

# Master IELTS Essays

Course  
Materials &  
Supplements

*For Academic and  
General Training  
Candidates*

**Ebrahim Tahassoni**

CELTA, CertTESOL, Academic IELTS 9.0

[www.tahassoni.com](http://www.tahassoni.com)

[www.ieltsprime.com](http://www.ieltsprime.com)

---

# Master IELTS Essays

Academic and General Training Writing Task 2

By **Ebrahim Tahassoni**

*Cambridge CELTA (Pass B), Sussex Downs CertTESOL (Merit), IELTS Academic 9.0, Level 3 Certificate in English, Trained for teaching IELTS courses by IDP Australia & Sussex Downs College*



**Sixth Edition (ver. 5.9.4)**

**January 2019**

In compliance with IELTS assessment criteria, Cambridge model answers, and IDP teaching guidelines

Downloaded from [www.tahassoni.com](http://www.tahassoni.com)



**Use our IELTS writing assessment service! Visit**  
[www.ieltsprime.com/writing-assessment-service](http://www.ieltsprime.com/writing-assessment-service)

### INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM

#### Test Report Form


ACADEMIC

NOTE: Admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses should be based on the ACADEMIC Reading and Writing Modules. SELECTED TRAINING Reading and Writing Modules are not designed to test the full range of language skills required for academic purposes. It is recommended that the candidate's language ability as indicated in this Test Report Form be re-assessed after two years from the date of the test.

Centre Number: 56355    Date: 25/APR/2009    Candidate Number: 000988

#### Candidate Details

Family Name: TAHASSONI  
 First Name: EBRAHIM  
 Candidate ID: [REDACTED]



Date of Birth: 1982    Sex (M/F): M    Scheme Code: British Council  
 Country or Region of Origin: Iran    First Language: Farsi

Repeating IELTS (Y/N): N    Previous Test Date:    Previous Test Centre:

#### Test Results

Listening: 8.5    Reading: 9.0    Writing: 9.0    Speaking: 8.5    Overall Band Score: 9.0



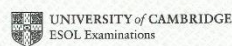
#### Administrator Comments

Centre stamp  
SUSSEX DOWNS COLLEGE

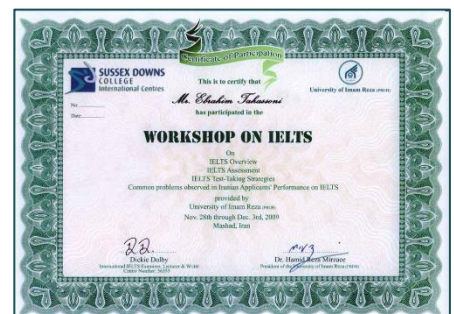
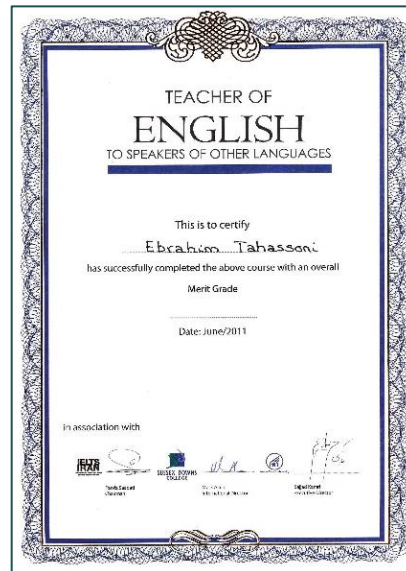
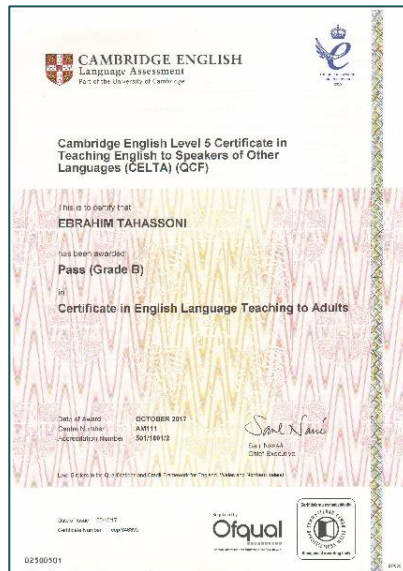
Validation stamp  
IELTS

Writing Examiner Number: 998313    Administrator's Signature: [Signature]

Speaking Examiner Number: 998987    Date: 01/05/2009    Test Report Form Number: 095600988TAHE335A

The validity of this IELTS Test Report Form can be verified online by recognising organisations at <https://ielts.ucles.org.uk>



# Introduction

## Understanding the Rubric

### WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**Some people believe that television programmes are of no real value for children.**

**How far do you agree or disagree?**

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

Write at least 250 words.

### The Task

Task 2 involves writing an essay on the given topic. You have to

- answer the question(s) clearly and completely;
- give reasons for your answer;
- include relevant example
  - from your knowledge
  - from your experience
- spend about 40 minutes on the task
- write at least 250 words → 260-265 words

**Note: Finish task 2 first before addressing task 1.** Task 2 has twice as many marks as task 1 and is less flexible, so if you do not get around to finishing it, you may lose more marks than when you leave task 1 unfinished.

### The Answer Sheet

The last two pages of the IELTS writing answer sheet are dedicated to task two and together have over 40 lines. Although you may ask for extra sheets to write your answer in, this is not likely to become necessary since the space you are already provided with is way more than sufficient. You must not write in the blank space at the bottom of the first page or in the scoring section at the bottom of page two.

### Focus on Academic Register

- Use longer sentences (about 20-30 words)
- Use subordinate clauses
- Use academic words (see "The Academic Words List" at [www.tahassoni.com/resources](http://www.tahassoni.com/resources))
- Avoid contractions like *doesn't*, *can't* or *they'll*
- Avoid "get" phrases where possible
- Avoid a personal tone except when giving personal opinions or talking of personal experiences
- Avoid phrasal verbs where possible
- Avoid over-generalisation by avoiding absolute statements and introducing probability/possibility

## Task Types

\* Remember that the aim of this classification is only to facilitate the understanding of task requirements. In reality, no such classification exists in IELTS assessment criteria.

### Opinion-led

- a. New parents should attend parenting classes to learn how to bring up their children well. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- b. Some people think that every individual is responsible for their own healthy lifestyle. Others believe that governments should take care of it. What are your views on this?
- c. Many parents now let their young children use tablet computers to see pictures and photographs, watch videos or play games. Is this a positive or negative development?

### Argument Discussion

- a. Some people believe that children should listen to and obey their parents. Others believe that children should think and do things on their own. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- b. While some people prefer to live in apartments, others do not think an apartment is a suitable form of accommodation. Do you think the advantages of living in an apartment outweigh the disadvantages?
- c. Some people believe that modern designs for schools and offices with more open spaces are necessary. What are the advantages and disadvantages of such spaces?

### Issue Discussion

- a. Housing and accommodation has become a major problem in many countries around the world. What are some of the main factors that have contributed to this problem? What can be done to help reduce the number of homeless people?
- b. While mobile phones have many advantages, a number of problems have also resulted from them or the ways in which they are used. What are some of these problems? What solutions can you suggest for solving these problems?
- c. Nowadays most people choose to throw away broken things instead of repairing them, and replace them with new ones. Why is this happening? What problems may it lead to?

