

2019 Recent Questions and Model Answers (IELTS Writing Task 2)

IELTS Academic Module 1
The Writing Process

Task Introduction, Details and Question Types
This video covers the main requirements of the IELTS Academic Writing Task 2 and provides a detailed overview of the task.

Question Analysis and Key Feature Identification
This video explains how to analyse and identify the key features of a question and how to use this information to plan your answer.

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Help a friend and share me!

How To Get A Band 7+
This lesson explains the marking band criteria that examiners use to grade your work.

Task Achievement
Have you answered the question correctly?
 • covers the requirements of the task
 • (Academic) presents a clear overview of main trends, differences or stages
 • (General Training) presents a clear purpose, with the tone consistent and appropriate
 • clearly presents and highlights key features/bullet points but could be more fully extended

Lesson Objectives
To know what you need to do for each of the four different marking band criteria in order to score a band 7 or higher.
Video Time: 20:08

Informal Letters
A step by step walk through showing how to write informal letters

Lesson Objectives
To be clear on how to write an informal letter.
Video Time: 5:43

Complex Sentences - Part 1
Three different ways to add complex sentences into your essays and boost your band score.

Lesson Objectives
To be able to write three different types of complex sentences in an IELTS essay.
Video Time: 18:37

Introduction and Welcome

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Hi, my name's Tim James, I'm from England and welcome to my world of IELTS preparation!

I've been teaching IELTS for over 10 years now, in international schools, universities, language institutes and online to students from all over the world.

During this time I have developed my own strategies and techniques that help students get the best possible IELTS band score in the shortest possible time.



Figure 1 Destination Cambridge University for some of my former IELTS students!

This has helped many of them transform their lives and get the jobs of their dreams, study at the University of their Choice, and even move abroad to the country they have always wanted to live in.

In the short term, preparing for IELTS can seem difficult but the long term benefits can be incredible! Where do you want to be in 1, 5, 10 or 20 years time? Use this vision to motivate you as you go about your IELTS studies.

I started ieltsfreeway.com because students that I taught IELTS to face to face in a classroom, kept asking me if I could put lessons online.

Finally I did, and I am now delighted to be able to help people from around the world do well in their IELTS test. Many people I have taught have gone on to make a new life for themselves in an English speaking country, study at their first choice university abroad, or even gotten the dream job they always wanted! So, I know just how important and life changing getting the IELTS band score you need can be.

This is the reason I created both IELTSfreeway.com for free tips and strategies and IELTSSpeedway.com for a fully proven step by step system for a band 7, and finally, today I have the pleasure of presenting to you model answers to recent IELTS writing task 2 questions in this document. I hope you find them all useful! If you have any questions at all you may contact me on ieltsfreeway@gmail.com.

All the best for your studies,

Tim James – Founder of IELTSfreeway.com and IELTSSpeedway.com

How To Benefit From This Document

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This document provides you with recent questions and model answers to well over 20 IELTS essay questions. You can use these in several ways. Here are a few ways to benefit from this document:

- You can see how to structure and layout your essays noting the difference between different types of questions.
- You can make a note of the topic areas and read about these different topics so that you can form your own ideas on them as similar topics may occur in your test.
- You can study any new vocabulary you find and look up their definitions, example sentences, synonyms, and different word formations and what words they often collocate with.
- You can read them and note the formality of the language that is used.
- You can write your own answers to the questions under timed conditions.
- You could write new answers that provide the opposite opinion to the answers provided.
- You could write new questions to practice with by simply changing the question topics or wording slightly.
- You could highlight all of the linking words and phrases that you find e.g. for instance, furthermore, however.
- Read the guide to writing essays in this document and see how I have written the essays using this exact style and method.

That is just a few ideas to get you started but the main thing is to actually do something with this document, If you simply read it alone with no particular focus then it will be of less benefit to you. However, if you get actively involved with it in any of the ways mentioned above then it can be highly beneficial in preparing you for your test day.



[ps://pixabay.com/en/accounts/register/](https://pixabay.com/en/accounts/register/)

Figure 2 Be Proactive In Your Studies

Ideas for IELTS Teachers

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In case this document falls into the hands of other IELTS teachers I am adding a few ideas of how to use this document constructively in lessons.

What follows are some outline ideas which with further development may be useful in class. I am sure you may well have other better ideas, if you do then I would love to hear about them so I can add them to this list. You can email me at ieltsfreeway@gmail.com.

Here we go:

- Cut out the teaching points so they are separate from the model essays. Distribute the separate parts randomly amongst the class. Have student mingle so that they have to put match the parts back together without actually looking at the other parts i.e. they have to explain/read teaching point and the other person will have to see if it fits with the essay.
- Essays could all be cut up line by line or paragraph by paragraph and students have to reconstruct them. The number of essays mixed together could be increased for greater difficulty.
- Students rewrite essays but using their own words.
- Students rewrite essays but argue in the opposite manner.
- Students rewrite the questions slightly so that they create a similar realistic essay question to answer.
- Each question could be turned into class debates either group versus groups or individuals versus individuals with other groups scoring the debate. This could be a good precursor to actually writing the answer to the essay being debated.
- Students comment upon each other's completed essays using the teaching points as a basis for providing positive comments and constructive criticism.
- Students write a paragraph each of an essay then pass their essay on to another person who adds the next paragraph and so on.
- Students select one of the teaching points provided and then go through the other example essays highlighting further examples of this point.
- Students could create mini glossaries/dictionaries, or flashcards ([Quizlet](#) might be an option here) for each essay.
- Students turn each essay into an error correction exercise by altering spellings and punctuation (You would need to copy these into Word first for the students).
- Vocabulary gap fills (cloze exercises) could also be created using Word.

That's all for now, like I say if you do develop any ideas or materials I'd love to hear about it, thanks!

Common IELTS Writing Task 2 Topic Areas

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Whilst the exact same questions from previous tests will not occur again in your test, the same topics and question types will. This means that if you practice questions related to the following topic areas then you will be preparing yourself efficiently for the test.

You should read as much as possible about these areas in recent newspapers and magazines so that you develop your own ideas and vocabulary relating to these topic areas:

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

See the resource section at the end of this document for great places to start reading around these topics.

Question Sources

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The questions in this document are from a variety of sources, and are recent IELTS essay questions from 2018 as reported either by recent test takers directly via email or the comments section of my website, or from an assortment of other reliable sources across the web.

Of course, I cannot guarantee if they are exactly the same as in a recent IELTS test, nevertheless, it is useful to review them as you may be able to use the same ideas from the model answers in a similar essay.

The same questions will never come up in the test again, but the same topics and style of questions absolutely will so these essays are also a great source of vocabulary to learn specifically for IELTS topic areas.

Finally, the more you practice the luckier you will be on test day, so make sure you try and write answers to some of these questions and read the model essays for ideas too.

If you have recently taken the IELTS test please send me any questions that you can remember to ieltsfreeway@gmail.com .



Recent Questions and Model Answers 2019

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Teaching Points: Each essay is followed by a short teaching point in red which explains how to maximize your IELTS essay band score. An example of the teaching point is highlighted, also in red, in the body of the essay to illustrate the point further for you in a realistic context.

*In some countries, the number of people visiting art galleries is reducing.
What do you think the reasons for this are? How can we solve this problem?*

In certain locations around the world, the number of people visiting art galleries is declining. This essay shall outline some of the reasons for this trend and then go on to suggest ways in which this issue could be resolved.

Firstly, visitor numbers are on the decline due in part to the ever-increasing convenience and ability of new technology. If someone has access to the internet from a device then there is virtually no need to visit an art gallery as all the finest works can be viewed online for as long as you want and at a minimal cost. For example, there is virtually no reason to go to the effort of leaving your house and traveling across a city and then paying and queuing with other people just to see works of art that you could just as easily view from the comfort of your own home.

However, there are some effective ways in which we might reverse the trend of declining visitor numbers to art galleries. One such way would be to ensure that all the artwork at a gallery is not available to view online, or at the most, just a small sample of an art galleries work is available for viewing. This would then create a sense of curiosity in the viewers mind and make them more likely to visit the art gallery. Furthermore, you could create a discussion zone at the art gallery where like-minded individuals could meet face to face and discuss the particular pieces of art that interest them. This would make visiting the gallery a more unique experience and be more likely to catch people's interest.

Overall, visitor numbers are declining but there are a number of ways to tackle this problem. It is up to the art galleries themselves to come up with solutions and then deliver these to the public if they wish to survive in the future.

319 words

Teaching Point: Notice how both of these topic sentences directly answer one of the questions asked in the question. This is key to making sure that you do not go off topic and do in fact answer the question. This ensures you will not lose marks for Task Achievement.

In many countries, men and women work full-time. It is therefore logical for men and women to share household work.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Nowadays, many people believe that men and women should share household chores equally as both genders are just as likely to have full-time jobs. **Personally, I agree with this viewpoint** and the following paragraphs shall outline my reasons for this belief.

First and foremost, traditional gender roles have been severely diminished in many cultures in recent years. This means that less pressure is now placed on women to complete the tasks that were commonly associated as being a women's job to complete. These days it is just as acceptable for a man to do the housework as it is for the women, and they won't be looked down upon by their male friends as they might have been in the past.

Secondly, it has become much more commonplace for women to be the main breadwinners of a household and therefore by default have less time available for domestic duties. This means that it often makes more sense for men to stay at home and not work, which in turn means that they have more time available to complete household chores than might have been the case in the past. Imagine, if a woman worked full time and then had to come home and complete all of the household chores as well, regardless of whether the partner was working or not, the relationship would be put under a great deal of pressure and might eventually end if they were left to do the chores alone.

In summary, **I agree that the changing trends of society mean that couples are often led to divide household chores more equally these days.** Despite resistance by certain groups, this trend is likely to continue into the future.

278 words

Teaching Point: Notice how I have repeated my opinion twice, in both the introduction and conclusion using different words. This shows off a range of vocabulary but also ensures that I have answered the original question that was asked.

Libraries are a waste of money, therefore, computers should be used to replace them.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some people are of the opinion that libraries funding should be cut and the money invested in making computers available to the public instead. I mostly agree with this line of thought and the following paragraphs shall explain why this is the case.

Firstly, libraries should not receive any more funding because they contain such a limited and often outdated amount of information. As soon as a book is published it goes out of date and cannot be updated without an entirely new copy being printed which is both costly and time-consuming. On the other hand, a computer connected to the internet overcomes both of these limitations with ease, for example, any web-site, pdf, or online journal can be continuously updated by the authors and there is no time wasted in printing of the book.

On the other hand, though, libraries do still offer a quiet place for members of the public to go and read. In today's fast-paced society there are few places to be found where people can simply go and relax without fear of being hassled by salesman or traffic which may have damaging consequences for the public. For instance, a report in the 'Journal of Good Health' recently reported that spending as little as 5 minutes per day sat quietly on your own can reduce the risk of a heart attack or stroke by 50%, so, losing the quiet space of a library could harm a nation's overall health.

To sum up, the public need for up to date information and also for restful places for people to relax needs to be considered carefully. Governments need to decide what their priority is and act accordingly.

279 words

Teaching Point: Notice how in the first line of the introduction I have simply paraphrased the question statement using my own words. I have also changed the order of the information in the sentence. This shows the examiner that I have good grammatical control and also a range of vocabulary.

Some people think that money is the best gift to give a teenager, others disagree.

Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Certain groups of people are of the opinion that giving teenagers cash is the most appropriate present to present them with, however, some people disagree with this approach. Personally, I believe that this is not the case and this essay shall outline arguments for either side.

