**WRITING TASK 2**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**Professional sports involve large sums of money and receives enormous media coverage. Meanwhile serious culture, including music, art and theatre, is badly neglected. This is making our society shallower. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

You should write at least 250 words.

**SAMPLE 01.**

Due to the enormous popularity that sport enjoys it receives great financial support and media publicity, while sponsorship to serious cultural activities is seriously on the decline. This essay examines whether this trend reflects a superficial attitude of the society.

On the one hand, the declining financial as well as media support for music, art and theatre is often interpreted as society’s indifference towards serious cultural activities. It seems that very few people today have the willingness or time to enjoy such arts, which would require a deeper aesthetic sense. In contrast, the society spends a great deal of time and effort to watch sports, which provides instant entertainment and emotional satisfaction. For instance, in many societies it is difficult to get audiences for classical music concerts or theatre, whereas football and cricket stadium are usually crowded with cheering spectators. Consequently, organisers of such events fail to get media support and financial sponsorship. Such attitude of modern society towards serious cultural activities forces many people consider it a ‘shallow society’.

On the other hand, there are others who believe that today’s society cannot be labelled superficial in its attitude because of its unenthusiastic approach towards serious cultural activities. The excess economic and press support that sports receive is due to its universal popularity as a means of entertainment. Moreover, people today need rest from their stress-filled life and sports provide such relaxation and help them to ease their tensions. Art or music cannot expect such back up from the government or corporate world because, as people generally spend much less time to enjoy such activities. For example, people may go for a theatre performance or similar shows only a few times a year, but and this has not reduced their appreciation of such serious cultural events. A society’s depth of character should not be judged only on the basis of the amount of support that the cultural activities receive.

Overall, although today serious culture does not receive as much media attention or money as sport, the society cannot be considered shallow.
SAMPLE 02.

Professional sportsmen gain a lot of publicity and money in their lifetime. It just shows that people nowadays are more active and want to be healthy and energized. So they look upon athletes or other sports players as their idol. Serious artists are not popularized much compared to sportstars because most of us find them very boring. Nowadays sports and games have taken a huge place in everyone’s lifestyle. People are more aware of their health and try to be on their toes always. Hence, they try to imitate and follow the active people of the society. Naturally, they get all the attention. Studies have shown that very small range of people can appreciate theatrical plays. Whereas, large number of men love games and want to play them as routine.

For instance, in many countries cricket is very popular and cricketers get all the attention from press and media. One reason behind it is players in cricket show immense dedication and sportsmanship on the ground. That is inspirational to people. However, the real effort of musicians or artists are not shown directly on their work. We like music but we cannot identify the musicians.

As many of us know life of a player is very short and they need to be credited for their contribution. Paying high salary is one among them. Many argue that games being such an role in our lifetime, players should be recognized and given all the advantages. It is also a undeniable factor that people like rugby or football players are prone to injuries and trauma to their body and thus their huge pay is agreeable.

In conclusion, people love sports and in turn they try to follow sport stars lifestyle. For the mere factor that its effort can be seen on the sports field.