### Mixed (Two-Part) Questions

In some countries people prefer to buy used things rather than new ones. Why is this the case? Is it a positive or negative trend?

# Assessment Criteria

Every essay is assessed by a trained examiner according to four assessment criteria:

- Task Response (TR)
- Coherence and Cohesion (CC)
- Lexical Resource (LR)
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA)

OFFICIAL USE ONLY														
Candidate Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	TR	<input type="text"/>	CC	<input type="text"/>	LR	<input type="text"/>	GRA	<input type="text"/>
Examiner 2 Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Underlength	No. of words	Penalty		Off-topic	Memorised	Illegible	

## Task Response (TR)

This criterion focuses on the degree to which the task has been answered properly.

The examiner has the following questions in mind when assessing this aspect of your essay:

1. Is there a clear and relevant position throughout the response?
2. Are there relevant and well-developed (presented, extended and supported) main ideas? Are any of the points underdeveloped or unclear?
3. Is there a tendency to overgeneralise?
4. Do any supporting ideas (e.g. examples) lack focus?
5. How have the different parts of the task been addressed:
  - a. addresses some parts only
  - b. unevenly addresses all parts
  - c. addresses all parts
  - d. sufficiently addresses all parts
  - e. fully addresses all parts

## Coherence and Cohesion (CC)

This criterion is concerned with the overall clarity and fluency of the message: how the response organises and links information, ideas and language. **Coherence** refers to the linking of ideas through logical sequencing. **Cohesion** refers to the varied and appropriate use of cohesive devices (for example, logical connectors, pronouns and conjunctions) to assist in making the conceptual and referential relationships between and within sentences clear.

The examiner has the following questions in mind when assessing this aspect of your essay:

6. Have you organised your information logically?
7. Is there an overall flow or progression in your essay?
8. Have you used linkers correctly, properly and sufficiently without over- or under-using them?
9. Have pronouns been used correctly and do they have clear references?
10. Have you organised the text in paragraphs logically and sufficiently?

## Lexical Resource (LR)

This criterion refers to the range of vocabulary the candidate has used and the accuracy and appropriacy of that use in terms of the specific task.

The examiner takes the following points into account when assessing this aspect of your essay:

1. Words
  - a. Range and flexibility
  - b. Level
  - c. Precision
  - d. Style
  - e. Collocation
2. Vocabulary mistakes
  - a. Spelling
  - b. Word choice
  - c. Word formation

**Note:** when evaluating vocabulary errors, the effect each has on the reader and the intelligibility of your essay is taken into account.

## Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA)

This criterion refers to the range and accurate use of the candidate's grammatical resource as manifested in the candidate's writing at the sentence level.

The examiner has the following questions in mind when assessing this aspect of your essay:

1. Have you used a wide variety of sentence structures naturally and appropriately?
2. How often have you used complex structures?
3. Errors
  - a. Grammar
  - b. Punctuation

**Note:** when evaluating grammatical errors, the effect each has on the reader and the intelligibility of your essay is taken into account.

## IELTS Task 2 Writing Band Descriptors (Public Version)

Band	Task Response	Coherence and Cohesion	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fully addresses all parts of the task</li> <li>presents a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well supported ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention</li> <li>skilfully manages paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sufficiently addresses all parts of the task</li> <li>presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sequences information and ideas logically</li> <li>manages all aspects of cohesion well</li> <li>uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings</li> <li>skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation</li> <li>produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a wide range of structures</li> <li>the majority of sentences are error-free</li> <li>makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>addresses all parts of the task</li> <li>presents a clear position throughout the response</li> <li>presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to over-generalise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>logically organises information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout</li> <li>uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use</li> <li>presents a clear central topic within each paragraph</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision</li> <li>uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation</li> <li>may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a variety of complex structures</li> <li>produces frequent error-free sentences</li> <li>has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others</li> <li>presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive</li> <li>presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression</li> <li>uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical</li> <li>may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately</li> <li>uses paragraphing, but not always logically</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task</li> <li>attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy</li> <li>makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms</li> <li>makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication</li> </ul>



5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>addresses the task only partially; the format may be inappropriate in places</li> <li>expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn</li> <li>presents some main ideas but these are limited and not sufficiently developed; there may be irrelevant detail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression</li> <li>makes inadequate, inaccurate or over-use of cohesive devices</li> <li>may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution</li> <li>may not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task</li> <li>may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses only a limited range of structures</li> <li>attempts complex sentences but these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences</li> <li>may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>responds to the task only in a minimal way or the answer is tangential; the format may be inappropriate</li> <li>presents a position but this is unclear</li> <li>presents some main ideas but these are difficult to identify and may be repetitive, irrelevant or not well supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response</li> <li>uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive</li> <li>may not write in paragraphs or their use may be confusing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task</li> <li>has limited control of word formation and/or spelling; errors may cause strain for the reader</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses</li> <li>some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>does not adequately address any part of the task</li> <li>does not express a clear position</li> <li>presents few ideas, which are largely undeveloped or irrelevant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>does not organise ideas logically</li> <li>may use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling</li> <li>errors may severely distort the message</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>barely responds to the task</li> <li>does not express a position</li> <li>may attempt to present one or two ideas but there is no development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has very little control of organisational features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>answer is completely unrelated to the task</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fails to communicate any message</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can only use a few isolated words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cannot use sentence forms at all</li> </ul>
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>does not attend</li> <li>does not attempt the task in any way</li> <li>writes a totally memorised response</li> </ul>			

# Section 1

Sample Task 2  
Topics & Model  
Answers

## **WRITING TASK 2**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**Some people say that computer skills should be added to primary subjects in elementary school such as reading, writing and math.**

**How far do you agree or disagree?**

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

Write at least 250 words.

## WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**In some countries, it is illegal for companies to reject job applicants for their age.**

**Is this a positive or negative development?**

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

Write at least 250 words.

**Some think the best way to motivate and encourage people to work hard is to pay them based on how much they produce and sell.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**

**Model Answer:**

*One of the responsibilities of a manager is to motivate their employees to increase their performance. However, I strongly disagree that basing their salaries on their rates of production and sales would be the most effective method. (37 words)*

*The performance in many cases cannot simply be quantified in terms of sales or production. A teacher's job, for example, is to teach classes, assess homework, and provide students with feedback, none of which involves producing or selling any goods. In this case, it is the performance of her students and their levels of satisfaction with aspects of her performance such as rapport or punctuality that decide how successful he has been. (72 words)*

*Furthermore, the performance of many workers is greatly affected by external factors beyond their control. The state of the economy, unexpected political developments, and extreme weather conditions can all have significant impacts on how much a worker can sell or produce. A hurricane, for example, can easily devastate a farm and all its produce without its workers being responsible for any of the damages or the ensuing drop in production rates. Basing wages on sales or production rates would actually demotivate workers in such cases. (85 words)*

*Some may argue that it is difficult to assess anything other than a worker's output, making any other form of appraisal less effective. However, managers these days have tools such as questionnaires and Customer Relations Management platforms that allow them to form a relatively clear picture of a worker's overall performance. (85 words)*