Firstly, teenagers are often very impulsive by nature and are likely to make decisions that may not be in their best overall interest. As a consequence, if you hand over money to a teenager they may well simply go and waste the money on consumable goods and sometimes harmful items such as drugs, alcohol, or other such substances. Therefore, it is probably in the teenagers best interest if you buy them constructive presents that they can get greater value and education out of. For example, buying a teenager book tokens to further their knowledge is far more productive than giving them cash to blow on alcoholic beverages.

On the other hand, however, some people would say that allowing the teenager the freedom to choose what they want to spend their money on is an important lesson for them to learn. Not only does it allow them to see that you trust them but it also means that they are likely to buy something that they will actually value. Furthermore, if a teenager senses that you do not trust them then they are likely to hold this against you and use it against you at some point in the future, whereas, they may well act more responsibly if you hand over cash for them to spend.

In conclusion, teenagers are at a very sensitive stage of their development, however, I remain of the opinion that they do need some guidance in the way that they spend their money. Parents should take care to manage this situation appropriately.

302 words

Teaching Point: Notice how the conclusion starts by summarizing the two topic sentences using different vocabulary, Once again this proves to the examiner that you have a good range of vocabulary.

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Some people believe that people who do physical work should be paid the same as people who have a high-level degree.

Do you agree or disagree?

Certain groups of people are of the opinion that people who engage in manual labour should receive the same level salary as someone who is highly educated. I disagree with this point entirely and shall outline the reasons for this in the following paragraphs.

One of the main reasons why highly educated people should receive a greater salary than lower-skilled workers is that they create more value for a business in the long term. This is because a lower skilled worker will simply do as they are told and perform their role in the organisation whereas a highly skilled worker is more likely to suggest solutions to problems or invent more productive ways of doing something. Over the course of a number of years, these incremental improvements could lead to large increases in profit for the company.

Allied to this, graduates have often invested a great deal of time and money into their education and so surely, therefore, deserve to be paid more to cover this. **For example, a recent survey from 'Time' magazine revealed that the average medical student seeking to become a doctor graduates with more than \$150,000 of debt before they have even earned a penny.** Furthermore, countries need educated populations in order to develop, organise themselves and grow. Therefore governments need to make sure students are encouraged to study for higher qualifications and paying higher salaries to these individuals when they finally graduate is one way of ensuring this.

In conclusion, more highly educated employees are worth more to a company and a country. These are the main reasons why I continue to believe they should be paid more.

273 words

Teaching Point: It is helpful to develop your paragraphs by using examples. However, this is difficult to do as you do not know what question you will be asked. This is why you should just make up realistic sounding examples. It really is not important if the example is true or not, the examiners do not care. All they want to do is assess your English. So, go ahead and simply make up realistic sounding examples to develop your answers just as I have done here!

In some countries, children under 16 are not allowed to leave school by law and get full-time work.

Is this a good thing or a bad thing?

In certain areas of the world, children under the age of 16 are prevented from gaining full-time employment by law. I believe this is a good thing and this essay shall outline the reasons for this standpoint.

Firstly, anyone under the age of 16 should be pursuing education rather than a salary. This is because they have the rest of their working lives to get a full-time job but only a few limited years during their youth which they can dedicate entirely to education. Education is the key to a positive future and so it is right that laws should prevent someone from damaging their own education. **If we let young people simply do what they want with no thought for the future then we would not be guiding and protecting them as a society surely should.**

In addition to the above, many countries around the world have high unemployment levels. **If youth under the age of 16 were also added to the working population then this would likely only lead to further increases in unemployment.** For example, in Greece the 'Greek Echo' recently reported that unemployment had increased to a record level of 38% of the population. Furthermore, having unemployed youngsters on the streets often leads to increased crime rates, especially those relating to anti-social behaviour whereas if the youngsters had to remain in school or college they may well stay out of trouble.

Overall, beginning employment early has more negative impacts than positive. Governments should consider carefully when and how they allow people to finish their education if they wish their nations to be prosperous in the future.

269 words

Teaching Point: Notice how I have used two conditional sentences here to discuss future changes. This demonstrates a wider range of grammar to the examiner and therefore helps to improve your band score. Make sure you brush up on the second conditional in particular, as it is often useful in IELTS essays.

Nowadays, some parents pressure their children to be successful.

What are the reasons for this? Is this a positive or negative development?

In recent years, some children have been put under pressure by their parents to be successful in life. This essay shall discuss both the reasons why this is so and whether this is a positive or negative development.

It appears that some of the youth of today are placed under pressure by their parents to be successful because the world has become a very materialistic place and in order to show how successful you are you need to have money to buy nice things. **This usually means that** a good education is needed so a well-paying job can be secured. **Unfortunately, as a consequence** of students studying to gain a high paying job, which their parents may wish for them, they may actually be doing something which is not what they want to do deep down in their soul. **As a result**, a student may begin to lack motivation in their studies, lack of passion for what they are doing or even become depressed as a result.

Furthermore, the pressure placed on young people to succeed at school may well mean that they do not take part in other valuable opportunities. **For example**, rather than taking part in an International Award programme they may well opt to do extra homework because of the time required to gain the award. **However**, participating in the award would have provided them with so many opportunities to learn new and different life skills, such as: social skills, trip planning, map reading, fund raising, teamwork and so on, skills which you simply cannot ever learn from a book.

To sum up, anything that could cause depression or reduce a young person's opportunities has to be a negative. Parents need to think carefully about what type of life they want their child to actually have and not just on future financial prospects.

308 words

Teaching Point: Notice that I have used a range of sentence starters and connectives to help the essay flow. I have not simply repeated the same linking words like 'and also', 'then', or 'next' that are often overused in IELTS essays. Using a range like this means that the essay sounds more natural and native like and of course helps improve a band score.

In many countries, people have health problems because they choose to live an unhealthy lifestyle.

What do you think the reasons for this are and how can it be solved? Give relevant examples from your experience?

In many places around the world, people are choosing to live an unhealthy lifestyle and are suffering significant health issues as a result. The following paragraphs shall discuss the possible cause of this and offer a number of solutions.

Firstly, one of the main causes of these health issues is the influence of advertising from big businesses trying to make a profit. **These businesses have no morals and are only interested in making money, this means that they will target anyone they can even though they know that their products are bad for people's health.** For example, MacDonalds are certainly aware that their food is bad for children but they still target them through the use of associating clowns and Disney characters with their 'happy meals'.

Allied to the above, people are ill disciplined even when it comes to the importance of their own health. These days, everyone knows the risks of eating 'junk' food on a regular basis but many continue to do so. **The reason for this is that it is just too convenient and they are just too lazy to make some real nutritious food for themselves.** For instance, anyone who goes out on a weekend will have witnessed the large queues of young people in fast food restaurants even when there are much more healthy options nearby including various supermarkets which all sell healthy ingredients from which to make food from.

In summary, the power of big business and the weak will of humans is damaging the health of many. Governments, schools and parents should consider carefully how they are going to tackle these issues in the coming years.

273 words

Teaching Point: Usually the second or third sentence of a paragraph will be explaining the reasons for what has been stated in the topic sentence of the paragraph.

Nowadays, many families move to different countries. Some people think that children gain many benefits from this while others consider it to be hard for a child to move to a foreign country.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

These days it is not uncommon for whole families to migrate to other parts of the world. Some people are of the opinion that this has a negative impact on the children involved whereas others believe it has a positive impact. Personally, I think the positives outweigh the negatives and this essay shall outline both sides of the debate.

First and foremost, generally people only move to other countries if they believe there is going to be a significant improvement to their children's lives. Often this takes the form of improved education opportunities. For example, when the UK entered the European Union there was an immediate influx of people and part of the reason for this is that the UK offers a free and a quality education to any youngsters living there. Many migrants believe that the key to future success is education and that moving to the UK will enhance their children's future.

On the other hand, removing a child from the culture they have grown up in may severely disrupt their behaviour especially if they did not want to move in the first place. Teenagers and even younger children are very sensitive to change and a major change such as moving to another country could cause a lack of confidence. For example, suddenly a child has to eat food they are not used to and may not like, suddenly they may also have to get used to weather they may not have even experienced before. All of these things could cause a child to experience mental health issues.

Overall, children often gain more opportunities by migrating abroad although they will face new challenges. Parents should carefully consider the potential impact a sudden move may have on a child before they make the final decision.

296 words

Teaching Point: 4 main paragraphs is usually enough for most IELTS essays. An introduction of about 50 words, two body paragraphs of about 90 words each, and a conclusion of about 30 words.

Earlier technological developments brought more benefits and changed the lives of ordinary people more than recent technological developments.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Improvements in technology that occurred in the distant past produced more positive effects than the developments that have occurred in the last few years. I completely agree with this statement and the following paragraphs shall outline the reasons for this belief.

The first telephone completely revolutionized the way business was done and benefited humanity greatly. For the first time people could send messages long distances with ease and the pace of business increased dramatically making more people richer and creating more job opportunities. However, these days when the latest iPhone update comes out the only real changes are to do with fashion rather than providing any real new benefits. For example, now you can upload items to a 'cloud', or play more advanced games, but neither of these improvements in anyway compares to the first time phones were released to the public.

Similarly to the above, the first computers also transformed the way companies ran their businesses. Previously there were filing cabinets full of paperwork and accessing that information could take hours to locate the piece of information that you wanted. In contrast though, computers have been around for so long now that they have almost reached their limit in terms of how useful they could possibly be. For example, the only real changes that happen now are new releases of the Windows operating system and the so called improvements are actually just considered annoying changes to many rather than actual improvements.

In summary, the most profound long lasting impacts that technology has brought us occurred many years ago. These days' beneficial changes now come in very small increments and I believe that will continue to be the case in the future.

282 words

Teaching Point: Always start with an introduction which rephrases the question. You should try to use different words i.e. synonyms and paraphrases of the original words in the question so that you can show to the examiner your range and level of vocabulary.

Nowadays, people of all ages from certain parts of the world spend most of the time at home rather than going outdoors.

Discuss the reasons for this and say whether it is a positive or negative development.

In this day and age it is far more common for individuals to spend the majority of their time inside rather than outside. I believe this is a negative development for society and the following paragraphs shall offer possible reasons why this could be the case.

Firstly, spending more time indoors naturally indicates decreased activity levels. This automatically leads to reduced health of populations due to problems such as obesity, stroke, heart attack and so on which are all linked with decreased levels of exercise. Clearly this is a major negative for everyone concerned. Governments have higher health costs, people die younger and families of course are deprived of a family member needlessly.

Secondly, the fact that people are indoors more often than not indicates that less time is spent socialising with others face to face. This can lead to mental health problems but also to a decline in the development of 'real world' social skills which help to make people employable. After all, in most places of work there is a definite need to communicate face to face with colleagues or customers and if an individual is not capable of doing this it does not matter how 'book smart' they are they will not be able to function adequately in the workplace.

Overall, it is clear to me that there are far more negatives to positives of people spending more time indoors than outside. Governments, education authorities and parents around the world should carefully consider the consequences of such a trend.

251 words

Teaching Point: Your main body paragraphs, which are the two paragraphs in the middle of your essay, should begin with a topic sentence. This topic sentence should say what the main point of your paragraph is and does not have to be too long or complex. The reader should be able to guess what the rest of the paragraph is going to be about just from reading your topic sentence.

