Master IELTS Essays

Course Materials & Supplements

For Academic and General Training Candidates

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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 \rightarrow 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.tahasoni.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

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?
- 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

- 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. 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?
- c. 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?

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?
- 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)

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Candidate Number:			TR		СС		LR		GR	A		
Examiner 2 Number:			Underleng	th	No. of	words	Per	alty	[Off-topic	Memorised	Illegible
									L			

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	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range
9	fully addresses all parts	Cohesion uses cohesion in	 uses a wide range of 	and Accuracyuses a wide range of
	 for the task presents a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well supported ideas 	 such a way that it attracts no attention skilfully manages paragraphing 	vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'	structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8	 sufficiently addresses all parts of the task presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas 	 sequences information and ideas logically manages all aspects of cohesion well uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately 	 uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation 	 uses a wide range of structures the majority of sentences are error- free makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
7	 addresses all parts of the task presents a clear position throughout the response presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to over- generalise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus 	 logically organises information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use presents a clear central topic within each paragraph 	 uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation 	 uses a variety of complex structures produces frequent error-free sentences has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
6	 addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear 	 arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately uses paragraphing, but not always logically 	 uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication 	 uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication

5	 addresses the task only partially; the format may be inappropriate in places expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn presents some main ideas but these are limited and not sufficiently developed; there may be irrelevant detail 	 presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression makes inadequate, inaccurate or over- use of cohesive devices may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution may not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate 	 uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader 	 uses only a limited range of structures attempts complex sentences but these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader
4	 responds to the task only in a minimal way or the answer is tangential; the format may be inappropriate presents a position but this is unclear presents some main ideas but these are difficult to identify and may be repetitive, irrelevant or not well supported 	 presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive may not write in paragraphs or their use may be confusing 	 uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task has limited control of word formation and/or spelling; errors may cause strain for the reader 	 uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty
3	 does not adequately address any part of the task does not express a clear position presents few ideas, which are largely undeveloped or irrelevant 	 does not organise ideas logically may use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas 	 uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling errors may severely distort the message 	 attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning
2	 barely responds to the task does not express a position may attempt to present one or two ideas but there is no development 	 has very little control of organisational features 	 uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling 	 cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases
1	 answer is completely unrelated to the task does not attend 	 fails to communicate any message 	 can only use a few isolated words 	cannot use sentence forms at all
J	 does not attempt the t writes a totally memoris 			

Sample Task 2 Topics & Model Answers

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think that air travel should be restricted because it causes environment pollution.

How far do you agree or disagree?

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

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.

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 (Strong View):

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 often worked 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)

Finally, the experience and skills of old workers is usually out of date. They might have a lot of experience with old technology and machines, but their employers constantly need to upgrade their equipment and methods. Therefore, it is less likely that old worker's abilities are necessary in the long run, and younger workers who know how to operate modern machines such as computers and lasers can replace them. (69 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)

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 (Strong View):

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)

A reason is that 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. (93 words)

Furthermore, people today can migrate to different countries with less fear of becoming homesick since the products they are used to are now available in shops almost 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 farmed and grown in most other countries. However, as they can access all these ingredients in shops and supermarkets around the world today, they can work and live more productively because they do not miss a significant part of their cultural heritage anymore. (97 words)

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

Total: 273 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 (Middle View):

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 nations' 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 (Middle View):

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 (Middle View):

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

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.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Developing countries require international organization's 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.

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 (Strong View):

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 (Middle View):

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 come 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 awaits 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. First of all, 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 prevents offences are also necessary. (37 words)

Total: 289 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 (Middle View):

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 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

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.

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.

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.

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 owes 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

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)

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

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

To Show the Opposite of What You Might Expect

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 $3 \rightarrow$ Cause $2 \rightarrow$ Cause 1

Note: \rightarrow = consequence linker \leftarrow = cause linker

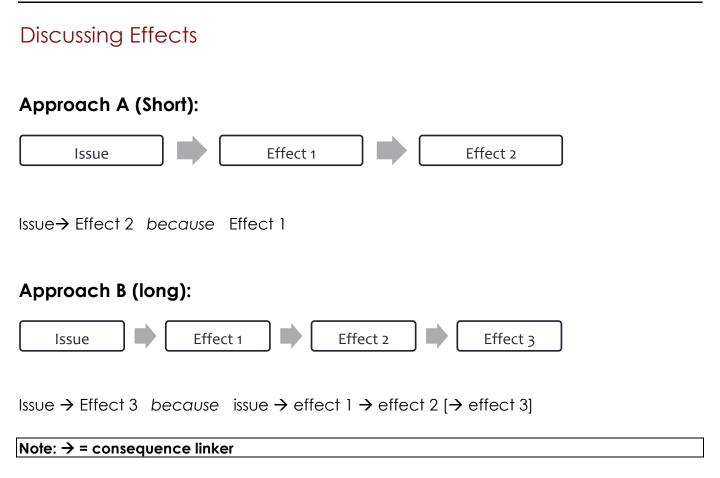
e.g. Book 8, page 102

Technological progress \rightarrow machines and tools have replaced people \rightarrow less physical activity \rightarrow burning fewer calories $\rightarrow ODesity$

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.



Example:

Overpopulation \rightarrow more demand for food \rightarrow food shortages \rightarrow 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 (s	entence)	,	advantage (sentence)
advanta	ge (sentence)	Although even though		disadvantage (sentence)

Approach B:

Despite In spite of	disadvantage (n./r	ı.p.)	,	 advantage (sentence)
advar	ntage (sentence)	Despite in spite of		disadvantage (n./n.p.)

Some possible advantages and disadvantages

Advantage	Disadvantage
• Effective	 Might not be very reasonable
• Efficient	Could be time-consuming/ Might not be
Cost-effective, economical, reasonable Does	very time-efficient
not rely on/require many financial resources	Might not be very popular/Might not be for a sublice
Time-efficient	favoured by the public
• Popular	 May rely on/require significant resources
• Does not rely on/require many resources	 Could be difficult to implement/
• Easy to implement	Might not be very easy to implement

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

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. 8 1 9 3 8	Centre Number Candidate Number	
	Module (shade one box): Academic	
*	Test date	
	TASK 2	—
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