*In conclusion, I think deciding how much an employee should earn based solely on their sales or production figures would be both impossible and unfair in most, if not all, cases. Instead, employers should look at a more diverse set of performance indicators, including customer satisfaction and punctuality. (48 words)*

**Total: 293 words**

**Improvements in health, education and trade are essential for the development of poorer nations. However, the governments of richer nations should take more responsibility for helping the poorer nations in such areas.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**

**Model Answer:**

Many underdeveloped countries nowadays face serious problems trying to provide their citizens with decent education and health facilities, as well as in other areas like trade. However, I disagree that developed nations ought to support these countries, and think they should try to stand on their own feet instead. (49 words)

It is usually possible for poor countries to raise enough money to overcome their predicaments since the source of their shortcomings is usually deep corruption and domestic mismanagement, which have resulted in their funds being embezzled by dishonest officials and their affairs in areas like education, health and trade run by unqualified authorities. If they are in need of support in such areas, they should first make an effort to eradicate the abovementioned issues before asking for aid from the outside world. (82 words)

Furthermore, the money that the governments of developed countries have belongs to their citizens because it originates from their taxes, customs duties, and national resources. It should therefore be spent on providing better facilities like health centres and universities, and improving business environments for their own citizens, not for people living elsewhere in the world. (55 words)

Some may argue that the decline in living conditions in developing countries could result in the migration of their citizens to developed countries in search of a better life, which involves serious financial and cultural concerns for rich nations. However, public investment in improving border control and defense structures can render these concerns insignificant. (54 words)

In conclusion, I think developed countries should not aid poor countries, as their funds should be invested in the betterment of life for their own citizens. Underdeveloped nations can often overcome their shortcomings in commerce, health and education on their own through eliminating corrupt officials and improving their management practices. (50 words)

**Total: 290 words**

**Countries are becoming more and more similar because people are able to buy the same products anywhere in the world.**

**Do you think this is positive or negative development?**

**Model Answer:**

*I think it is beneficial that goods like food, cars, furniture and clothes that are produced in a certain part of the world are now available almost everywhere, which means the similarities between various countries are growing. (37 words)*

*People in different regions now have access to products they could not use before. There are numerous goods that are produced only in certain parts of the world, which means that people living in other places could not normally take advantage of them in the past. For example, bananas and pineapples are grown in tropical countries and so, did not use to be available to consumers in colder countries like Russia and Canada. Nevertheless, most people in such countries are now able to buy and eat these beneficial fruits. (89 words)*

*Furthermore, people can now migrate to different countries with less fear of becoming homesick since the products they are used to are now available in shops wherever they go. For instance, Iranian immigrants could not cook their national dish, Ghormesabzi, in other parts of the globe because the specific vegetables required were not grown there. However, as they can access all these ingredients in shops and supermarkets around the world today, they do not miss a significant part of their cultural heritage anymore, allowing them to work and live more productively. (91 words)*

*Some may argue that the global spread of similar goods and the growing similarity between countries can reduce people's motivation to travel to other parts of the world, decreasing tourism and the revenue it brings to countries. But I think people will still travel to see and experience the natural features of other countries like forests, mountains and wildlife. (59 words)*

*In conclusion, I believe the growing similarity between countries around the world is a desirable development. People can now take advantage of beneficial goods from other countries, and immigrants can be less stressed and more productive. (46 words)*

**Total: 312 words**

**Some people argue that it is not wise for an industry to replace its experienced but old workers with new and young yet inexperienced individuals.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

**Model Answer:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Nowadays, almost every company tends to retire its employees once they have reached a certain age. I completely agree with this practice and believe elderly staff need to be replaced with younger workers despite the difference in their work experience. (40 words)

**OR**

In the past people would often work in their businesses until they died or were no longer able to continue, whereas today most industries have set a definite retirement age for their employees. I think replacing elderly staff with young recruits is a wise practice. (44 words)

**Body:**

First and foremost, a large majority of workers lose their strength as they become older. This is mainly because the human body has limits, and working for a long time, say, 30 or 35 years, can affect it negatively. For example, young industrial workers tend to work for five to six hours before they take breaks while older ones usually need to rest every one or two hours. This means that productivity levels would certainly decline. (76 words)

Furthermore, new employment opportunities for young people are very limited. Most companies do not offer more than a few new jobs every year and try not to increase their staff members dramatically to keep expenses low. Consequently, they should definitely lay off some of the older personnel to make room for younger ones, especially those around 20 to 30 years old who are about to form families and support them. (70 words)

Some may argue that removing older workers from the workplace will deprive younger workers of what they can teach them in terms of experience and skills. However, I think the old workers' experience is usually out of date and is of little use to new recruits who need to learn how to employ modern technologies such as computers and lasers. (60 words)

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, I think companies need to force their elderly workforce to retire and employ younger workers to replace them to improve productivity, have up-to-date workers and provide jobs for young people. (32 words)



Every year several languages die out. Some people think that this is not important because life will be easier if there are fewer languages in the world.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

**Model Answer:**

As the global trend toward globalism and the use of a lingua franca grows, local languages continue to perish. I think although a smaller number of languages can make life easier, it is important to try and preserve all languages. (40 words)

On the one hand, when fewer languages are in use, communication tends to become easier in most cases. It will be really convenient if one can talk with others from various parts of the world without the need for a live translator or special software for assistance. This means that different nations around the globe are likely to be able to cooperate more closely if fewer languages are in use. For instance, a conference at the United Nations will be more convenient and productive for politicians if they all can communicate using a limited set of languages, or perhaps even one, instead of having to wait for translations to come through. Consequently, better results are likely to be achieved more quickly, and many issues could be resolved as a result of better mutual understanding. (134 words)

On the other hand, every language represents the culture within which it has developed. It reflects the lifestyle and traditions of the people who use it to communicate within the context of their daily lives, and it is the foundation of their folklore and literature. Although some might argue that these could be translated into more common languages like English or Chinese, it is quite unlikely that the exact meaning of each phrase, expression, idiom, proverb or poem can be translated. This means that once a nation's language has died out, a significant portion of its culture and history is lost with it, leaving them with a weaker cultural and national identity. (112 words)

In conclusion, I believe even though the fall in the number of languages in use allows people to communicate more conveniently, making their lives less complicated, it is still important for every language to be saved from extinction so that the culture, history and literature of all nations are protected. (50 words)

**Total: 336 words**

**Some people think governments should spend less money on arts and invest more in education.**

**How far do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**

**Model Answer:**

Many governments today allocate significant portions of their national budgets to the development and protection of arts. I think this is necessary and governments should not curb art budgets, although it is vital that more money is spent on education, as well.