In some countries, secondary schools aim to provide a general education with just a small range of subjects. In other words, they provide a narrow range of subjects that focus students on future career paths.

Which system is more appropriate for today's world?

In certain societies around the world, teenagers are educated in just a few select subjects in order to enhance their career prospects rather than providing them with a broader education in a variety of subjects. I am of the opinion that this is a negative development in education and the following paragraphs shall outline the reasons for this belief.

An education system that provides a narrow selection of subjects is in danger of pushing students towards career paths that they are not necessarily suited to. For example, some schools have stopped offering Art as a subject so that students can do more academic sounding subjects, often to please parents. This means that students that tend to be more creative and good at designing things no longer have an outlet for their creative passion. This may lead to behavioural problems in the subjects they feel pressured to choose, mental health issues, and in actuality, reduced career prospects as they may be the type of person who was never likely to be able to compete with true 'academic students' anyway.

Furthermore, a narrow range of subjects is not appropriate for today's world because it is a globalised society. This means that everything is much more connected than in the past and so a wider knowledge base is needed and not a narrower one. In other words, people need to know about the cultures and traditions of other nationalities if they wish to be successful in life. By having a narrow range of subjects on offer at school there is little provision for students to learn about the wider world around them.

Overall, I believe that preventing students developing knowledge in certain areas and not thinking about the globalised society we live in is not appropriate for today's world. Governments need to consider carefully the consequences of allowing this trend to continue.

309 words

Teaching Point: The first sentence of your conclusion should repeat the points that you made in the topic sentences of your main body paragraphs. You should be careful not to use the same words again if possible though. Try and use different words or phrases so that the examiner can once more see that you have a good range of vocabulary. However, if you cannot think of any different words it is better to use the same words as previously, rather than guess and use words that you are not sure about incorrectly.

In some places there are many social problems involving teenagers. Some people say this is because parents spend much of their time at work and not at home.

Do you agree or disagree?

In certain areas of the world teenagers are the starting point of many problems in society. Some people blame this on the fact that parents are spending too much time at work rather than at home. **I agree with this viewpoint** and the following paragraphs shall outline the reasons why this is the case.

Firstly, a child's main role models should be their parents and if they are deprived of this then it can be difficult for them to learn how to behave in different situations in life. This means that when they encounter a new situation they may not act in an appropriate manner which some may label as anti-social. For example, without anyone teaching them compassion they may look down on less fortunate members of society and even treat them badly.

Secondly, a child may feel as though their life is not important because their parents pay them little attention. Therefore, in order to gain the attention they desire they act in anti-social ways. For instance, they may go out and get drunk in public areas, they steal cars, or they may just act disrespectfully towards other people. However, if they had had even one parent show and interest in them on a regular basis then they may well have acted differently.

To sum-up, **it remains my opinion that** the lack of a role model and the desire for attention can cause the youth of today to act anti-socially so of course it is major negative for society. Parents need to consider carefully the consequences of not spending enough time with their offspring.

259 words

Teaching Point: If the question asked for your opinion then in the conclusion you should restate your opinion which should be based on the topic sentences you wrote in your main body paragraphs. If you do not give your opinion and the question has asked for it, then you will lower your band score for task achievement. Remember, you should also have written your opinion in the introduction too.

Some people think that big international sporting events are not worth hosting for the host country.

Do you agree or disagree?

Certain groups of people are of the opinion that hosting a large scale sporting event is not actual worth it. I disagree with this outlook and the following paragraphs shall outline my reasons for this standpoint.

Firstly, hosting a significant sporting event significantly boosts employment opportunities in a country. Stadiums need to be built, housing needs to be constructed, service staff need to be trained and employed and this is all without considering the impact on other tourist sites which will benefit from increased visitor numbers. For example, during the London 2012 Olympics unemployment decreased by 12% in the inner London areas thus providing a significant economic impact.

Allied to the above, hosting a major international event inevitably means lots of free publicity for the country. All over the world images of the host country will be beamed and this could inspire generations of future people to visit the city for tourism purposes. In fact this is one of the main reasons to host such an event, it raises a countries profile and lets the world know who they are and what is special about them, their culture and why people should consider visiting. For example, the Tokyo Olympics showed us all the uniqueness of Chinese culture particularly through their opening and closing ceremonies.

Overall, a boost in employment opportunities and worldwide publicity means hosting the event is absolutely worth it in the short and long term. Turning down an opportunity to host an event should be carefully thought through by governments as the potential economic loss would be great.

260 words

Teaching Point: Following the topic sentence you can develop your body paragraph in two main ways. Provide more explanation supporting your main point, or provide an example to illustrate your main point. You can do these in any order so long as though are directly related to your topic sentence.

Is teaching people over 65 to use computers the best way to spend government money?

To what extent do you agree?

It is debatable whether teaching people over the age of 65 is a good use of tax payers money. Personally, I feel that elderly people should be educated to a certain level in the use of technology through government funding and the following paragraphs shall explain my reasons for this.

The main reason that governments should fund training of the over 65s in technology usage is that it can save the government money in other ways. Firstly, if elderly people are tech savvy then they can look up the cures and treatments online rather than having to take up a doctors time. Secondly, it also means that conversations between medical professionals and elderly people could take place over Skype which may reduce the need for ambulances to be called out needlessly as a doctor could do a diagnosis via an online platform quickly and at low cost.

A further significant reason that elderly people should be educated in the use of technology is that if they are not, then they will simply be left behind by society, even though they helped to finance the country through the taxes they paid for many years. It is almost impossible to do anything in life these days without resorting to technology. Gone are the days of cheque books and cash, everything is done remotely, wirelessly or with the touch of some kind of button. For example, in the not too distant past many people would have paid for their weekly shopping by cash at the store, these days however, you do not even have to visit the store, you can simply log into your shopping store account, select last week list of items you want to buy and modify it as necessary then simply press 'buy now'. Within a few hours, the goods will appear on your doorstep. The world that the elderly grew up in has disappeared, it is only fair we take them with us.

In summary, educating the elderly in the use of technology will save the government money and enable them to stay connected with this new way of life. Governments should consider very carefully what would happen if this group of people could not use technology in the future.

371 words

Teaching Point: This essay is way over the 25 word minimum. It is probably not realistic to write this much in the 40 minutes that you have on test day. Often when a candidate writes this much they have written off topic, so be careful to make sure you are always directly developing your answer to the question that was actually asked.

Nowadays we live in a throw-away culture where people use things just once and throw them away.

What do you think are the causes of this? What do you think are the problems that it leads to?

In recent years, a 'throw away' culture has emerged whereby individual use a product only once before throwing it away. There are numerous causes for this **which I shall outline in the following paragraphs as well as possible solutions.**

The most obvious cause of this 'throw away' culture is the expectation by the younger generation to be able to have everything new and everything now. This means that they will not accept using second hand goods and would much rather just get rid of something and buy a new one of their own. For example, according to Apple Inc, 2 million perfectly usable handsets are thrown away each day and about the same number purchased. People just are not prepared to accept second best anymore.

A further significant reason for the emergence of this type of culture is the fact that multinational companies spend millions on brainwashing the public into thinking they need to have the latest merchandise. Every day on television there are advertisements targeting different market segments telling them why they have to buy their products. They try to build brand loyalty so that customers will buy their product every time it is updated rather than teaching them how to maintain and or even up-date their existing product thus leading to more products being thrown away needlessly.

In summary, the youth of today have very high expectations of products they buy and they have been brainwashed into believing they have to have the most up to date version of a product. Governments around the world should consider whether this is really the ideal path for the nation's youth to go down.

273 words

Teaching Point: The last sentence of the introduction should usually tell the reader what the rest of the essay will try to do.

As international travel becomes cheaper and cheaper, more and more countries are trying to attract tourists.

Do the advantages of increasing tourist numbers outweigh disadvantages? Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Since travelling around the world has now come down in price significantly, an ever increasing number of countries are trying to lure tourists to visit. I believe the disadvantages of tourism are greater than the benefits received and the following paragraphs shall outline the reasons for this view point.

Firstly, tourists increase the amount of air pollution a country suffers from. This is mainly due to an increase in both air traffic and also the number of bus and car journeys that take place. This is especially troublesome in developing countries where cars and buses may not have to follow the same rigorous measures that restrict the amount of harmful gasses a vehicle can throw into the environment and so pollution levels rise significantly.

Secondly, tourists erode a countries culture destroying the very reason tourists visit in the first place. Inevitable, once a place has become 'discovered' by tourists the usual throng of multinational chains will move into the area. As a result tourists end up eating at a McDonalds rather than a genuine local restaurant and they end up staying at a Holiday Inn rather than in a locally owned hotel and the entire area can start look and feel like any other tourists area anywhere in the world and the real local culture is gradually lost.

Overall, the increased risk of pollution and the degradation of a culture mean that I personally feel that the disadvantages do not outweigh the benefits. Governments should think very carefully before they pursue a policy of tourism growth.

256 words

Teaching Point: Before you even begin to start writing your essay answer, you should make a quick plan first. It does not need to be much just a few bullet points stating what you are going to write about in each paragraph. Doing this at the beginning before you start writing means that you won't forget what you were going to write about, and ensures that you do not write off topic as often happens when people just write what is in their head as they are writing.

Some people believe that team sports prepare children for their working lives effectively whereas others do not.

Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Certain people are of the opinion that if a child participates in sport teams then it will aid in preparing them for their future careers. Personally, I agree with this line of thought and the following paragraphs shall outline some of the key reasons both for and against this way of thinking.

One major advantage of participating in team sports is that it teaches skills such as how to work effectively with others, which is clearly a key skill in many careers. Therefore, they will develop this skill further than non-participants and it may give them an advantage over others in the competition for jobs. Furthermore, they may well have also developed some leadership skills as well through being involved in sport. For example, Will Carling who is a former England rugby captain after finishing playing rugby started a successful management consultation business based on his knowledge and expertise of leading groups of people in pressure situations.

A further way that participation in team sports prepares children for their future career is that it gives them confidence in socialising with other people. If a child was to stay indoors and engage with a lot of screen time they would certainly miss out on developing their social skills and social skills are immediately noticeable when it comes to job interviews and work performance. If a child is comfortable at mixing with others in a sporting environment before, during and after games then this skill is highly likely to transfer over to the work arena.

In conclusion, the enhanced social skills and leadership skills that a child is likely to gain from sports is almost certainly going to enhance their future career prospects. Education authorities should therefore provide suitable opportunities for team sports in the school week.

295 words

Teaching Point: Do not forget to allow 3-5 minutes at the end to check your work properly for basic errors with spelling, punctuation and grammar. You can easily lose a band score if you do not go back and correct any silly mistakes you may have made under the pressure of examination conditions.

In some countries more and more shops are opening for longer hours every day.

What are the positive and negative effects of this situation?

In certain countries around the world shops are extending their opening hours. This has both advantages and disadvantages which shall be outlined in the following paragraphs.

Firstly, one of the main benefits of the extended opening hours is that customers can buy things at their convenience. For instance, not everyone works a regular 9-5 job, some people work shifts with different irregular hours. This means that it may not be possible for them to make purchases during normal 9-5 hours. Therefore the extended hours allow the shop to make more sales and the customer to buy things at a time convenient to them. Moreover, if a certain store does not open at times when their competitors are then they are going to lose out on sales and market share, this is most likely a risk most businesses will not want to take.

On the other hand, longer opening hours means that traditional times reserved for family visits such as Sunday afternoons and evening meals may be gradually diminished as workers are forced to work at these times. This means that families may spend less time together with the effect of destabilising the family unit. A recent study from Economics Today cited the diminishing strength of the family unit as a prime reason for increased crime in urban areas.

