Many museums charge for admission while others are free.

Do you think the advantages of charging people for admission to museums outweigh the disadvantages?

Some museums do not charge an admission fee while for many others do an entry fee needs to be paid by visitors. In my opinion, the benefits of having people pay for admission outweigh the drawbacks.

You could improve your introduction by briefly outlining your main points.

The obvious disadvantage for charging people for admission is the potential reduction in the number of visitors. Families from lower socio-economic backgrounds may not be able to afford the expenses of taking the whole family to a museum. For instance, a recent showcase of the Tang dynasty at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney costs $40 for a family of two adults and up to three children, which many parents from poorer households may not have the funds for. As a result, children from these families may miss out on the educational values of attending such exhibitions.

This is not a discussion essay. In your thesis you state that charging admission is a good thing. This paragraph does not support your thesis as written.

Although charging an admission fee may reduce the number of customers, a museum needs its income to maintain and upkeep its artefacts and exhibits. A museum has to pay its staff and contractors to set up displays and coordinate events. If these operational functions were not properly carried out by professionally paid personnel, it may cause a museum to be in a state of disrepair, which may in turn result in even less visitors than if there were no admission fee. In my view, families and visitors would appreciate paying an entry fee to an appealing museum.

Good paragraph. Great grammar and language use.

In conclusion, despite the fact that an admission fee may potentially reduce the number of low income guests to a museum, the advantages of charging for admission far outweigh the disadvantages.

What were the advantages? Summarize the ideas from each paragraph.

Word Count: 261

Task Response- Band 6

Your answer addresses all parts of the task and main ideas are relevant although some ideas are inadequately developed. The first paragraph needs to argue for your thesis not against it.
Suggestions-

You could have argued this way:
Paragraph 1: although low income families may be affected, everyone else would accept a fair price
Paragraph 2: money is necessary for upkeep and improvements.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 7

The presentation of the first paragraph hurts coherence because it does not follow on from your thesis.

Your conclusion could be more effective.

Suggestions-

You have a clear thesis (opinion in the introduction) that helps the reader understand your point of view but the rest of the essay must clearly support this thesis.

Your coherence would benefit if you made your opinion clear in the conclusion and summarised your main ideas. This makes it much easier for the reader to follow your argument and your essay more cohesive.

Vocabulary- Band 8

You use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings.

You skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there are occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation.

You only produce rare errors in word formation.

Suggestions- Well done. This was one of the strongest parts of your essay. If you keep doing this in the exam you will do really well. Remember that it is about using vocabulary naturally so only try to use a word when it is natural to do so, in other words don't try to force big words into your writing.

You did a very good job of using synonyms to vary your language and you should continue to do this.

Grammar- Band 8

You use a wide range of grammatical structures and nearly all of your sentences are complex.

The majority of sentences are completely error-free
You make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies and these never impede communication.

**Suggestions**- Your grammar is good and most of your sentences have no errors at all. Keep doing this and you will do fine.

Try to leave yourself at least 2-3 minutes at the end of the test to read your essay again and check for small mistakes. Everyone makes small mistakes and 2 minutes at the end can really raise your band score in this area.

**Overall- Band 7.5**

Overall, this was a very good essay, but you could improve it in the following ways:

- Outline your main ideas in the introduction.
- Use an appropriate paragraph structure.
- Summarise your main ideas in the conclusion and reiterate your opinion.
- Proofread your whole essay at the end.
- Analyse the question before starting to write to make sure that you are answering the specific question being asked.
- Plan your answers for 5-10 minutes before writing.
Band 9 Sample

Lots of museums charge a fee while others do not. This essay thinks that the benefits of charging do not outweigh the drawbacks because open access to relics and art is more important than generating money that the government should supply in any event.

The main disadvantage is that high fees exclude a large proportion of the population, especially in less developed countries. Many people in poorer countries have just enough money for food and shelter and exhibits and museums are one of the few cultural activities they can enjoy free of charge. For example, Egypt has millions of poor people, but also a rich ancient culture and it is important that all the people get to experience these artefacts. Another big negative is that students and children, who are learning about the world may not be able to visit. It would be a huge shame if art students could not see their favourite painters or sculptors' work in real life because their student finances could not cover the cost.

Despite this, there are some who say that museums are unsustainable without the money they might get from ticket sales. They say that this allows the building to remain open and it is better that some people get to experience it, rather than none at all. To this I would say that the government should step in and cover the cost because culture is as important as anything else it spends money on. For instance, in the UK there have been huge government spending cuts over the last few years, but the museums have not had their funding reduced because of their importance to the country's cultural heritage.

In conclusion, although some might say that places of culture should be run like a business, the cost to the education and heritage of the country is too great and they should remain free to all.