(42 words)

Decreasing public financial support for art would definitely leave normal people with little or no access to original fine art pieces. High art is immensely sought and supported by the private sector in most parts of the world, with art galleries and agents investing heavily in famous professional artists so that they can sell their works to wealthy private collectors. Therefore, if the government stops investing in this sector, there will practically be no paintings, sculptures or other forms of art available for ordinary citizens to enjoy, which can not only diminish their pursuit of beauty and perfection, but also leave them more depressed and passive, even vulgar. (108 words)

However, education plays a crucial role in the development of a country. More educated and skillful citizens can contribute greatly to a country's progress since its industries, healthcare system and defense capabilities rely mostly on its progress in different fields of science and technology, which in turn requires skillful teachers, advanced computers and better-equipped laboratories. This means that the more money is spent on educational facilities and equipment and the more budget is allocated to supporting students and educators, the more likely it is for a country to develop. (87 words)

In conclusion, I think governments ought to maintain their financial support for arts while increasing education budgets, ensuring both continued access to fine arts for their citizens and sustained development for their countries. (33 words)

**Total: 270 words**

**Some people believe that professional workers such as doctors and teachers should be paid more than sports and entertainment personalities.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

**Model Answer:**

Salary is an issue that many people have strong opinions about, and the pay gap between top entertainers and sports stars on the one hand, and professionals in vital service sectors such as medicine and education on the other, has been quite controversial for some time now. However, I personally think that, except in certain cases, the latter group do not necessarily deserve higher pays than the former. (68 words)

One reason is that the cash flow of service sectors is significantly lower than that of sports and entertainment industries. People willingly spend trillions of dollars every year buying tickets to sports matches, concerts and movies, while the revenue in service sectors like education or medicine originates mainly from households in need of their services. And even then, those services have to be provided at a discount to guarantee proper access for all citizens regardless of their financial status. This means that the funds available to service providers like doctors or teachers is a fraction of what is available to sports stars, actors and singers. (104 words)

Additionally, unlike in sports and entertainment where people with certain talents are chosen or may accidentally be discovered and hurled into stardom, people in service professions tend to make informed choices regarding their careers. In other words, one usually chooses to become a teacher or doctor, knowing how much one can hope to earn and what the chances of living a life of luxury are for someone in their business. (70 words)

That being said, there are certain professionals that truly deserve to receive salaries higher than, or at least as high as, those paid to celebrity players or entertainers. This includes doctors who make breakthrough medical discoveries, invent novel methods to cure diseases or make other substantial contributions to medical sciences. Likewise, contributions such as developing more effective teaching approaches should warrant celebrity-level wages for educators who make them. (68 words)

In conclusion, I do not believe that doctors or educators should receive higher wages than celebrity singers, sports players or actors unless they have made significant contributions to their fields. (30 words)

**Total: 341 words**

## **WRITING TASK 2**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**Some people think secondary school students should study international news as one of their subjects. Other people say this is a waste of valuable school time.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

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

Write at least 250 words.

## **WRITING TASK 2**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**Developing countries require international organizations' help. Some people prefer financial aid while others think practical aid and advice are better.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

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

Write at least 250 words.

**Many people think that every individual is responsible for their own healthy lifestyle. Others believe that governments should take care of it.**

**Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

**Model Answer:**

There is little doubt about how vital it is for people to adopt a healthy lifestyle, but there are conflicting views as to who should be responsible for its promotion and enforcement. Although some believe that the government should shoulder this responsibility, others, myself included, think it should be every individual's duty.

People themselves benefit primarily in their personal lives from eating healthily and taking more exercise. It allows them to remain healthy, avoid different illnesses like heart disease and arthritis, and enjoy increased longevity. Living healthily also allows them to be more active in the society and at work because they are more likely to feel energised and refreshed throughout the day. Consequently, they can focus more on their social and professional efforts, which could significantly increase their social and work status. Therefore, it seems logical to hold every individual responsible for adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Some argue that governments should enforce a healthy lifestyle because they have the means to raise awareness through the educational system and introduce relevant regulations obliging their citizens to make the necessary changes in their way of life. However, most adults tend to change and adjust their lifestyle according to their experiences and desires after leaving school, forgetting most, if not all, of what they have been taught. Furthermore, it would be unwise for authorities to meddle in people's private lives and have them conform to any regulation that affect their personal lives.

In conclusion, I believe that individuals ought to bear the responsibility of following and promoting a healthy way of life since they can enjoy the benefits in their personal, social and work lives.

**Total: 273 words**

**Some people think universities should accept equal numbers of male and female students in every subject. Others believe that this is an unacceptable policy.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**Model Answer:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The issue of keeping a balance between the numbers of female and male students in universities has been discussed by many, and although some say such a policy should be implemented in all subjects, others, including myself, believe that it is not beneficial. (43 words)

**OR**

Gender equality is a major issue in education today and some believe keeping a balance between the numbers of female and male students in all university subjects to be a good means of achieving it. However, I, like many others, think that it is not beneficial. (46 words)

**Body:**

Admitting a similar number of students from each gender in some courses will probably render many of them unable to find a job later. For example, most areas of agriculture are too burdensome for almost any woman in that they involve heavy physical activities and their working environment is affected significantly by the elements. Therefore, it is unlikely for a woman to be able to find a farming job once she has graduated in, say, agricultural engineering. Besides, such a policy would definitely bar many talented and enthusiastic applicants from studying their favourite courses merely because there may not be enough students from the opposite sex to join the course. (110 words)

Some people think that accepting similar numbers of male and female students in all subjects promotes gender equality, as well as breaking the social taboos attached to studying courses that are usually prescribed to a specific gender. However, forcing students to study something they may not like, or stopping others from studying what they like in order to keep a balance does not seem fair at all. Social taboos are not broken in the short term either, and it is more probable that the students who study in fields that are taboo for their gender are rejected and sidelined in the process. (102 words)

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, I personally disagree with accepting an equal number of boys and girls in any subject at university since it can complicate finding jobs later and promote gender bias, stopping enthusiastic applicants from entering the courses they like because of their sex. (43 words)

**Some people think secondary school students should study international news as one of their subjects. Other people say this is a waste of valuable school time.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**Model Answer:**

Today, learning about the news from different parts of the world is essential to many people. It has been suggested that the review of such news should become a high school subject although some think this would waste school time. I think this is a great idea provided that inappropriate news are filtered out and there is enough time for other important subjects. (63 words)

On the one hand, reviewing global news can help high school students improve their general knowledge in areas like geography and cultures. This is because the news comes from around the world and often present significant details about different regions and their features, which means students would possibly gain a better understanding of the world. It also seems that studying the news can develop the students' ability to analyse sophisticated situations because when they follow a story, say, about a political rift between two countries, they can observe how it develops or escalates, how the parties involved act and what its consequences are. (103 words)

On the other hand, there are some issues with studying global news in high schools. The violence portrayed in many of today's news stories could affect students' conduct. For instance, almost every newspaper and news website these days is filled with images and stories of the ISIS executions in Iraq and Syria, which are likely to make youngsters feel insecure or make unreasonable judgements about any Arab friends they might have. Furthermore, reading and analysing the news would probably be a time-consuming activity, leaving insufficient time for more important subjects and activities like sciences, math or physical education. (98 words)

In conclusion, I believe it is wise for secondary school students to study global news at school as it may develop their general knowledge and ability to understand the world. However, they should avoid violent news stories, and there should be enough time left for more important subjects. (53 words)

**Total: 312 words**



**Some people support modern developments in agriculture such as factory farming and creation of new types of fruits and vegetables. However, other people oppose this view.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**Model Answer (Strong View):**

Recently, there have been extensive developments and improvements in various aspects of agriculture, including genetically modifying plants to create new types, as well as factory farming. While some oppose these advances, others, including me, find them beneficial and necessary. (39 words)