In summary, increased customer convenience along with the negatives effect on the family units means that different people will be affected in different ways. It is down to each countries governments to decide what the most appropriate opening hours are for their own country based on the likely effects placed on their society.

271 words

Teaching Point: Your introduction should only include your personal opinion if the question asks for it, otherwise leave it out completely.

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Some people spend a lot of money on tickets to go to sporting or cultural events.

Do you think this is positive or negative development?

Large amounts of money are spent by certain groups of people on purchasing tickets to enter sporting and cultural events.

Personally, I feel this is a positive development for society and this essay shall outline the main reasons for this stand point.

Firstly, money spent on such activities is a great boost for an economy. These events employ millions of people across the globe and if people did not attend them then unemployment levels would increase dramatically. **For example**, the 2018 football world cup in Russia is expected to generate over \$500 million dollars in gate receipts and all of this money can then be paid out in wages to local people who can then use the money to support their own families.

Furthermore, cultural and sporting activities can bring a great sense of pride and joy to a nation. Most people are extremely proud of their own countries cultures, traditions and sporting achievements. These feelings can build a strong identity in a nation's population and motivate them to lead productive and fulfilling lives in turn. **For instance**, when England won the 2004 rugby world cup the 'feel good factor' of the nation was enormous and inspired many people young and old to have a go at the sport of rugby. **This led to** an improvement in the nations physical health **but also** their mental health too as they had a new outlet for the frustrations of modern day to day living.

Overall, the combined boost to an economy and a nation's sense of self is a very positive trend. Governments around the world should actively pursue a policy which encourages regular sporting and cultural events.

276 words

Teaching Point: Use a range of different connecting words and phrases so that your essay fits together and flows well and so that the examiner can see that you know a range of different words and are not restricted by a lack of vocabulary. A classic error is when a candidate keeps writing 'and then', or 'and also', this approach will not help your band score.

Some people think that people who are over 60 years old should retire and stop working.

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

It is the belief of some people that when a person reaches the age of sixty they should then begin their retirement and end their careers. I am of the opinion that this is not the case and that a person should be able to continue working for as long as they want or need to. This essay shall outline the reasons behind this point of view.

When a person reaches the age of sixty they can potentially still be very active and healthy individuals. Such people have a lot to offer a company and they may wish to end their careers at such an age. With ever improving medicinal practices and healthcare, people are remaining healthier for longer and are therefore capable of working for longer. Being forced to retire may negatively affect a person's mental health and self-esteem. For instance, the UK Office for National Statistics suggests that those people who retire early without a purpose for their retirement are at a 57% greater risk of a heart attack in the first five years of retirement compared to those who retire later when they choose to.

Allied to this, companies would lose valuable assets for no real reason. A person who is sixty often has a great deal of experience in a company which can be used to train other members of staff or to offer advice to management when appropriate. Losing this experience unnecessarily could therefore have a negative effect on many companies as they may need to pay more money to recruit new people with less experience. Indeed some companies such as Walmart are famous for valuing older employees as they make fewer mistakes and are generally more reliable than their younger counterparts.

To summarise, the valuable experience of older employees allied to the potential negative impacts on those people if they are forced to retire mean that forcing people to retire against their will is not a positive step forward. Governments should ensure that everyone has the right to work as long as they are physically and mentally capable of doing so safely.

349 words

Essay Writing Tip: 4 main paragraphs is usually enough for most IELTS essays. An introduction of about 50 words, two body paragraphs of about 90 words each, and a conclusion of about 30 words.

The large amount of time and money that is spent on conserving wildlife would be better spent on improving the lives of humans.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In recent years a lot of time and money has been spent on attempting to preserve endangered animals rather than be used to aid human needs. Personally, I disagree with this philosophy and the remainder of this essay shall outline my reasons for this position.

Firstly, the value of a human life is greater than the value of an animal's life. Every person that has ever been born has had a loving mother, or father who cared deeply about them. Most people also enjoy close relationships with other relatives and friends too. Therefore when any human life is destroyed it impacts upon more than just that one individual. However, when an animal dies the impact is not the same because animals do not possess the same level of consciousness as humans. For instance, humans hold funerals and gather to mourn, whereas animals generally continue with their lives as normal.

Furthermore, if a particular species needs help to survive then surely it is only a matter of time before it becomes extinct anyway. The Giant Panda is a great example of an animal that has basically been prevented from becoming extinct by the efforts of humans alone. The panda itself is poorly adapted to life in the world's current environment and any attempts to preserve this beast will eventually be proved futile. The Chinese government spends over \$12 million US dollars per year trying to keep alive a species which will probably eventually die out anyway.

In conclusion, humans lives are of greater importance and species that are dying out should be allowed to do just that. Government around the world need to recognizes the importance of human lives over animal lives.

281 words

Teaching Point: Always start with an introduction which rephrases the question. You should try to use different words i.e. synonyms and paraphrases of the original words in the question so that you can show to the examiner your range and level of vocabulary.

Taking care of children is probably one of the most important jobs of society and parents should be forced to take training courses showing them how to do so.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Training programs for prospective parents should be made mandatory as raising a child is perhaps the single most important role of society. **Personally, I disagree with this statement** and the following paragraphs shall outline my reasoning for this belief.

Firstly, nobody should ever be forced to do anything against their will. This is the mark of a truly free society which we should all strive to be. However, support for future parents should certainly be made available and offered to them regularly as this is a most difficult and onerous task, especially for those without significant family support. A great example of this approach in action is the UK's National Health Service who assess each new parents needs and send support workers to individual parents when deemed appropriate.

Secondly, there is no single way to nurture a child through their early years and childhood. The parents are in the best position to judge which way is going to be best for their child as they know their child best. Forcing people to attend a course that teaches one particular style may affect a parent's judgment negatively and therefore do more harm than good. For example, one child may need to be shown strong discipline from their parents as they are a very loud dominant personality whereas another may need constant encouragement as they are much more introverted personality.

To sum up, freedom and individuality are key reasons why parents should not be required to attend parenting classes. Governments around the world should do what they can to support parents but not force them to do anything against their will.

269 words

Teaching Point: Your introduction should only include your personal opinion if the question asks for it, otherwise leave it out completely.

Some people say that the internet is not important in order to live a full life.

What do you think?

Certain groups of people are of the opinion that the internet is essential if one wishes to live a truly fulfilled life.

Personally, I believe this statement is completely untrue and the remainder of this issue shall outline the reasons for my position.

Whilst the internet has become a prominent part of many people's lives, there are still many people and indeed nations who do still lead fulfilling lives without the internet. Many parts of Africa remain unconnected to the World Wide Web, yet those people still belong to a community within which there are births, marriages, deaths, cultural celebrations, and other day to day traditions that continue to thrive. The people of the Masai Mara tribe in Kenya are a perfect example of this, they value human relationships and links with the environment highly and clearly live full lives without even the click of a mouse button.

Furthermore, throughout history pre internet people have lived highly fulfilled lives. Explorers discovered new lands and made new lives in strange places. Scientists made rapid progress in their understanding of the world around them and engineers built constructions directly from the pictures in their imagination. These are all examples of people living fulfilled lives without the internet and the same opportunities still exist today.

Overall, as fulfilling lives can still be lead without access to the internet I believe it is therefore not a prerequisite for leading a fulfilled life. People around the world should regularly take extended time away from the internet in order to experience real life opportunities once again.

260 words

Teaching Point: Your main body paragraphs, which are the two paragraphs in the middle of your essay, should begin with a topic sentence. This topic sentence should say what the main point of your paragraph is and does not have to be too long or complex. The reader should be able to guess what the rest of the paragraph is going to be about just from reading your topic sentence.

Once children start school teachers have more influence than parents on their intellectual and social development.

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

Teachers have a greater impact on children than their parents or guardians, after a child enters the formal education system according to some people. Personally, I disagree with this statement and the following paragraphs shall outline my reasons for this view point.

The primary reason why parents remain the main influence on a child is that children have learned to trust and obey their parents completely. This means that anything their parents say or do will have a much greater and longer lasting impression than a teacher who they may not get to know on a particularly personal basis. Allied to this is the fact that most children will still spend a great deal of quality time with their parents in the evenings, weekends and on holidays, and this is often quality time which a school environment cannot easily replicate.

A further significant reason that teachers shall never achieve the same level of influence as parents is that in recent years respect for teachers has diminished significantly. Children then develop this same mindset towards teachers which automatically means that they assign less importance to their thoughts, ideas and opinions. For example, in UK schools teachers used to be regarded with great respect in society, however they are now frowned upon and the previous level of respect has all but evaporated.

In conclusion, the strength of a parent to child bond and the declining respect for teachers in general means that they have far less influence than a child's parents. Governments around the world should address this declining level of respect for teachers.

262 words

Teaching Point: Always make sure your topic sentences relate to the question i.e. they must be addressing what the question is asking. This will make sure you stay on topic and develop your answer in the correct way. Notice how the example sentences above

Pollution and other environmental damage is caused mainly by developing countries which helps them become richer.

To what extent do you agree with this opinion?

The continued damage to the environment caused by developing nations aids them in their quest to become richer. I completely agree with this point of view and shall outline my main reasons for this standpoint in the following paragraphs.

Firstly, a developing nation's businesses prime concern is profit, which often means that they are unconcerned about the impact on the environment. Allied to this is the fact that the governments in question do not have very stringent regulations regarding conserving the environment and if they do they are rarely enforced. For instance, in the Philippines, 'Transmex' pharmaceutical company continues to release contaminated water directly into rivers and streams despite their being regulations forbidding this. Coincidentally, a well-known former prime minister is on their board of directors.

In contrast to this, fully developed countries do rigorously enforce environmentally friendly policies which are effective at forcing companies to limit their impact on the environment. This is the reason why many companies now have 'Corporate Social Responsibility' (CSR) departments to deal with these issues and communicate how minimal their impact is on the environment to the public. For example, Nike inc. devotes \$7million per year making sure that they abide by the appropriate laws and promoting this aspect of their business.

Overall, the lack of legislation in developing nations and the opposite situation in developed countries means that most pollution is caused by developing countries. Governments around the world should work together to enforce much tighter controls on how companies are allowed to act.

251 words

Teaching Point: Following the topic sentence you can develop your body paragraph in two main ways. Provide more explanation supporting your main point, or provide an example to illustrate your main point. You can do these in any order so long as though are directly related to your topic sentence.

Some people believe that building cities vertically, with tall towers, is better than building cities horizontally.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Expanding cities upward rather than outwards is thought to be a better option by certain groups of people as a means of expansion. Personally, I agree with this statement and this essay shall discuss both sides of the argument.

Firstly, expanding upwards uses less precious land and should therefore reduce the amount of countryside lost to developers. This is important if we wish to maintain the same natural wild life that we currently enjoy. If we continue to destroy the habitats of wild animals then there is a danger of unforeseen consequences. For example, if the number of foxes is reduced, due to habitat loss, then the number of rabbits may actually increase. This in turn brings further difficulties to farmers who grow crops for a living.

On the other hand, expanding outwards may create traffic issues with more cars on the road trying to access the city centre going backwards and forwards during peak times. Traffic congestion adds greatly to the stresses of living in a city can add a short journey can end up taking much longer than it should do. **For instance, a 5 kilometer journey in London, which would normally take 7 minutes, may take up to 40 minutes during rush hour.**

In summary, preservation of green spaces and maintaining a moderate level of traffic congestion are key reasons to avoid outward expansion. Governments around the world should formulate plans to balance the needs of all stakeholders in a community when considering expansion of cities.

