

IELTS WRITING TASK 2 'CHEAT SHEET'

Opinion Essays

(RECOMMENDED: PRINT THIS OUT ON **A3** PAPER ONLY!)

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With the increased global demand for oil and gas. Undiscovered areas of the world should be opened up to access more resources.

To what extent do you agree?

The number of old people around the world is increasing dramatically.

Could this have more positive or negative effects on society?

Space exploration is much too expensive and the money should be spent on more important things.

What is your opinion?

Common IELTS Topics

1. Technology
2. Health
3. Development
4. Government Spending
5. Environment
6. Globalization
7. Youth Crime
8. Criminal Justice
9. Education
10. Public Transport

A Brief Introduction to IELTS Writing Task 2 Opinion Essay Questions

In IELTS writing Task 2 you have to answer an essay question. Unfortunately, we do not know what the question will be, but we do know what the likely topics will be (see left) and we do know what types of questions we are likely to meet.

It is important to know what question type you have, as your essay can then follow an appropriate structure in response. This helps you to get a higher band score.

Different teachers have different ways of classifying the question types. However, I like to keep it simple and stick to these four question types:

- 1) Opinion 2) Discussion 3) Opinion and Discussion 4) Situation**

After a bit of practice it is easy to tell them apart, for example, you can easily tell that the questions on this page are 'Opinion' questions **due to the phrases in red**. If you see any of these you know you have an opinion essay.

OK, that is enough from me, time for you to have a go at writing an essay. Choose one of the questions on here and write an answer using the 'Cheat Sheet' provide below.

Opinion Essay Structure

Introduction– Rephrase the question. Give your opinion and say what your essay will do.

Body paragraph 1 – Support your opinion with arguments, explanations and examples.

Body paragraph 2 – Support your opinion further with more arguments, explanations and examples.

Conclusion– Restate your opinion and summarize the main points of your body paragraphs.

Scientists and technology experts seem to be valued by society more than artists and musicians.

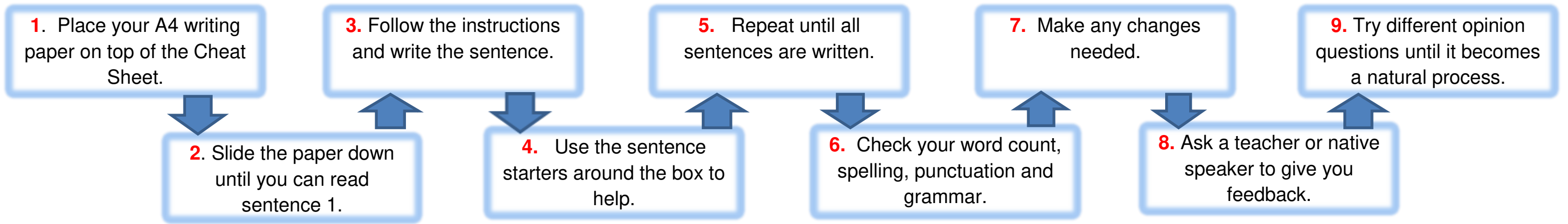
To what extent do you agree?

Some people think that teenagers should be required to do unpaid work in their free time to help the local community. They believe this would benefit both the individual teenager and society.

Do you agree or disagree?

In many developed countries, life expectancy is rising while birthrates are falling. As a result, the elderly will make up a much larger proportion of the population in future.

Is this a positive or negative development?



This essay will discuss...

The following paragraphs will present...

Both sides of the argument shall be discussed...

One of the main causes of...is...

One significant reason that people believe...is...

A major factor contributing to... is...

In summary,...

To conclude,...

Overall,...

I remain of the opinion that...

I absolutely believe that...

I am of the strong opinion that...

Note: Depending on your word count and the amount of time you have left, you may wish to further expand your second main body paragraph in the same way as the first.

IELTS Writing Task 2 – Cheat Sheet (Opinion Essay)

Sentence 1: Rephrase the question using your own words. **Sentence 2:** State your opinion clearly regarding the topic. **Sentence 3:** Say what you will do in this essay.

Sentence 4: Write your main point for the paragraph. **Sentence 5:** Provide some explanation to support this point. **Sentence 6:** Provide an example that shows what you mean. **Sentence 7:** Make a further related point supporting your opinion. **Sentence 8:** Provide some explanation to support this point.

Sentence 9: Write your main point for the paragraph. **Sentence 10:** Provide some explanation to support this point. **Sentence 11:** Provide an example that shows what you mean.

Sentence 12: Summarise your key points again using different words and phrases.

Sentence 13: Restate your opinion using different words and phrases.

I am of the firm opinion that...

My personal opinion is that...

In my view...

This essay will discuss...

The following paragraphs will present...

This may be caused by...

The impact this has on... is...

As a consequence of this...

Furthermore,...

In addition,...

What is more,...

For example,...

To illustrate this point,...

For instance,...

Place your blank A4 writing paper here!



Parting Message

Tim James

I hope that you have found this resource useful. I will leave you with my 6 golden rules of essay writing, they are very simple, yet very effective.

- 1. Plan your answer before you start writing**
- 2. Use the correct essay structure for different question types**
- 3. Don't copy vocabulary from the question, use your own words**
- 4. Write in paragraphs**
- 5. Use a variety of linking words and phrases**
- 6. Leave time to check your work**

Finally, make sure you watch out for more emails from me over the next few days as I have more great information to share with you.

Further Resources:

IELTSfreeway.com – Main site for free information about all parts of the test.

[IELTSfreeway on Facebook](#) – Like the page to get updates, latest exam questions, tips, strategies and to connect with other IELTS students.

[IELTSfreeway's Youtube Channel](#) – Video explainers and more...

[IELTSfreeway's e-mails](#) – You must have already signed up for this, so loads more great stuff to come, watch out for more emails!

