve our life, but its effectiveness depends on how we adopt it. We need to be determined, open-minded and efficient in our application of technology to save our environment.

Example:

Conclusion

Re-state your stand –

Opinion – identify the key factor that leads to your stand