Vocabulary in ESL writing

Look at the two columns of ‘n-grams’ taken from the essay portion of a high-stakes international test of Academic English. Which column likely represents the higher scoring students? What qualitative differences are there between the two lists?

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| **A** | **B** |
| 1. a lot 2. kind of 3. lots of 4. I think 5. more and more 6. a lot of 7. you can 8. have to 9. some people 10. as far as 11. agree with 12. according to me 13. totally agree 14. a lot of things 15. if you want to 16. so I 17. to me 18. daily life 19. and so on 20. each and every | 1. (be) able to 2. those who 3. (the) ability to 4. lead to 5. and therefore 6. would argue that 7. regardless of 8. (can) be argued that 9. I believe 10. just as 11. a few 12. while it 13. in a way that 14. the fact that 15. are required 16. to ensure that 17. in hand 18. (can) contribute to 19. as long as 20. may not |