Modern agricultural developments can help provide more food for the growing populations, especially in the developing world. Many new types of plants that are developed through genetic engineering, like some species of wheat or certain fruit trees, can produce heavier fruits or more seeds. Furthermore, novel methods like factory farming would certainly render many demanding agricultural tasks like milking cows and feeding various farm animals easier since they rely on automatic machines for performing such tasks. (76 words)

Some people argue that some modern farming techniques such as modifying the genetic structure of plants can be unsafe, and many animal rights activists find factory farming cruel to animals. However, it should be noted that extensive laboratory tests are conducted on any genetically modified organism before governments allow it to be produced on a commercial scale. Breeding animals only to be slaughtered might sound cruel, but the fate that would await them if they lived in their natural habitats is almost as grim. There are various wild beasts that feed on the domestic animals bred by humans, and the way they tear the flesh of their prey apart is far more violent than the painless death inflicted by automatic slaughtering systems. (122 words)

In conclusion, I think modern farming techniques and agricultural methods are necessary to meet the urgent need for more food worldwide, as well as being vital to the efficiency and practicality of performing farming tasks. (35 words)

**Total: 272 words**

**Some people think that strict punishments for driving offences are the key to reducing traffic accidents. Others, however, believe that other measures would be more effective in improving road safety.**

**Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

**Model Answer (Middle View):**

Road accidents take the lives of many drivers and pedestrians every year. Some argue that the best way to reduce them is to have severe penalties for offending traffic regulations, while others think other solutions may work better. I think, although such punishments are helpful, other measures should be taken alongside them. (52 words)

On the one hand, careless drivers who ignore traffic laws play a major role in many road accidents. For example, some use their mobile phones while driving and do not focus on the road, meaning they would definitely not be able to control their cars in time to avoid accidents. If such drivers know they risk being imprisoned or heavily fined, they will probably be motivated to observe driving regulations more closely. Furthermore, penalising driving offences is the quickest solution since it can be applied immediately and drivers will see the consequences of their faults right away. (97 words)

On the other hand, there are various other means of decreasing the number of traffic accidents. Driving license candidates could be required to sit courses aimed at educating them on the virtues of heeding the law while on the road. This would allow them to realise how driving carefully could benefit both themselves and the people around them. Moreover, new cars could be built in such a way that they restrict the drivers' ability to commit traffic offences like illegal speeding or turns. For instance, the car's computer could automatically decrease its maximum speed in residential areas or near intersections. (103 words)

In conclusion, I think any idea that could increase road safety is worth trying, so while driving offences should be heavily punished, solutions like safety classes for new drivers and technologies that prevent offences are also necessary. (37 words)

**Total: 289 words**

**Some people prefer to live in a house, while others feel that there are more advantages to living in an apartment.**

**Are there more advantages than disadvantages of living in a house compared with living in an apartment?**

**Model Answer:**

The growth in urban populations means more and more people tend to live in apartments, but there are many who still prefer to live in houses. I think when compared with apartments, there are more benefits than drawbacks to living in houses.

Houses usually have yards where children can play and small gardens can be maintained. This makes them very suitable for larger families. In addition, people living in houses often enjoy better privacy and less noise because there are far fewer neighbours. Nevertheless, the costs of maintaining a house, from utility bills to air conditioning to security, almost always exceed those of living in an apartment. This is why even fans of living in houses tend to have second thoughts when deciding on where to live.

Apartments, on the other hand, are usually safer as most apartment buildings have guards and CCTV security systems, besides the fact that the many neighbours keep an eye on each other's residences. Nevertheless, most apartments have few or no south-facing windows, resulting in less light penetrating the interior and rendering their residents prone to depression and vitamin D deficiencies. It is also difficult to customise an apartment to the needs of a family since any structural changes can potentially affect the whole building.

I personally value privacy and silence above all other factors when choosing accommodation. Therefore, I believe a house is a much better place to live, especially for families with children and the elderly who need more peace and quiet. I also believe most citizens nowadays, especially the middle class, earn enough to be able to afford the costs of life in houses.

**Total: 272 words**

**Some parents buy their children a large number of toys to play with.**

**What are the advantages and disadvantages for the child of having a large number of toys?**

**Model Answer:**

Nowadays, a lot of toys, ranging from simple dolls to complicated electronic gadgets like video games, are provided for some children by their parents. I think this is not a problem provided children are sufficiently active and care for their toys. (41 words)

One of the important advantages of children having lots of toys is that there are different games for them to play. They can choose one of their toys according to their mood and taste, and are less likely to become bored. Besides, they would certainly be able to learn a wider variety of skills like problem solving or organization. Different toys can teach them different things, which means that the more toys they have, the more they are likely to learn. (83 words)

However, having a lot of different toys could possibly lead to children becoming overweight since many modern toys like video games and LEGOs, which are very common these days, are usually played indoors. Therefore, they would definitely reduce children's physical activity, leading them to gain extra weight. Furthermore, when kids have too many toys, it is likely that they will take less care of them. In other words, they will probably not learn to value them if there is always a replacement ready to play with. Consequently, they would not learn to appreciate their belongings. (95 words)

In conclusion, I believe that children benefit from an abundance of toys which offer them variety, as well as teaching them more varied skills. However, it is important that they keep an active lifestyle and are taught to value every toy. (41 words)

**Total: 260 words**

## **WRITING TASK 2**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**Housing and accommodation has become a major problem in many countries around the world.**

**What are some of the main factors that have contributed to this problem? What can be done to help reduce the number of homeless people?**

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

Write at least 250 words.

## **WRITING TASK 2**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**While mobile phones have many advantages, a number of problems have also resulted from them or the ways in which they are used.**

**What are some of these problems? What solutions can you suggest for solving these problems?**

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

Write at least 250 words.

## **WRITING TASK 2**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***In many countries today insufficient respect is shown to older people.***

***What do you think may be the reasons for this?***

***What problems might this cause in society?***

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

Write at least 250 words.

**In some countries the average weight of people is increasing and their levels of health and fitness are decreasing.**

**What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?**

**Model Answer:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Nowadays, the levels of healthiness and fitness are declining in some societies due to the increase in the average weight of people. I think this is mainly because of their sedentary lifestyles and the popularity of fast food, but there are some solutions. (43 words)

**OR**

In the past most citizens in different parts of the world were in shape and quite slim, whereas today it is quite common for people to be overweight or obese. Consequently, diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure are widespread and many individuals are unfit. I think this is mainly because of their sedentary lifestyles and the popularity of fast food, but there are some solutions. (66 words)

**Body:**

A reason why people have generally grown overweight and unhealthy is that almost everyone either drives or takes public transport to work or school. As a result, there has been a serious decline in most people's levels of physical activity, leading them to burn fewer calories and gain weight. Another reason could be the overconsumption of fast food. A cheeseburger has many high-calorie ingredients such as Mozzarella cheese, sauce and bread. This means that eating many cheeseburgers would definitely have negative effects on blood fat levels and increase one's weight. (90 words)

A possible solution to improve public health and fitness is for people to increase their daily physical activity, for example through walking to work if they live close to their workplaces, jogging in the morning or evening and taking regular exercise at the gym. In addition, what governments can do is to launch publicity campaigns against obesity so that people are informed of the dangers of a high-calorie diet. For example, posters could be designed that illustrate how back pain results from obesity and mounted in public areas and vehicles. This would definitely encourage many to control their calorie intake. (100 words)