250 words

Teaching Point: The examples that you use in your essays do not have to be real! You can actually make them up so long as they sound realistic. The examiner is not going to check if your examples are true or not but make them sound real by making them as specific as possible. This could mean giving exact numbers, or figures, or using real place names.

Most people believe that stricter punishments should be given for traffic offenses.

To what extent do you agree?

Certain groups of people believe that the current levels of air travel are too high and governments should act to lower it. Other people are of the opinion that the present level is fine. Personally, I am of the opinion that it should be reduced significantly and the government should aid this process. The following paragraphs shall outline the reasons why I believe this to be the correct view point.

Firstly, **many countries already suffer from poor air quality** which airplanes only worsen. For each flight that takes place more and more carbon dioxide is pumped into the atmosphere which then enhances the breakdown of the ozone layer. We are already seeing that many cities, particularly those in China, are suffering from constant thick smog which sits over many of the cities there. As it is a governments duty to monitor and improve the overall health of their nation they should certainly be proactive in reducing this risk factor.

Allied to the above, **tourists are not always beneficial to the host country**. For example, in Bali tourists have been destroying the beautiful beaches with their constant litter pollution and degrading the local culture through their appetite for drinking alcohol to excess and behaving in an anti-social manner. Restricting the level of air travel would hopefully lead to the preservation and enhanced value of local traditions and culture. However, they may need help from the government in establishing other income streams so they can maintain their standard of living.

Overall, maintaining safe levels of air quality and a nation's tradition and cultures are more important than the needs of tourists. Governments should therefore implement a plan of action to ensure that both of these are protected for the benefit of future generations.

291 words

Teaching Point: The ideas you come up with for your essay do not have to be new, or amazing. All they need to do is answer the question. Simple ideas are often the best as they can be easily explained. However, it does help if you can are able to think of your own opinions quickly so every time you read a news article try coming up with your own opinion about it just for practice, this will help you to feel less pressured on test day.

Humans tend to copy one another, especially in fashion, choice of clothes, and consumer goods.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

As regards the way people dress and the products that they buy humans tend to purchase the same items as other people in society. Personally, I agree entirely with this statement and in the following paragraphs reasons for this standpoint shall be explained.

Firstly, humans replicate the behaviour of others as it gives them a feeling of security and belonging. This therefore encourages them to dress similarly and own the same products. Individuals who choose not to adhere to the same social norms as others tend to face discrimination and are less likely to be able to progress in life to the same degree. For instance, one certain sub-culture of the UK are known as 'Goths' and they traditionally wear all black clothes as an indication of their membership of this group. These individuals are often perceived as not part of mainstream society and may therefore be treated differently.

Allied to the above, humans are competitive by nature and this characteristic often forces people to make purchases as a way to indicate how successful they are being in life. The more successful they are the more indulgent their purchases become. However, there is a trend for people to buy the same things, first a better car, then a bigger more luxurious house, and then perhaps a longer holiday. However, all of these items tend to be very similar in their core nature. Afterall, their really is not a significant difference between the 2018 and the 2017 version of Nike Air trainers.

Overall, human nature and their need for a sense of security ensure that they shall inevitably continue to purchase items that are similar in nature. For these reasons, I maintain my position that humans do base their behaviour and spending patterns on what other members of society are also buying.

301 words

Teaching Point: The first sentence of your conclusion should repeat the points that you made in the topic sentences of your main body paragraphs. You should be careful not to use the same words again if possible though. Try and use different words or phrases so that the examiner can once more see that you have a good range of vocabulary. However, if you cannot think of any different words it is better to use the same words as previously, rather than guess and use words that you are not sure about incorrectly.

Companies use several methods to increase the sales of products.

What are some of these methods? Which is the most effective?

Businesses adopt a variety of approaches in order to enhance their sales figures. The following paragraphs shall outline some of these methods and offer an opinion on which is the most effective sales technique.

First of all, the most modern techniques revolve around the use of social media as a means to make initial contact with potential customers. Often this requires people to provide their contact details in return for a free gift targeted towards their needs. Once contact has been established, businesses can then build a relationship over time by providing free advice. At a certain point in time, the company can then begin to make offers to these potential clients via email, or social media. One well known example is Skyscanner.com who will capture your email and then provide you with timely and relevant holiday offers.

The more traditional approaches to making sales however include techniques such as cold calling, door to door sales, in-shop sales pitches, or use of printed media such as running promotions in newspapers and magazines. These types of techniques have been proven to be effective over time, and large multi-national companies have been built on the back of a mixture of these techniques. For instance, Dixons were a large retailer of computers and accessories and they used all of the above techniques to drive their companies' revenue growth year on year. Their sales reached a peak in the early 2,000s before online marketing and e-commerce really started to provide tough competition that their offline techniques could not match.

Overall, I personally believe there is a vast array of both old fashioned and new, innovative sales techniques that a company can choose from. In my opinion online sales techniques involving software applications and dedicated web-sites provide the most efficient return on investment due to the growth in popularity of purchasing products online.

308 words

Teaching Point: Make sure that your conclusion does not include any new points and that it agrees with your body paragraphs. In other words do not change your position/opinion in the conclusion. Make sure you remain of the same view point throughout the essay or else you will lose marks for task achievement.

In many cities more and more people are choosing to live on their own.

What are the reasons behind this? Is it a positive or negative trend?

In recent years the lives of the inhabitants of large cities has been made more difficult by the number of issues that they routinely face. Personally, I feel governments should urge the public to consider relocating to less crowded towns and the following paragraphs shall outline my reasons for this belief.

The main problem with cities nowadays is the sheer number of people living there creating a variety of serious issues. Firstly, with millions of people all commuting around a city at similar times, traffic congestion has become particularly bad in some cities. This means that employees have to either leave to go to work earlier or find an alternative means of transportation. Secondly, the rise in population levels of cities means that the amount of rubbish created has become almost intolerable. Governments are struggling to provide services to collect all the rubbish and dispose of it in a hygienic environmentally friendly manner increasing risk of disease and levels of pollution.

Allied to the above, with so much unskilled labour in cities these days, wage levels have plummeted, which means the poorer people in cities earn even less than in the past. This could actually be trapping this particular group of people in poverty, possibly for generations to come. For instance, the city of Detroit has experienced a 27% rise in population levels over the last 5 years alone with the percentage of people living in poverty soaring to a record 35% of the city's total population, up from 20% over the same time period.

Overall, unemployment, traffic congestion and waste management are the most significant issues faced by city residents nowadays. **Governments should do all that they can to encourage people to migrate away from large cities in order to alleviate these issues for the benefit of all.**

300 words

Teaching Point: The second sentence of your conclusion can be an action point. This means that you could say what should happen next and who is responsible for improving the situation. If you answer these two questions then you will be rounding of your essay really nicely.

Some people say that the current level of air travel is acceptable where as other people believe air travel should be reduced and the government should play a role in this.

Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Certain groups of people believe that the current levels of air travel are too high and governments should act to lower it. Other people are of the opinion that the present level is fine. **Personally, I am of the opinion that** it should be reduced significantly and the government should aid this process. The following paragraphs shall outline the reasons why I believe this to be the correct view point.

Firstly, many countries already suffer from poor air quality which airplanes only worsen. For each flight that takes place more and more carbon dioxide is pumped into the atmosphere which then enhances the breakdown of the ozone layer. We are already seeing that many cities, particularly those in China, are suffering from constant thick smog which sits over many of the cities there. As it is a governments duty to monitor and improve the overall health of their nation they should certainly be proactive in reducing this risk factor.

Allied to the above, tourists are not always beneficial to the host country. For example, in Bali tourists have been destroying the beautiful beaches with their constant litter pollution and degrading the local culture through their appetite for drinking alcohol to excess and behaving in an anti-social manner. Restricting the level of air travel would hopefully lead to the preservation and enhanced value of local traditions and culture. However, they may need help from the government in establishing other income streams so they can maintain their standard of living.

Overall, I still firmly believe that maintaining safe levels of air quality and a nation's tradition and cultures are more important than the needs of tourists. Governments should therefore implement a plan of action to ensure that both of these are protected for the benefit of future generations.

291 words

Teaching Point: If the question asked for your opinion then in the conclusion you should restate your opinion which should be based on the topic sentences you wrote in your main body paragraphs. If you do not give your opinion and the question has asked for it, then you will lower your band score for task achievement. Remember, you should also have written your opinion in the introduction too.

Nowadays more and more people want to get things done instantly.

Why is it? Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

In recent years people have begun to demand the completion of all manner of tasks instantaneously. My personal opinion is that this is a negative development that has been caused largely by improvements in technology. This essay shall offer supporting reasons for this stand point.

Society now expects everything to be done immediately and we have grown used to new innovative technologies which often allow this to happen. In the past, customers would not mind waiting in a queue for a service but now, they grow increasingly agitated by doing so as there is nearly always a technology driven solution which could be easily implemented to speed up the process. For instance, Tesco in the UK have introduced checkout machines that do not require a cashier to operate them. This allows customers to go to any free machine and pay for their goods themselves, thus reducing waiting times.

This is a positive development as it means that all businesses now have to innovate in order to meet customer demands. Companies that ignore the need for speed and efficiency shall lose out to their more technologically driven companies. This should in effect create competitive industries that are all striving to improve the speed in which they provide their goods and services. For example, this has been happening for years in the smart phone market. Apple Incorporated are constantly challenged by its competitors, such as Samsung, to be creative and produce newer and more effective smart phones. Without this pressure they may not be forced to make the improvements in design that they have done and the consumer would suffer as a result.

Overall, I believe that technology is the main driver of people's need for everything to happen instantaneously. This has benefited society in that companies have to be constantly innovating in order to remain competitive in their industry.

310 words

Teaching Point: You will score higher marks for showing a range of grammatical structures in your essay. This does not mean that you have to deliberately insert long complex sentences in order to score highly. If you simply structure your essays in the way I have been showing you then you will automatically use a range of simple, compound and complex sentences.

Simple sentences consist of one main clause.

Compound sentences contain two separate clauses joined by a simple linking word such as for, and, next, before, or, so.

Complex sentences contain one or more clauses containing at least one independent clause and one dependent clause.

Do not worry if you do not understand this, simply try to write normally and you will inevitably write some complex sentences in your essay. However, I did make this video here about making complex sentences with the third conditional if you are interested.

Mobile phones enable us to take work or personal calls anywhere, anytime.

Do you think this has a positive effect on individuals and society?

In recent years mobile phones and other similar devices have allowed anyone to easily contact another person regardless of location or time. **I believe that this ability has vastly improved society and life for individual people in a variety of ways.** This essay shall explore some of those reasons.

Firstly, one of the main benefits to society of this advance in technology is the fact that even people in developing countries or isolated places can gain expert advice or request help whenever they need it. For example, in the massive earthquake that shook Nepal in 2015 people who lived in isolated villages in the Khumbu region were able to contact authorities and tell them exactly where the most vulnerable people who needed help were located. Furthermore, families were able to reunite themselves with each other following the earthquake which helped to reduce the suffering of some people.

