

Sample answer (TASK 2)

Test-608 (G)

You should write at least 250 words.

Obesity has become a common problem in western societies and this is partly due to the availability of fast food at low prices. To tackle this problem, it has been suggested that governments should increase the tax on fast foods in order to reduce the amount of fast food consumed. I personally believe that this is a sound idea, because especially young people, who have less money, will be discouraged from buying fast food.

The main reason for the high consumption of fast food is that it is a cheap alternative to healthy meals. A salad for example often is twice as expensive as a burger, resulting in more people eating the burger than the salad. As a result, people prepare fewer meals themselves and eat more fast food instead. In my opinion, it should not be possible to sell fast food at a lower price than staple food. By making fast food more expensive than vegetables and fruit, people would change their eating habits, as they would want to save money.

Another way to reduce consumption of fast foods would be to prohibit its promotion. A similar approach was taken in terms of advertising cigarettes and one can say that this approach has been successful to some extent. Additionally, commercials for fast food often target young children through offering inducements, such as the toys in the happy meal at McDonalds for example. The children are persuaded to demand a happy meal, yet often do not necessarily want to eat the food contained in it. The only thing they want is the toy. If advertising fast food were forbidden, the number of children consuming fast food would be reduced and therefore the number of obese children would decrease as well.

In conclusion, governments should put a tax on fast food to reduce the amount consumed in order to decrease the number of obese people. By placing a tax on fast food and making it more expensive than healthy raw foods, people would begin to eat more healthily. If additionally the advertising of fast food were banned, the number of obese people would decrease even more drastically.