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the decline in health and fitness and increase in the weight of many people in various countries owe mainly to a lack of physical activity and the high consumption of fast food. However, these problems can be dealt with if people increase their daily physical activity and are informed of the dangers of eating too much. (58 words)



**Nowadays, we are producing more and more rubbish.**

**Why do you think this is happening?**

**What can governments do to help reduce the amount of rubbish produced?**

**Model Answer:**

Today, many cities around the world face an increasing amount of garbage produced by citizens. I think the main reasons for this are consumerism and overpackaged goods, and it certainly needs to be dealt with. (35 words)

One reason why the amount of rubbish produced is rising is the consumerist lifestyle of many people today which has led them to buy and consume more products such as food, clothes and home appliances. As a result, they often have to throw away their old belongings to make room for the new ones. Furthermore, most products today have packages and boxes that need to be thrown away. For instance, most dishes are wrapped in nylon covers, bubble wraps and cardboard boxes, which together can fill a large rubbish bag. (90 words)

To decrease the amount of garbage, governments can legislate laws to limit the garbage produced by households to a certain level, say, a kilogram every day. As a result, people would definitely try to buy only the things they need to avoid throwing away too much. Another possible solution would be to encourage producers to improve their packaging techniques and use less packaging material like paper and plastic. For instance, if governments ask dish producers to use printed and colourful bubble wraps, they can act as protective covers as well as eye-catching packages, which means that buyers will only have to throw away one wrapper. (105 words)

In conclusion, the reasons behind the rise in waste production include consumerism and product packages, and possible solutions are laws to restrict household garbage as well as encouraging industries to use improved packaging. (33 words)

**Total: 263 words**

## WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

**Universities should provide students with the skills they will require in order to succeed at their future jobs.**

**How far do you agree or disagree with the above opinion?**

**What are some of the job skills that employers look for in new employees?**

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

Write at least 250 words.

### **Model last body paragraph:**

*There are various abilities that new employees today are required to have. Firstly, they need to have good communicative skills like letter writing so that they can communicate their ideas while understanding what their colleagues or clients think. Secondly, employees should be able to manage their time efficiently because they have to finish various tasks before their respective deadlines. Finally, many companies seek workers who can use computers effectively to handle office and business tasks. For instance, almost all modern construction companies require new engineers to know how to design buildings or manage projects using software like AutoCAD or Microsoft Project. (101 words)*

**In some parts of the world it is becoming popular to research the history of one's own family.**

**Why might people want to do this?**

**Is it a positive or negative development?**

**Model Answer:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Genealogy is not a new field and people, especially the noble class, have always been keen on knowing more about the history of their families and ancestors. However, it has recently enjoyed more popularity with many ordinary people, especially in the western world, trying to fill in the gaps in their family trees. I think this is mainly because they want to have fun or learn about how their families have changed through time, but I personally disapprove of this practice. (81 words)

**OR**

It is becoming more and more common for people to seek information about their ancestors and family history. I think this is mainly because they want to have fun or learn about how their families have changed through time, but I personally disapprove of this practice. (46 words)

**Body:**

One reason why many people are curious about their family history these days is that it is often fun to trace back one's bloodline and find out if one is related to any famous people. I remember a recent story about how a common supermarket clerk in Nevada was discovered to be a descendant of a British king. Many such descendants live completely ordinary lives, to which a discovery like that can bring many thrills. Additionally, it would definitely help people to realise how their families have changed through the years and therefore, learn a thing or two about the causes of failure and prosperity in different generations. (108 words)

However, many individuals who find themselves related to the nobility tend to consider tiny shares of noble blood as birthright to more respect. They, for instance, often demand seats in public transport when there are more deserving people like pregnant women or the elderly aboard. Apart from that, some of them might overgeneralise the role of factors which have contributed to a former generation's condition, be it inherited wealth or even bad luck, to their own and disregard the value of their own ideas, efforts and current status. (88 words)

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, I think the growing trend towards researching family histories owes mainly to people's need for fun, as well as information regarding how their families have developed, but I believe it should be discouraged. (35 words)

**Some people think it would be a good idea for schools to teach every young person how to be a good parent.**

**Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Describe the skills a person needs to be a good parent.**

**Model Answer:**

Nowadays, parenting is considered a very important role in almost every society. I think that school students should definitely receive parenting training, and also believe that effective communication and teaching are two of the most important skills a good parent should have.

One reason why parenting should be a school subject is that children spend a lot of time in their schools. For instance, in my country, Iran, they usually spend at least seven hours a day studying at school, which means they are likely to have enough time to learn and practice good parenting. Furthermore, they usually listen to and follow the instructions provided by their teachers much more effectively compared to what their parents or other people tell them because they have to pass courses and receive good scores in exams. Therefore, they can learn about good parenting skills from them more effectively.

I believe that every good parent should be able to communicate with his or her children so that they can be friends with each other and there are no secrets between them. This would allow parents to guide their children better and protect them from the dangers of society. Besides, parents ought to be able to teach different things such as the difference between good and bad, social skills and scientific knowledge to their children to help them become better people and develop better personalities.

In conclusion, I agree that students should be taught about the skills and knowledge that lead them to become good parents in future. I also think every good parent ought to be able to communicate well and teach effectively.

**Total: 269 words**

# Section 2

## Course Handouts

## Types of Argument Discussion Questions

**Apple and Apple:** Some people think that more money should be spent to promote the use of bicycles in cities. Others, however, believe that bicycle is not an appropriate means of transport for urban environments.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

**Apple and Orange:** Some people think that more money should be spent to promote the use of bicycles in cities. Others, however, believe that cities should focus on investing in public transport systems.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

**Apple and Apple+Orange:** Some people think that more money should be spent to promote the use of bicycles in cities. Others, however, believe that bicycle is not an appropriate means of transport for urban environments, and cities should focus on investing in public transport systems instead.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

## How to express an opinion: a few examples

### A. Giving an opinion

I believe/think that...  
 In my view...  
 I feel strongly that...  
 I would argue that...

### B. Agreeing with an idea

I am convinced that...  
 I am certain that...  
 I **partially/to some extent** support...  
 I generally agree that...

### C. Disagreeing with an idea:

I totally disagree that...  
 There is no justification for...  
 I am completely against...  
 I do not agree with the idea that...  
 I do not think/believe...

### D. Describing other people's opinions

Many consider/argue/claim that...  
 It is widely believed that...  
 It is often said/claimed that...  
 Some people hold/believe/think/insist/argue/claim that...

## How to avoid absolute statements

### Making predictions

The use of modern technology **would probably/certainly/definitely** lead to the development of better products.

Children who watch a lot of television in their spare time are **more/highly likely/unlikely** to score low on the school exams.

A university degree **could/may/might possibly** help him find a job at a better company.

It is **highly/very/quite likely/possible/unlikely** that this can improve the situation.

### Avoiding "all": ways of saying "some"

**many/a lot of/lots of/a large number of** products

**the majority of/most** students

**some** people

**certain** groups in the society

**a minority of** employers

**a few/a small number of** cities

### Avoiding "no" and "none": ways of saying "only a very insignificant number":

**few** people

**only an insignificant number of** products

**almost no** evidence

### Avoiding "always"

Governments **almost always/usually/normally/mostly/generally** support local businesses.