Allied to this, it can be said that individuals in long distance relationships benefit tremendously from this instant form of communication. No longer do people have to suffer when they are apart from their loved ones. As well as being able to speak to other people via the phone, individuals can also talk to each other face to face using one of the many 'apps' designed for this very purpose. If this were not advantageous enough, members of the public can also sit and order food from wherever they happen to be and have the food of their choice delivered directly to them. **For example, Food Panda now do over 220,000 food orders direct to homes and offices in Thailand alone in just one month.**

In **conclusion, the mobile phone has brought with it** an overwhelming number of positives such as the ability to gain expert advice quickly and easily as well as stay in touch with family and friends. **I therefore remain of the opinion that the mobile phone offers a far greater number of positives that far outweigh any potential negatives.**

330 words

Teaching Point: You do not have to try to use different tenses in your essay to impress the examiner, this can make your essay confusing and feel unnatural to read and lower your band score. Instead just write naturally and only use the appropriate tense for the situation, this will usually mean that you use a variety of tenses anyway. Here are the tenses I used in this essay without deliberately doing so:

Present simple tense

Present perfect tense

Past simple tense

(I have not highlighted all sentences to prevent the essay from becoming too confusing to look at).

Some people say that international sports events aid world peace.

Do you agree or disagree?

It is often said that international sports events improve relationships and co-operation between countries. Personally, I am of the strong opinion that this certainly is the case much of the time. This essay shall explore the reasons behind this stand point and offer examples where appropriate.

One of the main reasons international relationships are strengthened through sporting competition is due to the increase in knowledge gained about other countries cultures and traditions. When an individual has more understanding of another person's perspective then they can begin to develop empathy with the way they behave. For instance, certain religious denominations require their women to wear a burqa, which can cover the entire face of the wearer. With no prior knowledge of this, this tradition can seem mysterious and provide a barrier to effective communication. However, when it becomes known that this is not the reason they are wearing it and that it is worn for very personal religious reasons, any perceived divisiveness may be reduced.

A further reason that major sports events can be seen as pro peace is that it enables different cultures to display characteristics of sportsmanship and fair play towards nationalities that traditionally they have experienced conflict with in the past. For instance, **England and Germany** were at war against each other in the **Second World War**. Despite this, their national football teams generally display the qualities of respect and sportsmanship when competing against each other. This sets a positive peace promoting example for younger generations to follow.

To summarise, large scale sporting competitions enhance knowledge and provide positive role models for the world to follow. These are the main reasons that I remain of the opinion that such events do in fact support world peace.

288 words

Teaching Point: It is really important to check your work, so try to leave 5 minutes at the end so that you can do this. Getting simple things correct like use of capital letters is important. As well as the start of very sentence there are other times you need capital letters in your essay. For proper nouns such as Individual people, places or organizations and for acronyms, such as the BBC.

Some universities offer online courses to students.

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

There is a **growing trend** for universities to provide access to **online courses** of students instead of or as well as traditional classroom lessons. I believe this is a **positive development** and this essay shall outline reasons supporting this particular **point of view**.

Virtual learning environments provided by some universities allow students from all over the world to study at the university of their choice without the expense of leaving home and being there in person. Imagine the cost of moving from Shanghai to Cambridge in the UK, there are not only the **university fees** but also the high cost of rent and **day to day living costs** associated with life in an expensive **developed country** to be considered. Over 200,000 students from China do this each year **spending a small fortune** when the reality is they could learn the same material without moving away from their **family support network**.

Furthermore, many jobs of the future will be based online and so it makes sense that prior learning is therefore also done online. **What is the point of** developing excellent note taking ability during lectures when you will never utilize that skill again in future life. If you learn online however, you may well enhance your typing skills and **general knowledge of computer software**, this is likely to make you far more employable than the ability to sit and take notes during a lecture.

In summary, being able to study remotely provides many cost savings and also **enhances skills** relevant to the work place. These are the main reasons why I **strongly believe** online learning is a positive movement.

268 words

Teaching Point: Try to use vocabulary in the same way that native speakers do. That means that you have to try and use the same combinations of words. Do not just learn a list of new words and definitions but notice which words they are often used alongside. For example, if you say 'What is the university tuition price?' everyone will know what you mean but it does not sound as natural as 'what is the university tuition fee?'. The two words collocate together and sound better together. Look at the other examples in the essay.

Recently the freedom to work and live anywhere has become the main trend due to the development of communication technology and transportation.

Do the advantages of these developments outweigh the disadvantages? Discuss.

In recent times vast improvements in our ability to communicate and travel around the globe quickly and easily have improved **the** lives of many. However, some people argue there is **a** downside to this progress. This essay shall discuss some of **the** benefits and drawbacks of these issues.

One of **the** main advantages of improvements in communication is our ability to work remotely away from **a** fixed office. This means there is no reason to waste time and money commuting to **an** office which can significantly improve the lifestyle of employees. In fact, according to the Financial Times newspaper, in **the** last two years alone **the** number of people working directly from home has grown by **a** staggering 18%. Furthermore, those who do still have to commute to a central office can do so daily from **a** distance that would previously have been impossible. For example, people can commute to London directly on **a** commuter train in just **an** hour and **a** half and cover **the** 150 mile distance with ease.

On **the** contrary, **the** increased availability of low cost flights around **the** world has added to global carbon dioxide levels significantly. This negatively impacts **the** air quality we breathe and progresses global warming further. For instance, cities such as Beijing are becoming unlivable due to **the** negative effects of air pollution.

In summary, improved technology has brought about **a** reduced need to commute and better transportation has made it much more efficient for people who do have to. Overall, I believe **the** substantial advantages outweigh any disadvantages.

258 words

Teaching Point: In this essay the articles 'a', 'an' and 'the', are used collectively more than 20 times. It makes sense therefore to brush up on your use of articles as they can be very tricky to master and if you use them wrongly, or not at all then you will be harming your band score.

Here is a nice [guide to all the rules involved for articles](#), however, personally I believe it is better to not learn rules but to develop your own awareness and 'feel' for which article to use and when. One way to do this is to delete all of the articles in an essay or news article and then try and fill them in again correctly yourself. You can use the 'replace' feature in Word to do this quickly.

Nowadays for many people the Internet is replacing regular books.

What do you think will happen in the future and what is your opinion about this trend?

Due to the soaring popularity of online media and e-books, traditional physical books are becoming a thing of the past. I firmly believe that the gradual removal of books from society is a huge negative. This essay will explore some of the future consequences of this emerging pattern.

As the popularity of online media and e-books continues to grow, people will inevitably read hard copy books less and less. Younger generations will lose the ability to read long in depth texts and miss out on the subtleties of plot development. This may well also mean that their level of vocabulary may not develop as well as previous generations bearing in mind online articles written for social media tend to be written to be simple and attention grabbing and not really stimulate any deep insights as classic novels may do. For example, the works of Tolstoy are never going to be appreciated in short thirty second bursts and indeed ought to be pondered over at length.

In addition to this, traditional libraries are also likely to become a thing of the past due to lack of usage. Traditionally, these have been places where anyone can go and educate themselves through the knowledge hidden in the books for free. If this opportunity becomes a thing of the past then where will people who cannot afford an online device go to gain knowledge for their career and life? For instance, the now famous writer Bill Stephenson prior to becoming an author lived in poverty and could not afford to extend his education in the traditional manner. Instead he was able to educate himself for free through books and eventually earn a good living for himself.

In conclusion, physical books provide unique opportunities for education and vocabulary development. I strongly believe their loss would lower the productiveness of society as a whole and produce a more ignorant nation as a result.

316 words

Teaching Point: Get your timing right. Here is how I recommend you spend your time during the test:

1. Preparing to write – 5 minutes
2. Writing the introduction – 5 minutes
3. Writing the main body paragraphs – 20 minutes
4. Writing the conclusion – 5 minutes
5. Checking your essay – 5 minutes

Consumer goods have become the most important part of people's lives.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this?

People's lives these days seem to be more concerned with what products they own rather than anything else. This benefits society in many ways but also provides drawbacks too. This essay shall discuss both sides of this emerging trend.

One of the primary advantages of materialism is that it boosts the economy of many countries. As demand has risen for physical goods jobs have been created to try and create products which satisfy these demands. For instance the Apple factories in China employ hundreds of thousands of workers who would otherwise struggle to find employment. Furthermore, the lives of peoples today are infinitely better due to the development of physical goods. For example, people can play games, order food, perform financial transactions and many more things all using a tiny smart phone which would not have been possible in the past.

The advent of consumerism has bought with it certain downsides though. It seems that traditional values are being eroded as people strive to purchase more and more things. For example, according to a recent survey by the University of Manchester, on average people spend 45% less time with their grandparents than they did just ten years ago, yet they still find time to spend on average over three hours per day on Facebook. Finally, this desire to have more and more things has increased debt levels in society to dangerous levels. Repayments, interest rates and penalties can put stress on an individual and even cause health problems too.

In conclusion, consumerism brings with it a boost for economies around the world but is also challenging the core values of society too. Only hindsight will reveal whether or not the desire for more and more physical goods is a positive thing for the global community or not.

297 words

Teaching Point: Always spend time planning your answer before you start writing. Make sure you understand the question first and then write notes about your ideas. When you have done this you will then have a short plan to follow. This will prevent you from writing ideas 'off topic' during the test or from getting lost and panicking from not knowing what to write about half way through your essay. It will also make you feel calmer as you will have a plan to follow.

MORE QUESTIONS TO PRACTICE WITH FROM 2018...

Science will soon enable people to live up to 100, or even 200 years old. Some people believe this is a good thing while others disagree.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some people prefer online courses to study on, where as other people prefer to study in a classroom.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Criminality is growing amongst children and teenagers.

Why is it growing and how should these criminals be treated?

Nowadays, many people aim to create a balance between their work and other aspects of their life, however, only a few achieve it.

What are the problems in doing this and what solutions can you suggest?

Some school leavers take a gap year before entering university.

Do you think there are more advantages or disadvantages to doing this? Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Research has shown that meetings and training are increasingly taking place online.

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

Successful companies use advertisements to make more sales.

What can make an advertisement effective? Do you think advertisements are a bad thing or a good thing for society?

In some countries young people are not only richer, but also safer and healthier than ever before. However, they are often less happy.

What do you think are the reasons for this and what can be done to help?

What do you think about living in cold and hot regions of the world.

Discuss your ideas and share your opinion?

Some people believe that in 100 years time life will be easier for the majority of people, while others are unsure about this.

What is your opinion?

Some people think it is important to spend a lot of money on a wedding celebration while others disagree.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

In many countries shops open long hours every day of the week.

Discuss the positive and negative effects on the shopper and local community.

Today people are living in a throwaway society where they use things for a short time only and then throw them away.

What are the causes of this and what problems can it lead to?

Some people believe that all students should study history. Others believe that they should learn other subjects instead.

Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

In films and computer games violence has become more popular. Some people think this has negative effects on society, other think it is harmless relaxation.

Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Some people think giving gifts and presents to family and friends is a good way to show how much we care for other people. Other people believe there are better ways to do so.

Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

How To Write IELTS Essays



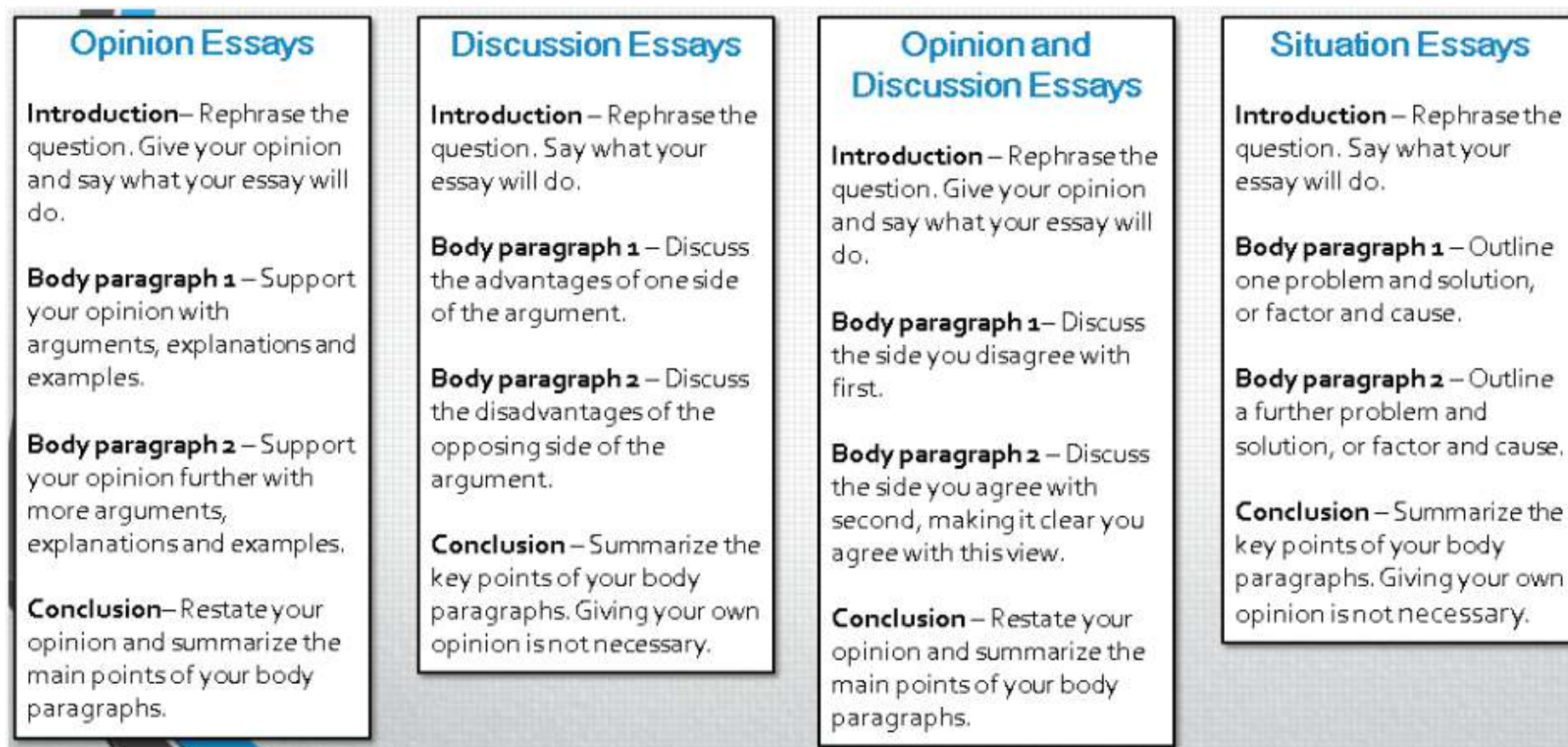
[\(Back to contents page\)](#)

Step 1: Identify the question type

There are several different types of essay questions that you may face on exam day. Being able to identify the question type means you will be able to select an appropriate essay structure to write your essay with.

An 'essay structure' basically means what you are going to write in each of your paragraphs and in what order. Getting this correct makes your essay logical and understandable.

IELTS examiners call this 'coherence and cohesion' and it is one of the four criteria they use to grade your essay. That is why identifying the question type is so important.



In the diagram above you can clearly see the four different question types and what you need to write in each paragraph to ensure a well-structured essay.

Some teachers break the question type down even further into 6, 7 or even 8 question types. I prefer to keep it as simple as possible which means less to remember and less stress in the exams.

The other question types you might read about are as follows:

Direct question, or two part questions. I consider these to be 'Discussion' type questions and use that structure.

Question asking about advantages/disadvantages. I consider these to be 'Discussion' question types, or 'Discussion and Opinion' question types depending on whether they ask for your opinion or not.

Problem and solution, or cause and effect questions, I group as 'Situation' question types.

Within the paragraph structures I have shown you above there is a lot of room for flexibility in what you write, which means all question types can be covered by these. The main thing to consider is whether you are actually addressing all parts of the question logically within your paragraphs.

Step 2: Prepare to write [\(Back to contents page\)](#)

Once you have decided what question type you have and therefore what the structure of your essay will be, you are ready to prepare to write your essay.

Do not skip this stage! This stage actually saves you time overall and prevents you from going 'off topic' and losing marks.

Here is what you need to do:

1. **Underline key theme words and instruction words.**
2. **Identify the question type.**
3. **Note down any synonyms and paraphrases.**
4. **Note down your main points and ideas.**

Let's take a look at an example of this in action, here is an example question:

Writing Task 2 *Discussion Question*

You should spend about 40 minutes on this topic.

Guardians, mothers and fathers *Sons and daughters, offspring*

All parents want the best opportunities for their children. There are some people that think schools should teach children skills but other people think having a wider range of subjects is more important. For a child's future. *Topics, lessons*

Careers, ambition, employment

Discuss both sides and give your opinion

Write at least 250 words.

As you can see, the question has been clearly annotated with synonyms and paraphrases. This will help you show the examiner a range of vocabulary which is important for your lexical resource (vocabulary) band score.

The main key topic words of the question have also been underlined. This should help draw your attention back to what you should be discussing and prevent your ideas from going off topic.

Instruction words have also been underlined, again this ensures that you do fulfill the requirements of the task.

Next, you need to think of your main points for your essay body paragraphs. You should then make a very brief paragraph plan to follow. For the above question it might look like this:

P1 - intro - restate ques., say what essay will do

P2 - Benefits of skills: more employable, not everyone is academic.

P3 - Benefits of subjects: wider appreciation of world issues, more options for the future

P4 - Conclusion - summarize both, add opinion

As you can see above, the paragraph plan is a brief outline of what will go in each paragraph. You don't even need to write out paragraph 1 and 4 if you do not want to. Obviously, they will be the introduction and conclusion which you should know how to write very easily by the time of the exam.

Thinking of Ideas

Some test takers worry that they will not be able to think of any good ideas to write about. If that is you then please remember that:

- a) The quality of your ideas is not important, your ideas are not being assessed only your English language ability.
- b) The topics you are likely to be asked about are not out of the ordinary. They are issues from real life that are quite easy to relate to. If you are used to forming an opinions then you will be fine. If not, then keeping up to date with the news and actually thinking and forming your own opinions about the issues in the news is a great starting point for your IELTS essays. Use 'dead' time when you are waiting for the bus, or train, or in any sort of a que to form opinions on different topics. This will help prepare you for test day.
- c) If you are struggling in the exam. Imagine a friend of yours is sitting opposite you. What would you say to them about the question topic? Imagine having a chat with them and jot down your thoughts. This is a really easy way to generate some ideas.

Step 3: Write your introduction [\(Back to contents page\)](#)

Every essay needs to start with an introduction. It should be 30-50 words long and take no more than 5 minutes to write. Your introduction must do the following things:

1. Rewrite the question in your own words.
2. State your opinion if the question requires you to do so.
3. Say what the rest of your essay will do.

We will use the question below as an example to write an introduction for:

Some people think that getting a degree from a university is the best way to secure a good job, whilst others feel that getting experience is the best way.

Discuss both sides of the argument and give your opinion.

1. Rephrase The Question

All questions will have a sentence or two that is describing the situation, or giving background information for the question. Your job is to rephrase this part of the question using your own words. For example:

Some people think that getting a degree from a university is the best way to secure a good job, whilst others feel that getting experience is the best way.

Could be changed to...

Some members of society are of the opinion that graduating from higher education is the most effective way of attaining employment, whereas others believe that 'on the job' training is better.

I am sure you can see a number of the synonyms and paraphrases that have been used, they include:

getting a degree = graduating
university = higher education
job = employment
whilst = where as
getting experience = on the job training

As you can see having a wide range of vocabulary is really important in order to be able to do this effectively.

2. Giving Your Opinion

This is only required if the question asks you to do so. It is not logical to give your opinion if you are not asked to do so and it may even lower your band score, so be careful.

In the above example though, we are clearly asked to give our opinion:

Discuss both sides of the argument and give your opinion.

So, in this example your second sentence needs to give your opinion. For example:

I am of the strong opinion that completing a university education is of far more importance than gaining experience in a work place.

Notice that once more the writer has tried avoid using the same words as both the question and the first sentence, namely:

graduating = completing a university education
getting experience = gaining experience

If the writer had the opposite opinion then they may have written something like:

My firm opinion is that knowledge gained from the work place is far more valuable than from any educational institution.

knowledge gained from the work place = experience
educational institution = university

3. Say What Your Will Essay Do

The final sentence of the introduction needs to explain to the reader what they can expect to find in the rest of your essay. For example:

The remainder of this essay will discuss arguments both for and against the two view points.

Or...

The following paragraphs shall outline the main supporting points for both sides of the argument.

There is no need to over complicate this sentence. It is just a simple way of letting the reader know what they are going to be reading about next.

So, your overall introduction for this particular essay question could look something like this:

Some members of society believe that graduating from higher education is the most effective way of attaining employment, whereas others believe that 'on the job' training is better. My firm opinion is that knowledge gained from the work place is more valuable than from any university. The following paragraphs shall outline the main points for both sides of the argument.

59 words

In conclusion, by following those three simple steps you can quickly create logical and high scoring introductions.

- 1. Rewrite the question in your own words.**
- 2. State your opinion if the question requires you to do so.**
- 3. Say what the rest of your essay will do.**

Step 4: Write your main body paragraphs [\(Back to contents page\)](#)

Following the introduction you can then start writing your main paragraphs. You will have already come up with your ideas in the second stage of writing 'preparing to write'. All you now need to do is build on those points.

A lot of people get confused by all the different question types and what type of paragraph they should write for each one. In fact, you can make your life a lot simpler by using the paragraph outline below. It will work for all question types! Now, all of a sudden you do not have to worry about remembering all different paragraph structures. The simpler you can keep things, the better you will do in the exam!

The reason this works is that your topic sentence is going to be directly linking to the question being asked, the rest of your paragraph then simply flows from that, that's it, no complicated structures to remember or to get worried about.

As a guideline, your body paragraphs should:

1. **Start with a topic sentence.**
2. **Contain no more than 2 main ideas.**
3. **Be 4-5 sentences in length.**
4. **Take about 10 minutes to write.**
5. **Develop and expand your ideas using explanations and examples.**
6. **Relate specifically to the question being asked.**

We will use the question below as an example to write a body paragraph for:

1. Write The Topic Sentence

This should provide the main point of the paragraph that you wish to discuss further e.g.

University education provides a deeper knowledge of a subject area and can therefore be used later on in life.

Notice how the topic sentence is not overly long or too complicated. It does, however, clearly state the main point, but it is not too specific. Your paragraph should start quite general and then become more specific as you add sentences.

2. Provide A Supporting Sentence

Next we can add a supporting explanation sentence which starts to become more specific. For example:

Graduates may study theories that are relevant to only higher level managers which they may only become after a few years of employment in a company.

Here you can see that the explanation is starting to become more specific with words like graduates, theories and managers.