People **sometimes/occasionally/often** try to hide their feelings.

People try to hide their feelings **at certain times**.

### Avoiding "never"

Tourists **seldom/almost never/rarely** realise how important local cultures are.



## A Quick Guide to Punctuation

Basically, the two punctuation marks you will need to use in IELTS reports, letters and essays are the full stop and comma. Exclamation (!) and question marks (?) might also be used in General Training letters, while parentheses could be used in Academic reports as well as in letters.

You are advised to avoid using the colon (:), semi-colon (;) and dashes (–) if you do not know where they need to be used, since they are unnecessary.

### Full Stop (.)

Full stops are generally used to mark the end of a sentence:

*There has been a dramatic increase in the population of urban regions.*

### Comma (,)

Commas are used in longer sentences to separate information into readable units. They also often separate clauses in a sentence and sometimes come before a coordinator (e.g. “and”, “but”, etc.)

- A single comma ensures correct reading of a sentence which starts with a long introductory element:

*Following efforts by pioneering scientists in the field of ecology, it has now been generally accepted that the world is gradually becoming warmer.*

- A single comma is used after many starting linkers like “however”, “moreover”, “basically” and such:

*In contrast, water levels in Africa and Australia declined to reach an all-time low.*

- Pairs of commas help in the middle of a sentence to set off any string of words which is either a parenthesis, or in contrast, to whatever went before:

*A student, whether at school or university, needs to receive guidance and instructions on how to use resources effectively and efficiently.*

- Sets of comma act as a means of separating items in a list:

*Workplaces like business offices, banks and schools would certainly require a more formal dress code.*

- Use a comma at the end of a subordinate clause that precedes its main clause:

*Although the government has invested heavily in preparing students for higher education, many university graduates still lack some basic academic skills.*

- Non-restrictive relative clauses (relative clauses which provide information that can be left out without affecting the meaning or structure of the sentence) should be separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma or commas:

*A list of contents would have made it easier to steer through the book, which also lacks a map.*

**Note:** do not add a comma after “that” at the beginning of a clause:

*It has been known for some time that many flaws in children’s behavior have roots in their genes.*

## Punctuation in compound and complex sentences: a short note

### Compound sentences

**Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction that connects two independent clauses:**

- There are many problems with this approach, and many of its supporters have already voiced their concern.

**Note that the comma is not used when both clauses share the same subject:**

- Many people are trying to move to larger cities and look for better prospects.

**Use a period or semicolon before a transition that connects two independent clauses:**

- The problem has become more pressing over the years. However, the government seems to be ignoring it for the moment.

- Companies need younger workforce to replace retiring staff members; nevertheless, some believe that old experienced workforce should be kept in their jobs for as long as they can work.

### Complex sentences

**Use a comma after an introductory subordinate clause to separate it from the main:**

- Although education seems to play a more important role in the development of a country, the role of art should not be overlooked.

**Note that the comma is not used when the main clause precedes the subordinate clause unless the clause expresses contrast or exception (although, while, whereas):**

- Mobile phones are very useful because they provide their users with a variety of entertainment and communication options.

- Many people think this is the right thing to do, whereas others completely reject it.

## Connectors: Usage and Meaning

### To Add another Idea

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
and		Furthermore Moreover Besides also in addition

### To Restate, Explain or Emphasize an Idea

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
		that is in other words in fact actually namely

### To Give an Example

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
		for example for instance to illustrate

### To Show a Choice

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
or nor		

### To Show a Difference

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
but	While whereas though	in contrast on the contrary on the other hand instead however still otherwise

To Show the Opposite of What You Might Expect

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
yet	although though even though	nevertheless admittedly even so nonetheless

To Show a Similarity

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
	just as as	similarly likewise in the same way

To Show a Cause or Reason

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
for	because since as now that as long as	

To Show a Result or Effect

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
so	so + adjective + that such + ...noun + that	as a result consequently as a consequence therefore thus hence accordingly

## To Show a Time Relationship

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
	before after when whenever while as soon as until as since the moment that once	previously subsequently finally afterward meanwhile first, second, etc. after that next since then then, at first,

## To Show a Condition

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
or	if even if unless when whenever	

## Synonyms for Good and Bad

positive and negative  
 welcome and unwelcome  
 favourable and unfavourable  
 desirable and undesirable  
 beneficial and detrimental

## Synonyms for Advantages and Disadvantages

advantages and disadvantages  
 benefits and drawbacks  
 upsides and downsides  
 pros and cons  
 strengths and weaknesses/shortcomings

## Synonyms for Causes

the **factors/issues** responsible for ...  
 the reasons **behind/for** ...  
 the **factors/issues** which have contributed to ...  
 the causes of ...  
 the issues which have **resulted in/led to** ...

## Synonyms for Effects

### a. Real consequences

#### consequences/effects/impacts

the issues **it has resulted in /which have resulted from** ...  
 the problems which **follow /have followed** ...

### b. Possible consequences

the **problems/issues** that ... could/may/might/is likely to result in/lead to  
 the **problems/issues** which could/may/might/are likely to result from/follow/ensue ...  
 ...'s possible/potential/probable/prospective consequences/effects/impacts

## Synonyms for Solutions

Solutions for ...  
**means/ways** to solve ...  
**means/ways** to **resolve/deal with/tackle/improve** ...

## Discussing Causes



### Approach A:

**Presentation:** Cause 1 → Issue

**Extension:** Cause 1 ← Cause 2 ← Cause 3

### Approach B:

**Presentation:** Cause 3 → Issue

**Extension:** Cause 3 → Cause 2 → Cause 1

**Note:** → = consequence linker      ← = cause linker

e.g. Book 8, page 102

**Technological progress → machines and tools have replaced people → less physical activity → burning fewer calories → obesity**

One reason for this unfortunate development is that most individuals burn far fewer calories every day because they have a lot less activity now than they used to. The reason for this is that machines and tools have replaced people in most cases, like in transportation, thanks to the technological progress which has taken place over the past decades.

**OR**

One reason for this unfortunate development is the technological progress which has taken place over the past decades, as a result of which machines and tools have replaced people in most cases, like in transportation. Therefore, most individuals have a lot less activity today than they used to and burn far fewer calories every day, which results in their obesity.

## Discussing Effects

### Approach A (Short):



Issue → Effect 2 *because* Effect 1

### Approach B (long):



Issue → Effect 3 *because* issue → effect 1 → effect 2 [→ effect 3]

**Note:** → = consequence linker

### Example:

Overpopulation → more demand for food → food shortages → widespread hunger

Overpopulation can lead to widespread hunger in many parts of the world, particularly in countries like India and China which have very large populations. **This is because** when there are more people in an area, the demand for food is highly likely to rise **as a result of which** there may not be enough food available for everyone.



## Discussing Solutions

### Development

#### Include:

- Mechanism
- Advantages over other solutions
- Any possible disadvantages

### How to introduce advantage and disadvantage for a solution:

#### Approach A:

Although Even though	----- disadvantage (sentence) -----	,	----- advantage (sentence) -----.
----- advantage (sentence) -----	Although even though		----- disadvantage (sentence) -----.

#### Approach B:

Despite In spite of	----- disadvantage (n./n.p.) -----	,	----- advantage (sentence) -----.
----- advantage (sentence) -----	Despite in spite of		----- disadvantage (n./n.p.) -----.

### Some possible advantages and disadvantages

Advantage	Disadvantage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective</li> <li>• Efficient</li> <li>• Cost-effective, economical, reasonable Does not <b>rely on/require</b> many financial resources</li> <li>• Time-efficient</li> <li>• Popular</li> <li>• Does not <b>rely on/require</b> many resources</li> <li>• Easy to implement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Might not be very reasonable</li> <li>• Could be time-consuming/ Might not be very time-efficient</li> <li>• Might not be very popular/Might not be favoured by the public</li> <li>• May <b>rely on/require</b> significant resources</li> <li>• Could be difficult to implement/ Might not be very easy to implement</li> </ul>

#### Example:

**Solution:** Increase tax on fast food and decrease tax on fruits and vegetables

**Mechanism:** unhealthy food become more expensive and less popular, while healthy food cheaper and more popular → people eat healthier

**Advantage:** Efficient and quick

**Disadvantage:** unpopular

One way to solve the problem of obesity and improve people's health and fitness would probably be to increase tax on fast food, while decreasing tax on fruits and vegetables. This would certainly make unhealthy food more expensive and less popular, and help healthy food become cheaper and increase its popularity. As a result, people are likely to eat healthier food. Although this might not be very popular, especially for restaurant owners and youths, it would definitely be a quite efficient and quick solution.

Furthermore, people need to increase their daily physical activity, for example by walking to work if they live close to their workplaces. This would certainly increase the amount of energy they consume and, as a result, decrease their weight, as well as helping them to be more fit and healthy.

## The Academic Word List

### Sublist 1

analyze • approach • area • assess • assume • authority • available • benefit • concept • consist • constitute • context • contract • create • data • define • derive • distribute • economy • environment • establish • estimate • evident • export • factor • finance • formula • function • identify • income • indicate • individual • interpret • involve • issue • labor • legal • legislate • major • method • occur • percent • period • policy • principle • proceed • process • require • research • respond • role • section • sector • significant • similar • source • specific • structure • theory • vary

### Sublist 2

achieve • acquire • administrate • affect • appropriate • aspect • assist • category • chapter • commission • community • complex • compute • conclude • conduct • consequent • construct • consume • credit • culture • design • distinct • element • equate • evaluate • feature • final • focus • impact • injure • institute • invest • item • journal • maintain • normal • obtain • participate • perceive • positive • potential • previous • primary • purchase • range • region • regulate • relevant • reside • resource • restrict • secure • seek • select • site • strategy • survey • text • tradition • transfer

### Sublist 3

alternative • circumstance • comment • compensate • component • consent • considerable • constant • constrain • contribute • convene • coordinate • core • corporate • correspond • criteria • deduce • demonstrate • document • dominate • emphasis • ensure • exclude • framework • fund • illustrate • immigrate • imply • initial • instance • interact • justify • layer • link • locate • maximize • minor • negate • outcome • partner • philosophy • physical • proportion • publish • react • register • rely • remove • scheme • sequence • sex • shift • specify • sufficient • task • technique • technology • valid • volume

### Sublist 4

access • adequate • annual • apparent • approximate • attitude • attribute • civil • code • commit • communicate • concentrate • confer • contrast • cycle • debate • despite • dimension • domestic • emerge • error • ethnic • goal • grant • hence • hypothesis • implement • implicate • impose • integrate • internal • investigate • job • label • mechanism • obvious • occupy • option • output • overall • parallel • parameter • phase • predict • principal • prior • professional • project • promote • regime • resolve • retain • series • statistic • status • stress • subsequent • sum • summary • undertake

### Sublist 5

academy • adjust • alter • amend • aware • capacity • challenge • clause • compound • conflict • consult • contact • decline • discrete • draft • enable • energy • enforce • entity • equivalent • evolve • expand • expose • external • facilitate • fundamental • generate • generation • image • liberal • license • logic • margin • medical • mental • modify • monitor • network • notion • objective • orient • perspective • precise • prime • psychology • pursue • ratio • reject • revenue • stable • style • substitute • sustain • symbol • target • transit • trend • version • welfare • whereas

### Sublist 6

abstract • accurate • acknowledge • aggregate • allocate • assign • attach • author • bond • brief • capable • cite • cooperate • discriminate • display • diverse • domain • edit • enhance • estate • exceed • expert • explicit • federal • fee • flexible • furthermore • gender • ignorant • incentive • incidence • incorporate • index • inhibit • initiate • input • instruct • intelligence • interval • lecture • migrate • minimum • ministry • motive • neutral • nevertheless • overseas • precede • presume • rational • recover • reveal • scope • subsidy • tape • trace • transform • transport • underlie • utilize

### Sublist 7

adapt • adult • advocate • aid • channel • chemical • classic • comprehensive • comprise • confirm • contrary • convert • couple • decade • definite • deny • differentiate • dispose • dynamic • eliminate • empirical • equip • extract • file • finite • foundation • globe • grade • guarantee • hierarchy • identical • ideology • infer • innovate • insert • intervene • isolate • media • mode • paradigm • phenomenon • priority • prohibit • publication • quote • release • reverse • simulate • sole • somewhat • submit • successor • survive • thesis • topic • transmit • ultimate • unique • visible • voluntary

### Sublist 8

abandon • accompany • accumulate • ambiguous • append • appreciate • arbitrary • automate • bias • chart • clarify • commodity • complement • conform • contemporary • contradict • crucial • currency • denote • detect • deviate • displace • drama • eventual • exhibit • exploit • fluctuate • guideline • highlight • implicit • induce • inevitable • infrastructure • inspect • intense • manipulate • minimize • nuclear • offset • paragraph • plus • practitioner • predominant • prospect • radical • random • reinforce • restore • revise • schedule • tense • terminate • theme • thereby • uniform • vehicle • via • virtual • visual • widespread

### Sublist 9

accommodate • analogy • anticipate • assure • attain • behalf • bulk • cease • coherent • coincide • commence • compatible • concurrent • confine • controversy • converse • device • devote • diminish • distort • duration • erode • ethic • format • founded • inherent • insight • integral • intermediate • manual • mature • mediate • medium • military • minimal • mutual • norm • overlap • passive • portion • preliminary • protocol • qualitative • refine • relax • restrain • revolution • rigid • route • scenario • sphere • subordinate • supplement • suspend • team • temporary • trigger • unify • violate • vision

### Sublist 10

adjacent • albeit • assemble • collapse • colleague • compile • conceive • convince • depress • encounter • enormous • forthcoming • incline • integrity • intrinsic • invoke • levy • likewise • nonetheless • notwithstanding • odd • ongoing • panel • persist • pose • reluctance • so-called • straightforward • undergo • whereby

Reference: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/>



### IELTS Writing Answer Sheet - TASK 2

Candidate Name

Candidate No.  Centre No.

Test Module  Academic  General Training

Test Date Day  Month  Year

If you need more space to write your answer, use an additional sheet and write in the space provided to indicate how many sheets you are using: Sheet  of

**Writing Task 2 Writing Task 2 Writing Task 2 Writing Task 2**

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the answer.

Do not write below this line

Do not write in this area. Please continue your answer on the other side of this sheet.

39507