3. Add A Specific Example

After this explaining sentence, we can now add a specific example. It might look like this:

For instance, graduate engineers at Aker Solutions Ltd often start as mere labourers undertaking manual work, however, after completing 18 months of probation they can then become Technical Planners, and therefore utilise their knowledge more fully of 3D CAD design software.

Note that this sentence not only clearly demonstrates that main point of the topic sentence but is also very specific. The more specific you can be with your examples the better.

Many students worry that they do not know enough examples, don't worry! Simply make them up! Remember the examiners are only interested in your English ability and not your general knowledge, they will never check your examples.

4. A Second Topic Sentence (Supporting Idea)

Now we are three sentences in to the paragraph, we have two options. We can either continue to develop the same point with further examples, or explanations, or, we could make a new related point.

I am going to make a new related point as it improves the discussion. So my next related idea I am going to write in a second topic sentence, it reads:

Knowing the advanced theories related to a topic can improve an employees motivation.

Once again the topic sentence still directly relates to the question, and it is not too long and quite general.

5. A Further Explanation Or Example

This could be followed up with fifth and final explaining sentence of the paragraph:

In the long term a motivated employee is going to be promoted far more quickly through the company hierarchy and work much more efficiently for the company than someone lacking that knowledge.

So, overall the paragraph might look something like this:

University education provides a deeper knowledge of a subject area and can therefore be used later on in life. Graduates may study theories that are relevant to only higher level managers which they may only become after a few years of employment in a company. For instance, graduate engineers at Aker Solutions Ltd often start as mere labourers undertaking manual work, however, after completing 18 months of probation they can then become Technical Planners, and therefore utilise their knowledge more fully of 3D CAD design software. Knowing the advanced theories related to a topic can improve an employees motivation. In the long term a motivated employee is going to be promoted far more quickly through the company hierarchy and work much more efficiently for the company than someone lacking that knowledge.

Further Options

You do not have to follow that exact sentence pattern, there are different ways to do it although you must always start with a topic sentence.

If you felt your first three sentences were particularly long then you may not need to add sentences 4 and 5.

You could even change the order of the sentences. You could start with a topic sentence and then give an example in the second sentence, then write a supporting sentence. You could follow that with another example and a further supporting sentence.

Many other combinations are possible, but the example I have given you works really well for all Discussion, Opinion, Discussion and Opinion question types.

Situation Question Types

For 'Situation' question types (problem and solution and two part direct questions), the same principles apply, you still start with your main point in the topic sentence. That could be stating the main problem, or giving an answer to one of the direct questions in the question, you would then follow these up with explanation and examples in the same way. After describing a problem I would then provide possible solutions in the same paragraph. I would also start a separate paragraph for answering a different direct question.

1. Start with a topic sentence.
2. Contain no more than 2 main ideas.
3. Be 4-5 sentences in length.
4. Take about 10 minutes to write.
5. Develop and expand your ideas using explanations and examples.
6. Relate specifically to the question being asked.

Step 5: Write your conclusion [\(Back to contents page\)](#)

To complete any IELTS essay you must end with a conclusion, even if you are running out of time always add one. This is because it completes the structure of your essay which is marked by examiners as 'coherence and cohesion', and it is not logical to finish an essay with a body paragraph full of examples and explanations.

A conclusion should only be two sentences long and should take a maximum of 5 minutes to write. So, what should your conclusion contain:

1. A summary of your main points.
2. A final judgement or opinion (if required).
3. Assign responsibility (problem and solution situation essays only)

We will use the question below as an example to write a conclusion for:

1. Summarise The Main Points

Reread the topic sentences of your body paragraphs and then put these into a single sentence using different vocabulary or paraphrasing where possible. For example:

University graduates possess a deeper knowledge which can improve their work ethic and enable them to be more effective employees, where as those with experience only, may require additional training later in their careers.

To write a sentence like this you are probably going to have to write a complex sentence that includes at least two main clauses or parts. This can easily be done with conjunctions, such as: and, but, yet, although, however, even though and so on.

2. State Or Restate Your Opinion If Required

If the question asks for your opinion then you should have already included it in your introduction. In which case you must repeat this same opinion using different words and phrases, this is common in 'Opinion', and 'Discussion and Opinion' essays.

If you are not required to offer your opinion, as in some Discussion essays, then you may add one in the conclusion only, although this is optional.

For Situation: Problem and Solution essays, you will give your opinion by saying who is responsible for solving the problems rather than giving your general opinion about the topic.

For Situation: Two Part/Direct question essays, there is no need to add your opinion, you will simply summarise your topic sentences. Here is an example of a restatement of an opinion:

I remain of the firm opinion that completing a university education is of greater importance than time spent gaining hands on experience.

Overall then, a full conclusion may look like this:

University graduates possess a deeper knowledge which can improve their work ethic and enable them to be more effective employees, where as those with experience only, may require additional training later in their careers. I remain of the firm opinion that completing a university education is of greater importance than time spent gaining hands on experience.

Hopefully, you can see that writing conclusions for your essay need not be too time consuming or difficult. In fact it should probably be the easiest part of the essay to write. As a final reminder, this is what it should include:

1. A summary of your main points.
2. A final judgement or opinion (if required).
3. Assign responsibility (problem and solution situation essays only)

Step 6: Check your work [\(Back to contents page\)](#)

It is really important to allow at least 5 minutes at the end of your test to check your essay. Under the pressure of the test it is not uncommon for test-takers to make mistakes that they normally would not. Self-correcting your essay can definitely improve your band score, so do it!

It is not possible to rewrite paragraphs during this 5 minutes, or change your arguments significantly, however you can quickly check for these common IELTS writing mistakes:

1. **Spelling mistakes.**
2. **Capital letters, full-stops and general punctuation.**
3. **Missing, or mis-use of articles 'a, an and the'.**
4. **Prepositions: in, at, on, by, for etc...**
5. **Word formations: success, successful, successfully.**
6. **Letter 's' endings.**

And that ladies and gentlemen is the 6 step process that anyone can use to write high scoring IELTS essays! **All off the model essays that are in this document have been written using this exact method** so it is worth trying for yourself.

For a full explanation of this entire process in much more detail and with grammar explanations as well then check out IELTSSpeedway.com .

Recommended Language Learning Resources

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Specific 'Language Learning' News Sites:

[BBC Learning English](#)

[The Bangkok Post Learning English](#)

[Australiaplus.com](#)

[Breakingnewsenglish.com](#)

[Newsinlevels.com](#)

[CNN10.com \(the news explained\)](#)

[New York Times Learning Section](#)

[Entrepreneur.com \(Advanced reading for the business minded\)](#)

[OneStopEnglish.com \(Monthly news articles\)](#)

Vocabulary Learning Software (Some free and some paid)

[Quizlet.com \(a personal favourite of mine\)](#)

[Wordpal.com](#)

[Vocab1.com](#)

[Overnightvocabulary.com](#)

[Speed Study English Vocabulary](#)

Online Dictionaries

[Cambridge English Dictionary](#)

[Dictionary.com](#)

[Oxford English Dictionary](#)

[Merriam-Webster](#)

Online Thesaurus

[Thesaurus.com](#)

[Synonym.com](#)

[ironicans.com](#)

Our Resources:

[IELTSSpeedway.com](#) – Get access to our full system for getting a band 7 in writing.

[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.

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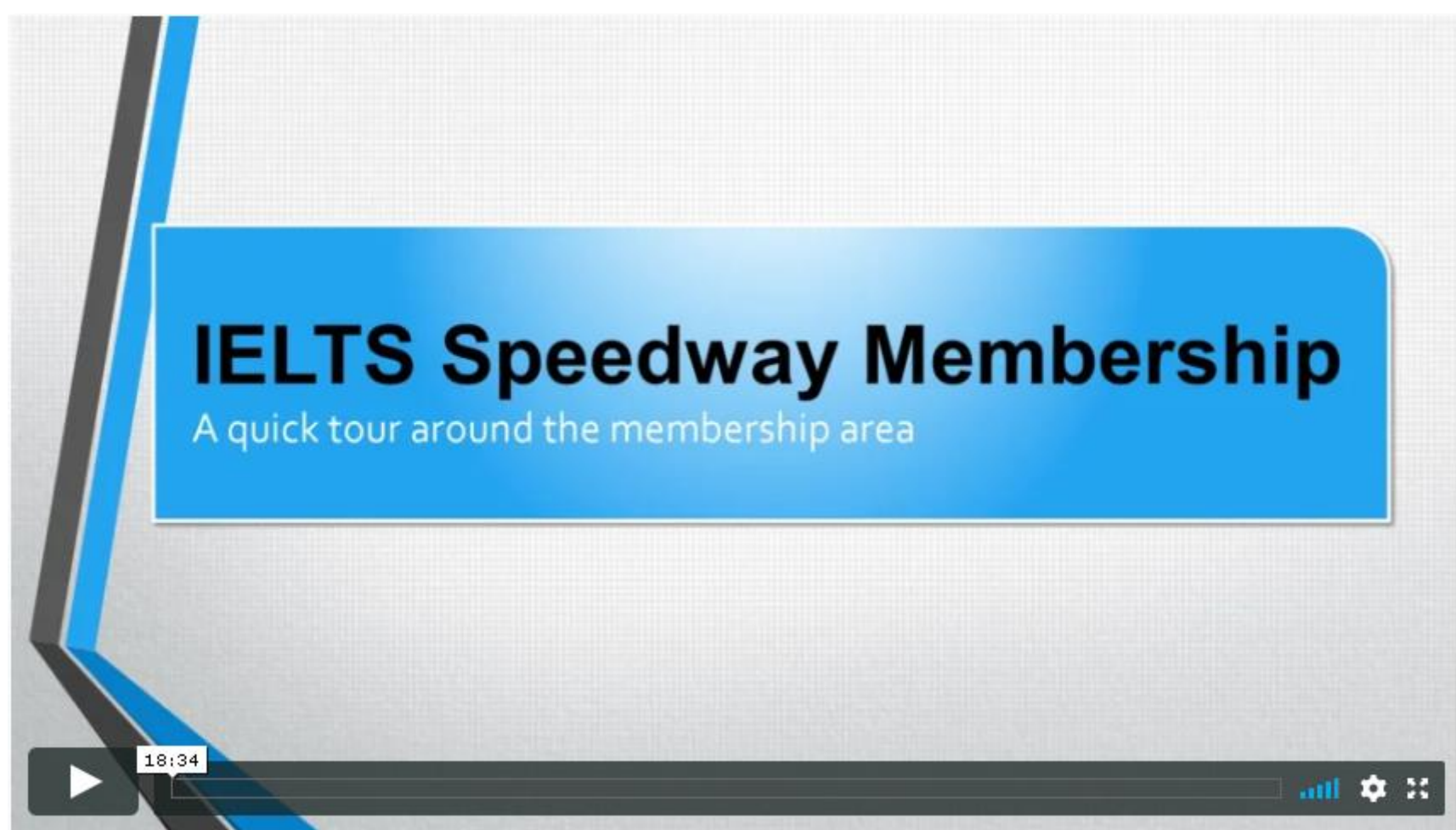
[IELTSfreeway's e-mails](#) – You must have already signed up for this, so loads more great stuff to come, watch out for more emails!



Your Complete Guide To A Band 7+

If you found this document useful and want more help to finally get the band score you need then you may be interested in my full course which covers every single part of the IELTS test, including: listening, speaking, reading and writing for both General and Academic versions.

[Take a look at my complete system by visiting IELTSSpeedway.com – click here now!](http://IELTSSpeedway.com)



Thank you for your valuable time.

All the best for the future!

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